

CommunicATor



Fall 2009

601 East 18th Ave.
Denver, Co 80203
303-315-1280
assistivetechologypartners.org

Assistive Technology Partners envisions a world where all persons with cognitive, sensory and/or physical disabilities are engaged in life at home, school, work and play, without barriers and without boundaries.

Assistive Technology of Colorado Program – 20th Anniversary!

On August 19, 1988 President Reagan signed the bill and the Technology Related Assistance Act of 1988, commonly known as the “Tech Act” was enacted. In 1989, Colorado was one of the first nine states funded to develop a statewide Assistive Technology (AT) Program. In 1998, Congress re-authorized the law and it became the Assistive Technology Act. The intent of the law was to address three areas of concern: the need for knowledge and training on assistive technology, to identify funding sources for technology, and the need for a comprehensive system to help people with disabilities acquire appropriate technology. Twenty years have passed and in that time the field of assistive technology has developed significantly with thousands of devices and equipment from which to choose. The challenges continue for raising awareness about current technology, training, maintaining and improving a systemic approach for helping people acquire

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Assistive Technology of Colorado Program- 20th Anniversary	1
Colorado Assistive Technology Awareness Week	2
Western Slope Celebrates Assistive Technology	2
Pikes Peak Area and Southeast Colorado Celebrate Assistive Technology	3
New School Year for SWAAAC	4
ATP at STEMpalooza	4
Dr. Bodine- Outstanding Woman in Business Award	4
Babies and Families Benefit from Simple Technology	5
ATP Offers Free Education to the Public	5
First Annual AbleGames a Success	6

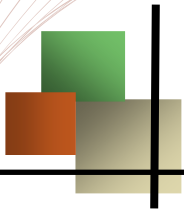
technology. However, as we mark this 20th anniversary for Colorado’s program, let us celebrate some of the accomplishments over the last two decades:

- Assistive Technology Partners, University of Colorado Denver, School of Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation provides training and technical assistance to organizations and agencies on assistive technology throughout Colorado.
- State organizations and agencies collaborate on the Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition to maximize resources for delivering information, technology, and providing evaluations to those needing to identify appropriate AT.
- Through partnerships with the Department of Education and the Office of Workforce Development, WesTAC, a satellite Western Slope Technical Assistance Center, is in place in Grand Junction and serves the western part of Colorado. In the fall of 2008, SETAC, the Southeast Technical Assistance Center opened in Colorado Springs to serve the southeast region of the State.
- Assistive Technology Funding Sources, an online funding database is available for all Coloradans to identify funding options in their local communities.
- AT Match, an online AT exchange program, is available to all Coloradan to identify no cost/low cost assistive technology. AT Finder is available to do a single online search for a device on multiple electronic classified ads simultaneously, including eBay and craigslist.

(continued on page 2)



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BREAKING BARRIERS, CHANGING LIVES



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CommunicATor: Fall 2009



(continued from page 1)

- Through funding from the Colorado Department of Education, an assistive technology loan bank exists to allow all public schools in Colorado to borrow devices and equipment for evaluations, demonstrations, and short term try-outs to assure that students with disabilities have access to the most appropriate technology for learning.
- Through funding from Early Intervention Colorado, Department of Human Services, the loan bank has been extended to the birth to three year old population.
- Through funding from the Office of Workforce Development, Assistive Technology Partners has provided technical assistance to improve accessibility of services at Workforce Centers throughout Colorado.
- An AT Network has been established as a collaborative with Independent Living Centers, Area Agencies on Aging, the Senior Community Service Employment Program, and Assistive Technology Partners to provide trained Assistive Technology Information/Referral Specialists in regions throughout Colorado.
- Free monthly Learning Labs are provided at all three Assistive Technology Partners' sites to allow the public to participate in hands-on demonstrations on the latest technology.
- For three years, the Governor has annually proclaimed Colorado Assistive Technology Awareness Week in October.

For more information about Assistive Technology Partners or the Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition, call 303 315-1280 or email ATP@ucdenver.edu

Colorado Assistive Technology Awareness Week October 11- 17, 2009

Governor Ritter has proclaimed Colorado Assistive Technology (AT) Awareness week for October 11-17, 2009. Organizations are gearing up to remind people about the tools and resources that are available to improve the quality of an individual's life. AT comes in many shapes and forms and can be as simple as hearing aids, a talking alarm clock, knee



braces or manual and power wheelchairs, or as sophisticated as voice-activated computer systems and stair climbing wheelchairs. AT tools can assist in dressing or cooking as well as helping people stay in communication with friends and family through adaptations to electronic devices such as computers or the tele-

phone. AT can help people on the job, at home, and in the community. Assistive technology tools and services are necessities, not merely luxury items. These essential tools empower people to control their lives and their future.

2009 is a significant year, because it marks the 20th year for the Assistive Technology Program of Colorado, part of the University of Colorado Denver, Anschutz Medical Campus. The public is invited to attend one of the Assistive Technology Partners Open Houses in Grand Junction at the WestTAC office, Colorado Springs at the SETAC office, or the Denver center on October 14 from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Light refreshments will be served. For more information on events in your area or to explore ways that you can promote AT Awareness, contact: Assistive Technology Partners at 1-800-255-3477 or 303 315-1280 or ATP@ucdenver.edu .

Western Slope Celebrates Assistive Technology!

A multitude of opportunities are available in western Colorado for people to learn more about assistive technology. Following is a list of some of the activities scheduled to date. More to come – contact Denice Roberts, Assistive Technology Partners, WestTAC, 970 248-0876 or

(continued on page 3)



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CommunicATor: Fall 2009



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Denice.Roberts@ucdenver.edu for the most updated information.

- Thursday, October 1 through Friday, October 30, 2009 Assistive Technology History Slideshow and Paraphernalia, daily. Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501. Call for times 970-241-0315
- Sunday, October 4, 2009 1-3pm – AT Demonstration at Western Colorado Botanical Gardens, 641 Struthers Avenue, Grand Junction, CO 81501 Contact Person: - Laura Stafford, 970-245-3288
- Tuesday, October 6, 2009 10-11:30am – MDS – ArtAbility Class. Held at the Art Center, 1803 N. 7th St., Grand Junction, CO, Contact Person, Mark Saro 970-245-1098
- Thursday, October 8, 2009 10-12am – DVR Counselors AT Demonstration at ATP/WesTAC
- Saturday, October 10, 2009 11am – 4pm – Visually Impaired Peoples Fair, Glenwood Springs Community Center, 100 Wolfson Rd, Glenwood Springs, CO, Contact Person, Jan Ward, 970-618-6255
- Tuesday, October 13 - Friday, October 16, 2009 Assistive Technology Through the Years Slideshow, daily. Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501 Call for times 970-241-0315
- Tuesday, October 13, 2009 11:30am - 12:30pm – Youth Employment Council – AT and Employment presentation – ATP/WesTAC Denice Roberts
- Wednesday, October 14, 2009 9am-2:30pm White Cane Safety Day Seminar. Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501 Contact person: Linda Taylor, lindataylor@cfi.org ; Lorene Hassig lhassig@acsol.net
- Thursday, October 15, 2009 1:30-2:30 pm – AT Network webinar Contact Person for ATP/WesTAC –Denice Roberts
- Thursday, October 15, 2009 10am - 2pm, White Cane Safety Day Educating the Community about Low Vision and Blindness, Locations: Wal-Mart North Avenue and Rimrock Boulevard, City Market Downtown, and City Market Eastgate. Contact person: Lorene Hassig lhassig@acsol.net
- Friday, October 16, 2009 10am—11:30am "Wheels of Fire" and "Beyond Barriers", extreme sports movies involving people with disabilities, FREE,

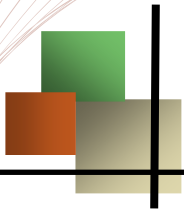
Center for Independence, 740 Gunnison Ave., Grand Junction, CO 81501 Contact person Cathy Johnson 970-241-0315

- Wednesday, October 21, 2009 2:30pm-4:30pm – Free Learning Lab – Dragon NaturallySpeaking, call to register. Contact –Denice Roberts
- Monday, October 26, 2009 2pm-3:30 pm– Disabilities Focused Interagency Meeting, Montrose Workforce Center, AT Presentation – WesTAC

Pikes Peak Area and Southeast Colorado Celebrate Assistive Technology

October 2008 was the opening month of the southeast Colorado Technical Assistance Center, a satellite center for Assistive Technology Partners Denver. Heather Lyons is the Assistive Technology Specialist on site and is promoting some of the activities that are taking place in the area during the month of October. For more information about the listed items or additional activities, contact Heather at 719 380-6229 or Heather.Lyons@ucdenver.edu.

- October 6, 2009 – Proloquo2Go Demonstration at Memorial Hospital – 9-10am Contact Jacy D. Dumas, 719-365-5642 x77430
- October 6, 2009 – Learning Lab – Kurzweil 3000 – 2:30-4:30pm Contact Heather Lyons
- October 14, 2009 – SETAC Open House – 3:00-5:30pm Contact Heather Lyons
- October 20, 2009 – AT Funding Sources training by Julia Beems and Christy Blakely – 1-5pm Contact Heather Lyons
- October 22, 2009 – Disability Awareness Festival at UCCS – 10am - 1pm Contact Ida Dilwood, Telephone/TTY: 719-255-3653
- October 23, 2009 – Technology Summit – Platte Canyon School District – training on AT for Math Disabilities and AT for Literacy Melissa Cooper, Director of Special Education, 303-838-7666 x1019
- October 27, 2009 – AT Open House at Pueblo WFC –Kim Drew, (719)562-3768
- October 30, 2009 - Pueblo History Museum - "History of Assistive Technology: A Not So Spooky Treat!" - 10am – 4pm Contact Ralph McPherson [trapper1@cnip.net]



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CommunicATor: Fall 2009



A New School Year Begins for Colorado SWAAAC Teams

August marked the beginning of a new school year for SWAAAC teams across Colorado. This year promises to be an exciting year of change and growth. Some teams have new American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds to expand their district assistive technology libraries and participate in high quality professional development activities. Some are actively engaging in district Response to Intervention and Universal Design for Learning initiatives. Some are responding to a significant increase in referrals for service. Whatever the priority, they are all very busy. With a new and improved website, an ambitious schedule of training and networking opportunities, and state-of-the-art additions to the Loanbank, the central office project staff are gearing up to meet the needs of the new year. For more information about the Colorado SWAAAC teams and upcoming activities please visit our website at www.swaaac.com.

STEMapalooza An Exploration of Science Technology Engineering and Math in Colorado

STEMapalooza is a two-day event that is free and open to the public, featuring exhibitors from around the state of Colorado that support STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programs for students and educators and employ hundreds of thousands of jobs in STEM related careers.



Assistive Technology Partners will present an interactive display, including a wide variety of assistive technology devices, at STEMapalooza.

Date:

Friday, October 16th and Saturday, October 17th, 2009, 9am - 4pm

Location:

The Colorado Convention Center.

For More Information:

For more information, please visit

<http://thunder1.cudenver.edu/casmic/stemapalooza/>

Cathy Bodine – Outstanding Woman in Business Award



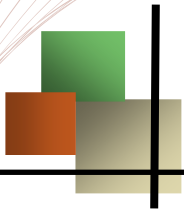
Cathy Bodine

The Denver Business Journal honored 11 Outstanding Women in Business for their accomplishments in 11 different categories on August 27. Cathy Bodine, Associate Professor, Executive Director of Assistive Technology Partners was the winner in the Health Care category.

Cathy began her career in 1985.

At that time about 100 assistive technology devices were in existence, and now more than 32,000 tools are available. As the head of Assistive Technology Partners, School of Medicine at the University of Colorado Denver, Cathy's team serves people of all ages. They do clinical evaluations; provides outreach and information services; conducts research; and educates those who work with very young children and their families, the public school assistive technology teams, and graduate students in related fields.

As a pioneer in the field, Cathy has influenced many and her message to the Denver-area business community was: "Assistive technology makes things possible. Persons with disabilities are among the most dedicated labor force available." And she added that 67 percent of persons with disabilities who want to work are unemployed or underemployed. This recognition of someone in the field of assistive technology shines a light on the possibilities for people with disabilities.



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BREAKING BARRIERS, CHANGING LIVES

CommunicATor: Fall 2009



Babies and Families Benefit from Simple Technology

Imagine that as a young parent of a baby born three months prematurely, you are challenged with taking your fragile infant with significant disabilities home from the hospital. You have exhausted the benefits included in your medical insurance plan and you are left wondering where to turn for support. Fortunately, there are many inexpensive assistive technology options available to help families cope in those first few years. Simple adaptations can help this young baby develop communication, play and motor skills that will impact the rest of his life. Adaptations such as adapted seating systems, toys that can be activated with switches and modification ideas for the home can all help this young family face the challenges that lie ahead. Assistive Technology Partners, at the University of Colorado, is one resource with solutions. Early Intervention Colorado, within the Department of Human Services, Division for Developmental Disabilities and Assistive Technology Partners, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Colorado,

Denver have been collaborating over the past few years to establish a statewide Early Intervention Assistive Technology Technical Assistance and Training Infrastructure for the state.

Initially, twelve early intervention providers were recruited and in 2008, another ten were added. Plans for 2009 include adding fifty more providers throughout the state. Faculty from Assistive Technology Partners have focused on providing professional development, information dissemination, technical assistance, mentoring and collaboration, as well as access to equipment through a loan bank to these providers.



Activities center on the child and family with the ultimate goal of increasing independence in natural environments and a long term goal of positive outcomes for individuals with disabilities.

Problem: Six month old Marina enjoys playing with cause-effect toys. She also likes to watch her brothers play. How can she be positioned so that she can participate in these activities?

Solution: Lying on her side with support such as rolled up towels or a wedge, she could watch her brothers and engage with toys placed within her reach. Or try using a Boppy pillow for upper body support, while she lays chest down, with her hands in front to access toys. Even at six months, an infant should never be left unattended.

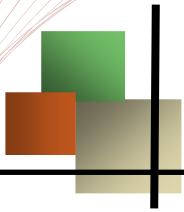
ATP Offers Free Education to the Public

Monthly, Assistive Technology Partners (ATP) offers free **Learning Labs** that cover a broad range of topics specific to different areas of assistive technology. Topics are presented by remote learning technology at our satellite offices in Grand Junction (WesTAC) and Colorado Springs (SETAC).

Seating and Positioning Options for Infants and Toddlers
Denver Thursday, October 8, 2009
WesTAC Wednesday November 18, 2009
SETAC Tuesday, January 5, 2010

Wheelchair Seat Cushions
Denver Thursday, November 12, 2009
WesTAC Wednesday January 20, 2010
SETAC Tuesday, February 2, 2010

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CommunicATor: Fall 2009



First Annual AbleGames a Success!



AbleGames gives children with disabilities access to computer games and video games via switches and numerous adaptations to allow for a fair and fun competition.

The first annual AbleGames was held at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds on August 29, 2009. It was a huge success for participants, family, friends, and volunteers! Thank you to all who participated and special thanks to all of our sponsors:

PlayNTrade

Game Exchange of Colorado, Inc.

Help Kidz Learn

Kids Mobility Network

Commerce City Parks and Recreation

Logos your Way, Inc.

Girl Scouts, Girl Scouts of Colorado, Troop 1976/405, Colorado Springs

Rocky Mountain Robotics, F.I.R.S.T. Team 662

Wrong Crown Productions – Ken Mitchell

Assistive Technology Partners looks forward to hosting the AbleGames again in 2010!

http://www.uchsc.edu/atp/events_AbleGames.html



AbleGames

Contact Assistive Technology Partners

Assistive Technology Partners
Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
School of Medicine
University of Colorado Denver

<http://www.assistivetechologypartners.org/>

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MAIN: 303.315.1280
CLINIC: 303.315.1282
TOLL-FREE: 800.255.3477
TTY: 303.837.8964
FAX: 303.837.1208

Satellite Office: Western Slope Technical Assistance Center (WesTAC)

Mesa County Workforce Center
2897 North Avenue, Modular 3A
Grand Junction, CO 81501

MAIN: 970.248.0876
TOLL-FREE: 800.255.3477
TTY: 970.248.0877
FAX: 970.248.0877

Satellite Office: Southeast Technical Assistance Center (SETAC)

Pikes Peak BOCES
828 Wooten Road
Colorado Springs, CO 80915

MAIN: 719.380.6229
TOLL-FREE: 800.255.3477
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