

**AT Key Newsletter**  
**February 2006**                      **Vol. 11 No. 1**

**Mark Your Calendars!**  
**Annual Assistive Technology Expo**  
*Judie Lee, IPAT Director*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Assistive Technology Expo will be in Fargo on April 13, 2006, at the Ramada Plaza Suites. This is an opportunity for people of North Dakota and surrounding regions to visit with vendors of AT devices and services, see and try AT devices, and take part in presentations on various AT topics. The event will be of interest to anyone needing special devices to help them work, learn, or live independently. Whether you have a child with a learning disability, a parent with memory loss, want to get back to work, or need help staying in your own home, this AT Expo is for you!

The AT Expo Committee has been working hard over the past months to coordinate this event and has secured vendors in the areas of; vision, hearing, communication, learning disabilities, computer access, aids for daily living, safety, mobility, environmental controls, AT legal rights, and home or work modifications. The AT Expo Vendor Show is FREE and open to the public. It will run from 1pm – 7pm, for specific vendor information, see page two of this newsletter.

In the past, the presentations ran at the same time as the AT Expo Vendor Show and were free. This year, as a result of consumer input, the presentations will be scheduled in the morning only, and not run concurrently with the Vendor Show. There is a \$20 fee to attend the presentations, which includes lunch onsite. Scholarships for the presentations will be available on a first-come-first-serve basis to individuals with disabilities. Please contact Craig at 239-7222 regarding a scholarship.

The Expo is a collaborative effort of many agencies including: Job Service North Dakota-Fargo; Protection & Advocacy; Interagency Program for Assistive Technology; Connections of Moorhead, Inc.; Freedom Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.; Easter Seals Goodwill ND, Inc; Fraser, Ltd.; MSUM Regional Assistive Technology Department; West Fargo Public Schools FEET; Fargo Public Schools FEET; Rural Cass Public Schools FEET; and Moorhead Public Schools.

For more information, feel free to contact Jeannie Krull at 701-365-4730, [jmkrull@integra.net](mailto:jmkrull@integra.net) or Ronda Wilson at 701-239-7332, [rjwilson@state.nd.us](mailto:rjwilson@state.nd.us).

## Microsoft and Apple Built-In Accessibility Options

Microsoft has many accessibility options built right into the operating system. It has screen magnifiers, keyboard adjustments, on-screen keyboards, mouse modifications, and lots of other extras. Using the accessibility options, the user can select StickyKeys in order to press one key for key combinations; or ToggleKeys to hear tones which alert them to the fact that specific keys have been pressed. They can also improve the readability of the monitor screen by selecting various color combinations, including high contrast; or turn on Narrator, a built-in text-to-speech program, to have text read aloud, or to read each letter as it is typed. All of these options are available in Windows by clicking on Start, then (All) Programs. When the list of programs appears, choose Accessories, then Accessibility.

To see the full range of accessibility features available for Windows, go to [www.microsoft.com/enable/?qssnb=1](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/?qssnb=1) or go to [www.microsoft.com/enable/training/defaultl.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/enable/training/defaultl.aspx) to learn about the accessibility options through the use of the tutorials Microsoft has developed to walk you through them step-by-step. Tutorials are available for each of their major products including; Windows 98 through Windows XP, Word, Outlook, and Internet Explorer.

Microsoft has provided IPAT free CD's to distribute which show you how to make your computer easier to use by adjusting the accessibility options. Video demonstrations on the CD show you how to adjust display, sound, keyboard, and mouse options in Windows XP. Please call 1-800-265-IPAT (-4728) to request a free Microsoft CD.

Apple computers also have built-in accessibility options. OS X has a spoken interface, built-in magnification, talking alerts, and display adjustments similar to those found in the Microsoft products. Mac operating systems also have keyboard, mouse, and screen adjustments that can accommodate users with vision, hearing and dexterity difficulties. Apple calls their accessibility options Universal Access. They can be activated by going to the Systems Preferences in the Apple menu. To get more information on the options built-into OS X, surf over to [www.apple.com/accessibility](http://www.apple.com/accessibility).

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### **ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY EXPO 2006 EXHIBITORS CONFIRMED TO DATE:**

Adaptation  
Anne Carlson Center for Children  
Attainment Company

CostCare Medical Store  
Courage Center/Paralympic Academy  
Dakota Link  
Easter Seals Goodwill ND, Inc.  
Fargo Public Schools - Special Education Services  
FM Metro Council of Governments  
Fraser, Ltd. SMART Boost Up Program  
Freedom Resource Center  
Great Plains Assistance Dogs Foundations  
HumanWare  
Interagency Program for Assistive Technology  
Johnson & Johnson, Independence Technology  
Judy Siegle – Life Venture Publishing  
Moorhead Public Schools  
MSUM Regional Assistive Technology Center  
ND Assoc. of Counties/ ND Sec. of State - voting machine  
Options CIL  
Prairieland Homecare  
Prentke-Romich Company  
Protection & Advocacy of ND  
The Low Vision Store  
Vocational Rehabilitation Consulting & Services - Fargo  
West Fargo Family Educator Enhancement Team  
West Fargo Public Schools

## **CONSUMER CONNECTION**

### **IPAT Hosts Technology Access Center Open House**

The Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) held an open house in December of 2006 to welcome persons from around the region to the recently moved and re-designed Technology Access Center (TAC). Located at 3509 Interstate Boulevard in Fargo, the TAC serves as a demonstration and evaluation center showcasing assistive technology (AT) in an interactive setting for people of all ages to explore.

Individuals who attended the open house were able to explore a variety of AT devices that promote independence and function at home, school, and work. The TAC has devices covering a wide range of need areas including: computer access, environmental controls, augmentative communication, hearing, vision, learning, memory, organization, and aids for daily living. When not hosting an open house, IPAT uses the TAC to demonstrate specific AT equipment, and to provide a general overview of AT for individuals or groups either onsite or via video conferencing. The TAC also serves as a site to offer trainings and assessments conducted by IPAT staff or other AT specialists.

IPAT welcomes individuals with disabilities and those experiencing the effects of aging, family members, caregivers, service providers, employers, or anyone else interested in AT to the TAC. To schedule an appointment or learn more about IPAT's Technology Access Center, please call 1-800-895-IPAT (-4728).

## **FUNDING NEWS**

### **Assistive Technology Fund**

**Information obtained from the Association of Blind Citizens Website**

[http://www.blindcitizens.org/assistive\\_tech.htm](http://www.blindcitizens.org/assistive_tech.htm)

“The Association of Blind Citizens operates the Assistive Technology Fund. The Assistive Technology Fund (ATF) will provide funds to cover 50% of the retail price of adaptive devices or software. The ABC board of directors believes that this program will allow blind and visually impaired individuals access to technology products that will have a significant impact on improving employment opportunities, increase the level of independence and enhance their overall quality of life.

The products covered by this program must retail for a minimum of \$200 with a maximum retail price of \$6,000. Persons eligible to apply for assistance must have a family income of less than \$50,000 and cash assets of less than \$20,000. Applications will be reviewed by the Assistive Technology Committee (ATC) and recommendations will be submitted for board approval. If applicants are selected to receive a technology grant, applicants will be asked to provide documents such as tax returns, bank statements and any other documents that the ABC board or its designee would deem necessary to assess financial need for the grant.

Applicants must be legally blind and a resident of the United States to qualify for this program. Applications must be submitted by June 30th and December 31st for each grant period (two per year). Applicants will be notified if their request for a grant is approved. Applicants may submit one request per calendar year. All applications must be submitted via e-mail. You will be notified by ABC within 45 days after the application deadline. The grantee will have 30 days after notification to purchase the product. If the purchase cannot be made within 30 days ABC reserves the right to withdraw the award and assign it to another applicant. All decisions are final.”

**“Important:** Requests must be received via email only, by June 30th or December 31st. Please do not use attachments when submitting your request.”

To obtain an application, please see their website:

[http://www.blindcitizens.org/assistive\\_tech.htm](http://www.blindcitizens.org/assistive_tech.htm)



## **ZoomText 9 Magnifier/Reader**

ZoomText Magnifier/Reader lets you see and hear what you're doing simultaneously in all of your computer applications, including web pages and e-mail. This software package accomplishes this by combining xFont magnification with a powerful set of reading tools.

The text magnification component makes materials easy to see with magnification available from 1x to 36x, visible pointers and cursors, and screen contrast, color, and brightness controls. The reading tools make materials easy to hear with NeoSpeech's synthesized human-sounding voices and narration options available from speaking all of your actions and reading everything on the monitor screen to speaking none.

ZoomText 9 Magnifier/Reader System Requirements: Pentium® III (450 MHz or higher); Windows XP, ME, 2000, 98 or NT4 (with SP6 or later); Windows sound card; 256 MB RAM (512 MB recommended); 25 MB disk space (additional 60 MB for each NeoSpeech synthesizer)

This system retails for \$249. Find out more about ZoomText at their website <http://www.aisquared.com/index.cfm> or call toll free 1-800-859-0270. If you would like a demonstration or training of ZoomText, please call 1-800-265-IPAT (-4728).

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### **For Your Information . . .**

- The North Dakota Community Foundation has scholarships available for farm/ranch children with physical disabilities who wish to attend college for the first time, or return to college. An application can be obtained by calling 701-222-8349; ask to speak to Kevin Dvorak, scholarship coordinator. Applications should be completed and returned to the North Dakota Community Foundation by May 15, 2006.
- IPAT has updated and printed a new program brochure highlighting services and staff contact information. For those needing to replenish their stock, or for those just interested in receiving current IPAT information, call 1-800-265-IPAT (-4728) to request program brochures.

### **Assistive Technology Expo – 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual**

April 13, 2006

Ramada Plaza Suites – Fargo, ND

Contact: Jeannie 1-800-895-4728