

6th Annual AT Expo Presentation/Speaker Info

8:00am-8:50am SESSIONS

Developing Communications in Young Adults via Multimedia & Assistive Technology

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe how young adults with disabilities are using multimedia and assistive technology devices.
- List the types of technology used to create projects for young adults.
- Discuss instruction approaches for young adults with disabilities based on current research.

This presentation will show inspiring projects created by young adults with various disabilities (DCD Mild Moderate, Physical Impairment, Speech/Language Impairment, Vision Impairment, Autism, EBD) using multimedia technology and assistive technology devices. Low-tech communication devices, transition video, and training sessions conducted and created by these amazing young adults will be shared. Participants will learn how young adults are utilizing digital cameras, computers, software programs, and a variety of assistive technology devices to increase their technology skills. They will also learn about instructional approach for young adults with disabilities based on current research. Participants will receive CD with templates of technology projects they can use and an index of current best practice research publications in Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Presenter: Jonathan Jones is a Special Education Instructor working at Northeast Metro 916-Transition Program for young adults. He works with young adults with a variety of abilities ranging in age from 12-21. Jonathan is a recent graduate of The Pennsylvania State University with a Masters in Special Education. Jonathan's research focus was in Augmentative and Alternative Communication.

Home Matters – Room by Room

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify changes that can be made to homes to promote safety and accessibility.
- Discuss the state of aging in America, and why adaptation now is a national priority.
- Employ top 10 redesign tips and AT devices that are available to assist them remain in their home.

This session will introduce participants to a wide range of simple, but important changes that can be made to existing homes to promote greater safety and accessibility. Information will be shared on the state of aging in America, and why adapting homes now for future age-related concerns is becoming a national priority. Emphasis will be placed on redesign strategies and the use of assistive technology (AT) devices to make day-to-day tasks possible as abilities change; from unlocking the front door to controlling lights and appliances from the security of the sofa. Participants will learn the top 10 redesign tips, and gain an understanding of the variety of AT devices available to help make remaining at home a reality.

Presenter: Peggy S. Shireley is an Assistive Technology Practitioner and has been actively engaged in delivering assistive technology (AT) services with the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT) program since 1994. Prior to IPAT she worked in the field of disability and special education for 20 years. She holds a Master of Education degree and is certified by the RESNA Professional Standards Board as an ATP.

Tools for Your Independence – Low Vision and Blindness Products

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the newest technology in low vision reading machines.
- Identify different types of reading machines
- Evaluate low vision products that will best serve their needs.

This session focuses on the newest technology available including:

- Topaz and Impression Reading Machines and the qualities behind each one
- Portable Units that connect to computers for students and working individuals. These accommodate viewing in the distance and up close as well as taking snapshots of images and saving them to a computer.
- KNFB reader which is a cell phone that has capabilities and have printed script read through OCR
- Sara is a semi-portable unit that does not need to connect through another device. Sara has the ability to read text and read it out loud. The unit allows going forward or back by sentence or word. It can also save documents to the large memory. The Sara has 30 books in memory for easy playback, and other books can be loaded from a CD.

Presenter: Erick Nelson has been in the Low Vision business for nine years dealing with many different low vision reading machines and low vision software. He is familiar with multiple types of reading machines. He has trained people in the use of many different types of reading machines. He also works and trains on low vision products such as zoom text and magic installations.

8:00am-9:50am SESSIONS

Supports and Strategies for Struggling and Non-Readers – Hands on Lab

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify educational methods and materials that support struggling readers.
- Identify tools that support struggling readers.
- Allow hands-on opportunities with software/hardware solutions that facilitate and support struggling learners.
- Explore several access solutions.

This workshop is designed to provide participants with ideas and strategies to support struggling and non-readers. There are several software and hardware solutions that can provide supports for students in the literacy process. This session will be a hands-on session. Participants will have the opportunity to try out and evaluate the various solutions. We will be looking at several solutions ranging from low to high tech. We will also discuss several access solutions for students that have difficulty with access. There will be a limit of 30 participants in the session.

Presenter: Mark Coppin is currently Assistive Technology Director at the Anne Carlsen Center for Children in Jamestown, N.D. He has been at the Center for over 20 years. He began as a special education instructor in 1987, and also served four years as director of summer programming, two years as interim director of educational services and 13 years managing the IT department at the Center. He has presented at several state, regional and national conferences.

Serving the Needs of Persons with ALS

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Understand the services available to persons with ALS within our region.
- Describe assistive technology and augmentative communication devices available to assist Persons with ALS (PALS) to maintain functional independence for as long as possible.
- Identify various devices to assist in maintenance of functional independence.

MeritCare Therapies and The ALS Association, MN chapter (now serving North Dakota), are working together to provide an interdisciplinary, comprehensive team approach to providing care to persons with ALS (PALS). Our goal is to help PALS to maintain as much independence and functional mobility as possible for as long as possible.

Presentation includes a review of the services available through The ALS Association and MeritCare therapies. Education regarding devices to assist in maintenance of functional independence including seating solutions, home modifications and adaptive equipment, computer access technology and tools, environmental control units, and, augmentative communication devices.

Presenters:

Sue Hanson is an Occupational Therapist with MeritCare Health Systems. She earned her degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of North Dakota. She joined MeritCare in 1998. She has a special interest in assistive technology and treatment of persons with neurological disorders.

Karen Fowler is a Speech-Language Pathologist at MeritCare Health Systems. Karen joined MeritCare in 2007. She has a special interest in augmentative/alternative communication and assistive technology. She began her initial work with persons with ALS in 1997.

Linda Lorentzen is an Occupational Therapist (OTR/L), Certified Aging in Place Specialist, and the Patient Services Director at the ALS Association – Minnesota Chapter. Prior to her current position, she had 24 years clinical experience in assistive technology, seating and wheeled mobility, and home accessibility. She presents on these topics both locally and nationally.

9:00am-9:50am SESSIONS

Digital Talking Books – The Clear Path to Your Reading Future

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify services available from the North Dakota State Talking Book Library
- Receive information on how to qualify for the library's services
- List digital formats that will be available from the library

The North Dakota State Talking Book Library lends recorded books and magazines, and the necessary equipment, at no charge, to residents of North Dakota who are unable to read standard printed materials due to visual, physical, or reading disabilities whether permanent or temporary. Services offered by the North Dakota State Library Disability Services for the visually, physically and reading impaired will be outlined and explained in this presentation, Digital Talking Books – The Clear Path to Your Reading Future. Participants will receive information of qualifications to receive these available services and learn about the upcoming new digital format of books and machines.

Presenter: Susan B. Hammer-Schneider is the Head of the North Dakota State Talking Book Library. She graduated from Dickinson State College with a Bachelor of Science Degree. Prior to joining the state library, she volunteered as a reader at Dakota Radio Information Service (DRIS) and the Talking Books. She has been previously employed by the Missouri Valley YMCA in an educational capacity, and was the Enrichment Coordinator at Waterford on West Century and also the small group ministry coordinator at Trinity Lutheran Church.

PAL™ for Life

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify learning materials for communication, activities of daily living and stories for students in a functional curriculum.
- Prepare Picture-Assisted Reading materials for the functional curriculum.
- Prepare Picture-Assisted Writing materials for the functional curriculum.

This presentation focuses on students with significant disabilities who are in a functional life skills curriculum. Learn how to help these students develop functional reading and writing skills while improving independent living, communication and vocational skills with Picture-Assisted Learning™ materials. Picture-Assisted Literacy (PAL™) is a proven approach to reading and writing which uses graphic drawings to support words. It is an intervention strategy to help students read, comprehend and write at a higher level than with words alone. Literacy Support Pictures™ (LSP™) are paired with words to help students recognize words. Students glance at a picture when they cannot recognize a word. The picture is a clue so the students continue reading or writing. This session will demonstrate how to create Picture-Assisted Learning™ materials with Picture It and PixWriter™.

Presenter: Roxanne Butterfield of Slater Software speaks nationally on reading and writing materials for the functional curriculum. Slater Software has been developing and publishing software for the Special Education market since 1994. Their goal is to produce easy-to-use software tools which promote literacy and communication within the Special Needs community.

AT in the Workplace

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- List assistive technology options for the workplace.
- Discuss solutions to challenges of office settings
- Explore various types of computer office equipment

This session is geared towards consumers and professionals wanting to learn more about assistive technology options for the workplace. Primary emphasis will be on office settings and solutions to problems encountered working with various office equipment, and particularly computers.

Presenter: Mike Haring is one of the Assistive Technology Coordinators in IPAT's Fargo Technology Access Center. His role within IPAT is to provide direct assistance to individuals and professionals seeking assistive technology support and to provide training on various assistive technology topics and equipment. Mike is in his fourth decade of work within the disability field, primarily in the area of mental retardation/developmental disabilities. Throughout all of these years of service he has maintained a commitment to the advancement of assistive technology in community, as well as, institutional settings.

10:00am-10:50am SESSIONS

Low Tech and Low Cost Speech Devices for Aiding Teachers

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify various speech output devices.
- Explain devices essential for teaching speech, writing and language.
- Recognize low-tech and low-cost speech generating devices

Presenter: James Rogers has been President of Cadan Computers dba Technology for Education for 25 years. James is a graduate of University of Notre Dame and has a Masters Degree from Metro State University. He is also a licensed instructor at St. Paul Technology College.

The Basics of Accommodating Home Remodeling

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify key resources for information and guidance in home remodeling.
- Explore how accessible design features benefit the residents of a home.
- Discuss wide range of abilities that can benefit from basic design options.

This session highlights how accessible and/or universally designed features make homes better fit present and future needs of residents with a wide range of functional abilities. Key resources providing helpful information/guidance will also be identified and discussed.

Presenter: Diane Sprague, director of the Lifetime Home Project, which is based in Minneapolis, MN and promotes accessible/universal home design and home telehealth technologies for long-term community living. Diane has served on staff of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency as a housing policy specialist monitoring, developing and providing technical assistance on housing/service initiatives for seniors and persons with a disability. Diane has also been a planner with the Minnesota Governor's Planning Council on Developmental Disabilities, managing its grant cycle and providing policy development and Council staff support. She has an undergraduate degree in political science (Miami University, Oxford, OH) and a graduate degree in public affairs (Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota).

Success with Speech Recognition

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- List pre-planning and post-planning guidelines for speech recognition software.
- Discuss components of effective educator training.
- Identify training tools and lesson plans available.

Speech recognition software is powerful technology that can bridge the gap for an individual who has difficulty writing, whether because of learning disabilities or physical disabilities. All too often, however, difficulties occur in successful implementation of this software. These difficulties may be based on incorrect assumptions, inadequate training and incorrect usage. This session will offer pre-planning and post-planning guidelines for successful implementation of speech recognition software, specifically, Dragon NaturallySpeaking. We'll look at the components of effective educator training and review Workshop in a Box as a training tool. Lesson plans will also be introduced.

Presenter: Linda Baldwin is a speech language pathologist and the director of LAB Resources, a company specializing in assistive technology and training materials for assistive technology.

11:00am-11:50am SESSIONS

One Switch, Two Switch, Red Switch, Blue Switch

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify how a variety of available switches and switch interfaces
- Discuss the merits of using one switch vs. multiple switches for specific age individuals.
- Explore the different types of switch-accessible software for all ages.

Switches provide a way for users who cannot normally use a mouse or keyboard to access the computer. Switches are available in a huge variety of shapes and sizes to fit the user's needs, from simple push buttons to highly customized devices specifically designed to a particular user's situation. This session will explore the variety of switch options and interfaces, merits of the different types and different types of switch-accessible software for ages, , including cause and effect, reaction-timed, timed scanning, step scanning, row/column scanning, sequential scanning vs. random scanning and immediate vs. on-cue scanning.

Presenter: Mark Larson is owner and co-founder of Marblesoft-Simtech. Mark first developed assistive technology software a college class project in the spring of 1983, then founded Marblesoft in October 1983. Mark has presented at many trade shows and conferences over the past 20+ years. He is also a trainer and seminar leader for PTC.

Assistive Technology Reuse Panel

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- Identify equipment best suited to be reused.
- List agencies that assist with the reuse of equipment.
- Discuss the value of reusing assistive technology and other equipment.

Assistive technology equipment is staging a “comeback” through a variety of Reuse Programs. Attend this session to hear firsthand about four unique reuse programs currently in operation to help meet the equipment needs of people residing in North Dakota and Minnesota. Participants will receive an overview of each program to include; contact information, populations served, eligibility requirements, and types of equipment available. In addition, operational and/or procedural information specific to each program will be explained. Following the panel members’ descriptions of each program, the panel moderator will facilitate a question-and-answer session taking questions from the audience for panel member clarification.

Panelists: Jeri Hietala, North Dakota Association for the Disabled; Joyce Newton, Executive Director of Project HERO; Don Olson, Director of the Mobile Adaptive Equipment Services and the Physical Therapy Department, Developmental Center, Grafton; Peggy Shireley, Assistive Technology Coordinator for IPAT-Interagency Program for Assistive Technology; and Moderator, Brian Murry, Public Policy Advocate, ND Protection & Advocacy Project.

Telecommunications for People with Disabilities

After attending this session, participants will be able to:

- List telecommunication technology available including Skype, IM, Sprint Relay and Web CapTel
- Identify equipment necessary to access this technology
- Describe situations in which existing telecommunications that are easily accessible to people with disabilities.

This session will explore phones and services to help individuals with disabilities communicate using the telephone and the computer. Participants to this presentation will have an opportunity to see phones and equipment used during the session.

Presenter: Scott Weissman is an AT Coordinator with the Interagency Program for Assistive Technology (IPAT), North Dakota’s Tech Act Program. Scott joined IPAT in 2007 and has a bachelor’s degree from Idaho State University in secondary education with certifications to teach business and technology. As an AT Coordinator with IPAT, Scott is on the frontlines of assessing, using, and implementing assistive technology in the lives of those with disabilities.