



Significant progress has been made; however, ongoing barriers to increase individuals' access to AT are evident. Continuing barriers include: funding for the acquisition and use of AT, limited access to professionals trained in the areas of AT, systems policies, and the evolving needs of individuals resulting from changes in technology and environments. There are an abundance of goals and activities to engage in and the spirit of collaborative alive and well in North Dakota, the desired outcomes can be realized. IPAT will "keep going, and going, and going..." to increase access to AT.

### **Funding News: Medicare Funding for Scooters**

Medicare is a federal health insurance program which funds assistive technology devices which meet its definition of "durable medical equipment" (DME) or a "prosthesis" if the device is 1) provided by a supplier with a Medicare billing number, and 2) either are reasonable and necessary for the treatment of an illness or injury; or improve the functioning of a "malformed" or malfunctioning body part or organ system.

In the care of power operated vehicles or motorized scooters, additional requirements are imposed by Medicare. Coverage will be provided only if an individual cannot operate a manual wheelchair, is capable of operating the controls for the power operated vehicle and can transfer into and out of, and ride safely in, the power-operated vehicle. Power-operated vehicles will not be covered, if necessary for use only outside the home.

In addition, prior approval must be obtained and may require the submission of a special certificate of medical necessity completed by a specialist in physical medicine, orthopedic surgery, neurology or rheumatology. The durable medical equipment supplier must have the doctor's prescription before delivering a motorized scooter or a power-operated vehicle.

North Dakota's health insurance counseling program provides free information and assistance about Medicare, Medicaid, long term care and other health insurance benefits. Call 1/800/247-0560 with your questions.

### **IPAT Web Site Launched! <http://www.ndipat.org>**

The IPAT project invites you to visit its new World-Wide Web site at <http://www.ndipat.org>. From IPAT's home page, visitors may choose to "travel" to any or all of the fourteen sections of the site. Research has shown that access to information via the Internet levels the playing field for people with disabilities and opens up entire new worlds of communication, education, and experience. It is within this spirit of information equity that we invite all "AT KEY" newsletter readers to engage in an on-line visit. If you don't have Internet access, visit your public library, they frequently provide an avenue to Internet services and will do a mini-training on how to log on, use a search engine and surf sites.

Hats off to Bob Puyear, an active Internet user and member of IPAT's Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC), for developing and offering to maintain the web site. To best meet your AT information needs, he welcomes comments, questions, or suggestions about how the web page can be a better resource. Just click his e-mail address provided on-line and give your input. Come visit, we're always home!

### **AT Credential Safeguards Consumers**

RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America, has initiated a credentialing program as a voluntary certification of a provider's knowledge base in the area of assistive technology service delivery. The goals behind RESNA's program are to ensure consumer safeguards and increase consumer satisfaction with the AT service delivery process. To accomplish this goal, RESNA has developed two credentials by which service providers can be identified:

The Assistive Technology Practitioner credential (ATP) is for service providers who are primarily involved in the analysis of a consumer's needs and training in the use of a particular device:

The Assistive Technology Suppliers credential (ATS) is for service providers primarily involved in the sale and service of commercially available devices.

For more information about the credentialing program, call 703-524-6686 or visit the RESNA website at <http://www.resna.org/resna/reshome.htm>. Request the Candidates Information Bulletin which outlines the eligibility requirements, contains an outline of the exam content by topic area and has sample questions. The next exam will be administered October 22, 1997, in Minneapolis, MN. The application deadline is September 10, 1997.

A point of interest: RESNA has notified Judie Lee, IPAT's Project Director, of her successful completion of the Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) exam. She is now a certified ATP, a certification held by only 137 others in the U.S.

### **Consumer Connection**

In May of 1997, the Interagency Project for Assistive Technology (IPAT) along with its' Consumer Advisory Committee (CAC), launched the Assistive Technology KEY Award. The purpose of this award is to 1) recognize and honor those individuals that provide or model AT solutions to insure an opportunity for all individuals to learn, compete, work and interact with community, family and friends, and 2) increase awareness of assistive technology in North Dakota. We invite you to be a partner in the KEY Awards. As you see people involved in an AT activity that makes a difference for an individual(s) with disabilities, let us know. Please take a few minutes to fill out the following: *(Feel free to make additional copies if you wish to nominate more than one individual.)*

**Assistive Technology KEY Award**  
*Nomination Form*

Nominee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of the assistive technology activity:

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Is it your wish to have this nomination remain anonymous?  Yes  No

*Thank you for recognizing the AT efforts of the above individual and notifying the Interagency Project for Assistive Technology (IPAT) of their AT activity. Please submit the completed form to: Judie Lee, Director – IPAT Project – PO Box 743 – Cavalier, ND 58220  
Questions: 1-800-265-4728*

**A round of applause** to those 150+ individuals who participated in the Communication Aid Manufacturers Association (CAMA) workshop held in Fargo on May 13, 1997. In recognition of the highest attendance of any of the northern tier sites, CAMA donated \$500 to the flood relief efforts for the Red River Valley. Our thanks to CAMA for their generosity.

### **Mark Your Calendar!**

#### August 6-8, 1997

Keys to Independence: AT for All Generations

- 6<sup>th</sup> Internet & Accessibility  
Environment Control Units
- 7<sup>th</sup> Coping with Challenges  
40 one-hour sessions, Vendor Exhibits  
Open Lab – Video Review  
Dinner & Entertainment
- 8<sup>th</sup> Concurrent Sessions  
Vendor Exhibits  
Open Lab – Video Review  
Action Address  
Prize Drawings

Anne Carlsen Center – Jamestown

AT Info-Line: 1-800-451-8693

#### June 9-12, 1997

Teaching & Technology Conference, Bismarck, ND

BSC 1-800-852-5685

#### June 17 & 19, 1997

Public Hearings on IDEA, Bismarck, Minot, Williston, Fargo, Devils Lake,  
Ft. Yates

DPI 1-701-328-2260

### **Travel Spotlight**

- \* If you need a roll-in shower, and your hotel room doesn't have one, check the health spa. The showers there are frequently accessible
- \* If filling your gas tank is a 'pain,' Healthy Living (800/800-0100) offers a gas cap wrench for loosening or tightening the gas cap cover of your car. It lists for \$9.99 and claims to fit most gas caps.
- \* If you travel with a service dog, carry a copy of the state regulations which allow dog access. You can get these from the State Attorney General's office.
- \* If you are flying, make sure to give the airline personnel written instructions for handling your wheelchair and review each point with whomever will be doing the handling. Reviewing them with that person prevents instructions

from being ignored.

- \* If you don't want to carry a lot of stuff in transit, buy a travel vest and stock it to meet your needs. Photographers vests with Velcro pockets and large zippers work well.
- \* If, as a traveler with a disability, you need advice, information on tour operators or travel firms, contact the Society for the Advancement of Travel for the Handicapped at 212-447-7284.

**Assistive Technology Info-Line 1-800-451-8693**

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***Alternative Formats Available – Call 1-800-265-IPAT***