



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.

Winter 2012



Video Gaming Leads to New Power Wheelchair Controller

Crescencio Flores is a very bright ten year old boy with a diagnosis of Ischemic Spinal Cord Injury and Arthrogyrosis. Crescencio cannot feel or move his muscles from the chest down. He also has many joint deformities and limitations in his legs and arms. In the last two years, Crescencio has learned to use an X:Box 360 game controller to play video games with his family. He is excellent at video games and frequently beats his dad at football! Recently he came to Assistive Technology Partners for an evaluation to determine if he can use a game controller to operate a power wheelchair. During the evaluation, Crescencio proved that he is a very skilled driver using the game controller as his joystick. He hopes to receive a new power wheelchair with this type of controller very soon.

AT Fast Facts Online

Assistive Technology Partners provides timely information to people with disabilities and their families, service-providers, employers, educators, and health professionals. Some resources that may be of interest include

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information sheets covering a variety of disability topics as they relate to assistive technology, contact information for agencies and companies working with assistive technology devices and services, and in-depth articles that provide more extensive and detailed information on a variety of assistive technology related topics. Topics include communication, computers, early intervention, education, emergency management, employment, ergonomics, hearing, home modifications, mobility recreation, and vision. More than 40 new handouts have been added recently. Go to assistivetechologypartners.org and look for the AT Handouts under the Resources tab.



ATP Represented at the M-Enabling Summit in Washington

ATP participated at the first annual M-Enabling Summit in Washington, DC in December. The first assembly of its kind, the Summit was an international gathering of policy makers and people in the mobile technology industry, leaders of organizations representing seniors and persons with disabilities, as well as service providers. The Summit was sponsored by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), and organized by the Global Initiative for Inclusive ICTs (G3ict). The goal was to “provide governments, community services, health and the private sector information and communications professionals with innovative solutions to leverage accessible and assistive mobile platforms to better serve seniors and persons with disabilities.”

ATP faculty attended a variety of keynote and concurrent sessions, and met with key policy makers, industry leaders and mobile technologies company representatives. Conference session topics ranged from mobile apps for people with disabilities to the involvement of people with disabilities in the design of mobile products. The ATP team also participated in an exhibitor booth with Research in Motion (RIM). RIM is the Canadian company that designs and manufactures BlackBerry products. ATP is working with RIM to conduct usability tests on some of their mobile products for people with cognitive disabilities, and to use the BlackBerry Playbook as a platform for development of a job prompting system for this same population.

One key outcome of ATP’s representation at the Summit was the initiation of efforts to work with key executives at the FCC on further development of their Accessibility Clearinghouse. The Clearinghouse is an online resource for accessibility information on a variety of mobile technology products.

SWAAAC (Statewide Assistive Technology Augmentative Alternative Communication) to Offer Series of Web-Based Trainings:

The Colorado Department of Education and ATP support a network of assistive technology teams that provide AT services across school districts in Colorado. These SWAAAC teams are interdisciplinary groups comprised of education professionals from disciplines such as Speech-Language, Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, Special Education, and Psychology. ATP is very close to unveiling the first 4 online training modules to support new SWAAAC team members. The series of web-based training modules is designed to replace the annual SWAAAC 101 2-day workshop. The training modules will also be available to other interested people on an Individual basis. The first 4 topics include: “Introduction to the Colorado Assistive Technology Loanbank,” “Assistive Technology and the Law,” “Assistive Technology and the IEP,” and “Assistive Technology Assessment.” Once the first 4 trainings are up and running, development will begin on the next three, “Assistive Technology and Transition,” “Report Writing for AAC Evaluations & Funding,” and “Assistive Technology Documentation Methods and Strategies.”

The SWAAAC 101 web-based training modules are only part of an exciting new training initiative currently underway at ATP. Expect future web-based trainings on topics such as Early Intervention, and implementation of specific AT products. Watch for the trainings to post on the ATP website under the *Education* tab: <http://www.ucdenver.edu/academics/colleges/medicalschool/programs/atp/education/Pages/Education.aspx>. Or, subscribe to our Continuing Education email list to receive information about upcoming training opportunities by contacting Elizabeth.woodruff@ucdenver.edu.

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Upcoming Training Opportunities

January 27, 2012 – ATP will be hosting a full day training, **Assessing Alternative Drive Controls for Power Wheelchair Users**, presented by Becky Breaux, MS, OTR, ATP. Determining the most effective and efficient alternative methods for controlling a power wheelchair can be a difficult task. This workshop will highlight a process of motor access assessment and data collection to use as a guide. Participants will be eligible to receive 0.65 RESNA CEUs for this training. Registration closes January 18.

February 3, 2012 – **ATP's Western Slope Satellite Office will be hosting Technology for Tots: The Use of Laptops, Tablets, iPads and iPods for Play, Learning and Communication with Young Children**, presented by Brian Burne, MSM, OTR. This workshop will provide numerous ideas and strategies presented in two parts that will help you interact with young children and technology in order to help them play, learn and communicate. This training will be located at Mesa Developmental Services in Grand Junction. Registration closes January 27.

February 10, 2012 – Due to the heavy demand of the first offering of this training on January 13th, a second date for ATP Director Maureen Melonis' **Implementing the iPad & iPod in the Educational Environment training** was added. This session will be hosted at Anschutz Medical Campus and broadcast to 2 distance locations.

June 3, 2012 – **Technology for Living & Learning: 2012 AT Expo** at the Conference Center at Adams 12 Five Star Schools in Thornton. The AT Expo will feature vendors showcasing the latest innovations in hardware, software, educational materials, Assistive Technology devices and services and solutions for home, school, work and play.

June 4 & 5, 2012 – ATP's SWAAAC program will be hosting their Summer Symposium: **Creating Access Through Technology In Education**. This two day event will feature full day workshops by Dan Herlihy, Dr. Therese Willkomm, Kirk Behnke and Dr. Dave Edyburn. This training will be located at the Conference Center at Adams 12 Five Star School District in Thornton. An evening presentation and dinner will take place Monday evening for all participants at Stonebrook Manor Event Center and Gardens.

For further details on the above trainings and registration information please visit our [website](#).

DPT Student Gains Clinical Skills at ATP

Elise Willett is a third year student in the Doctor of Physical Therapy Program at the University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus. She



received her Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at the University of Colorado Denver in 2009, and will receive her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree in 2012. Elise hopes to become a pediatric physical therapist, but is open to the wide world of rehabilitation. She is specifically interested in pediatric home care and the responsibilities of a home care therapist. She is completing one of her two final 16-week clinical rotations at Assistive Technology Partners where she is working with an experienced clinician to determine appropriate wheelchair and mobility-related assistive technology for complex clients with specific needs. Her experience at Assistive Technology Partners is preparing her to use these specialized skills as a patient-centered and forward-thinking physical therapist in her future.



AT Funding Sources

Colorado Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program (TEDP)

The Colorado TEDP program makes telecommunications equipment and accessories available to qualified deaf and hard of hearing citizens.

Equipment includes: amplified telephones, CapTels, speaker telephones, TTYs, video-phones and specialized telephone equipment for deaf-blind citizens.



Qualifications Required:

- Proof of Colorado Residency
- Proof of Telecommunications
- Proof of Annual Gross Income

Assistive Technology Partners has teamed up with the Colorado Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to provide demonstration carts for the TEDP program and offer an opportunity for individuals to view the various pieces of equipment and to try them before making a final decision.

To arrange for a demonstration please contact one of our Assistive Technology Partners Offices located in Denver, Colorado Springs or Grand Junction.



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2897 North Avenue, Modular 3A
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Satellite Office: Southeast Technical Assistance Center (SETAC)

Pikes Peak BOCES
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<http://medschool.ucdenver.edu/atp>

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