

UAAACT NEWS

Utah Augmentative, Alternative, Assistive Communication Teams

2005 Utah Augmentative Conference To Be Held in Layton

The 2005 Utah Augmentative Conference will be held Thursday, February 10th, and Friday, the 11th. It is sponsored by the Utah State Office of Education and the Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology Teams. This year the conference will be held in a new location. It will be held in the new Davis Conference Center at 759 West Heritage Park Boulevard in Layton. It is located north of the Layton Hills Mall and south of Target. It opened for business a few weeks ago.



Davis Conference Center

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The keynote speakers this year will be Emily Rubin of Communication Crossroads, and Dr. Susan Johnston from the Department of Special Education at the University of Utah. There will be break out sessions and a vendor hall. One semester hour of University of Utah credit will be available for about \$60.00.

Relicensure credit will also be available.

The conference registration form will be distributed as soon as we have worked out all the details with the conference hotel, The Hilton Garden Inn.

This conference is free to the first 325 Utah participants who get their registration forms to The Computer Center. Out of state participants will pay \$75. The registration form needs to be turned into the computer center by January 21, 2005.

Included in this newsletter is a "Proposals Form for 2005

UAAACT Conference." If you or your team would like to present and earn an equipment stipend of \$500, please fill out the enclosed form. Return this proposal form to Craig, Scott, or Lynn by November 12, 2004. Presenters will be notified by December 1st.

If you plan to attend and live more than 50 miles away, you may be eligible to stay at the Hilton Garden Inn next to the Conference Center. You need to reserve your room by January 26, 2005 to get the conference rate of \$63 per night.

We hope to see you there!

New UAAACT Web Site

We would like to thank Tom Jackson and the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation for hosting the UAAACT web site. You can access the web site at www.uaaact.org. You can also use www.usor.utah.gov/uaaact to get to the site. There you can find general information about the UAAACT project, the central inventory, team

forms, the policy manual, great professional links, and more information on evaluations. If you would like to see something added to the website or have found a great website that you think may be beneficial to other UAAACT members, please email Scott Baggaley at sbaggaley@utah.gov.

We would like to thank Robert (Bob) Green, Utah State University and the Utah Association of School Psychologists for hosting our website for the past few years. Bob was also the previous web master for the UAAACT project.

IDEA Passes the Senate

On May 13, 2004, the Senate approved its Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Reauthorization bill, S. 1248, in a 95-3 vote. The Senate's approved version of IDEA incorporates all of the technology language that the Health, Education, Labor and Pension (HELP) Committee passed in July 2003.

The HELP committee bill infused the concept of universally designed technology into the reauthorization bill mandating that technology products and equipment be accessible to people with disabilities from the outset instead of being retrofitted with assistive technology for accessibility.

It authorizes states and individual grantees to expend IDEA funds on: research and development of universally designed and assistive technology de-

VICES; research on the feasibility of incorporating universal design concepts in the development of standards, assessments, curricula, and instructional methods; development and administration of alternate assessments in conjunction with universally designed and assistive technology principles; and training for all teachers and administrators to effectively use and integrate technology into curriculum and instruction.

The bill also proposes a Congressional Commission on Universal Design and the Accessibility of Curriculum and Instruction Materials to study the costs and benefits of implementing a universal design standard as a means of accessing curriculum and instructional materials. Additionally, the bill requires

that all deliverables from project funded by most competitive grants in Part D of the Act be accessible to persons with disabilities.

Finally, the bill contains language that would ensure that blind students and other students with print disabilities can gain access to print materials for the classroom through a standard electronic format...

Most of the technology language in the Senate version of the bill is absent from the House version, but it is anticipated that the House will not attempt to strike this language.

(ATA article)

BoardMaker Books

*Boardmaker
Books— A New
Link on the
UAACT web
Site*

On the UAACT website you will find a link to the Baltimore City Schools. On this website you will find books that have been adapted using the Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) and Mayer Johnson's BoardMaker® Program. The Picture Communication Symbols (PCS) are typically used by individuals who have difficulty being understood verbally or have a severe difficulty with reading and writing.

If you have your own copy of the book, they have posted files that allow you to print the symbols using Boardmaker®. These PCS can then be cut out and glued into your own book so that you or your student can read the adapted book again and again.

For more information on this project, see:

[http://
www.balltimorecityschools.org/
boardmaker/adapted_library](http://www.balltimorecityschools.org/boardmaker/adapted_library)

[asp](#).

If you see this and would like a free copy of "The New Frog and Fly" software, for Macintosh and Windows computers, by SimTech for your team, please call Lynn at the Computer Center by November 1, 2004. Please note this is one of the Stage One software suggestions from your Stages binder.

Every Move Counts

"Every Move Counts" is a new video and manual available at the Computer Center. It is a 10 minute video and accompanying manual which describes the assessment and intervention program developed by Jane Kirsten, Dixie Dunn, Teresa Foss, and Mary Kay Francke to determine what experiences are reinforcing to children who are currently perceived as being unable to communicate. Students learn how to control their environment using

sensory-based communication techniques. Staff learn to recognize and use responses to stimuli to shape communication behavior. Reproducible record keeping forms are included. If you have a low functioning student, this video and manual may give you some very practical ideas.

Transition Notes

On May 20th, 2004, a focus group of statewide administrators met to address transition issues in the state of Utah. The following are some of the recommendations that came from this group.

- At age 14, Vocational Rehabilitation (VR) contact is critical, primarily for information.
- Assure that these students follow through later for individualized VR services in their junior and/or senior years for employment-focused services.
- Establish a process for adequate notice for participation in IEP meetings.
- Clarify the documentation Special Education can provide to meet VR needs.
- Communicate in everyday language, not agency terminologies, for parents and students.
- School, VR, and all community resources need to make every effort to keep parents involved in the student's transition.
- Increase awareness of UAAACT as a resource to provide assistive technology for transition students.
- 504 students need to be identified and referred by the schools so VR services can be provided.
- Evaluate why higher functioning Special Ed. students don't apply for services at transition.
- Need to have VR counselors located in the schools.
- Ongoing cross-training between family, students, educators and VR.
- Do the philosophy of transition as much as the work of transition.

New Products in the UAAACT Central Inventory

Four new items have been added to the UAAACT lending library for teams to use in their assessments; 1) a Panasonic Toughbook, 2) a classroom FM system, 3) the Stages Software Solutions for Special Needs manual, and 4) four additional Dynamos.

The Toughbook is a rugged laptop with built in touch window. We in-

stalled Boardmaker and Speaking Dynamically Pro to turn this computer into a durable and sophisticated AAC device for a high functioning, non-verbal student. This could be an alternative to something like a DynaVox or Pathfinder.

The FM system includes a lapel microphone for the teacher and three speakers that can be strategically

placed around the classroom to amplify the teachers voice. Research shows that all students benefit from a classroom FM system. This FM system may be especially helpful to a student with a hearing impairment.

Stages Software Solutions for Special Needs is a spiral bound manual that supplements the material each team received in their large Stages binder.

This Years Leadership Council and their Assignments

The UAAACT Leadership Council for 2004-05 consists of the following people:

Sue Lancaster is our Council Chair. She also provides support to the Four Corners, Carbon/Emery, and Uintah Basin teams.

Debbie Manning is the new Newsletter Editor. She also supports the Weber, Ogden, Box Elder, Cache/Logan, and

USDB teams.

Lesia Stone collects your UAAACT reports. She also supports both Davis teams, the Granite/Murray, Granite, and Park City/Summit teams.

Tracy Stewart is in charge of Conference details. She also supports the Alpine/Wasatch, Provo/Nebo, Salt Lake/Tooele, and both Jordan teams.

Tressa Beckstead is our Conference Program Chair. She also supports the Kane/Garfield, Washington, Central Utah, and Iron/Millard/Beaver teams.

You can contact them if you have any comments, concerns or suggestions on how the UAAACT project can better serve you or your students.

Their contact information is at:

www.uaaact.org - just click on the "About Us and Our Teams" link.

This council will also plan the 2005 UAAACT Conference!

The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities
1595 West 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84101

UAAACT Calendar of Events

Training classes are held at the Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities at 1595 West 500 South in Salt Lake City, unless otherwise stated. To register for these workshops please call the Computer Center at 801-877-9380 or toll free at 1-888-866-5550. To register for Dynavox workshops, please call Dynavox at 1-800-344-1778.

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| “Breakthroughs” by Nancy Hamilton of DynaVox Systems | October 7, 2004 from 9:30-2:30 |
| “IntelliTools Classroom Suite” by Scott Baggaley | October 15, 2004 from 1:00-3:00 |
| “Writing Software for Students with Disabilities” by Craig Boogaard | November 5, 2004 from 1:00-3:00 |
| UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting | November 12, 2004 from Noon-3:00 |
| “Writing Hardware for Students with Disabilities” by Scott Baggaley | December 2, 2004 from 1:00-3:00 |
| UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting | December 10, 2004 from Noon-3:00 |
| “Math Software for Students with Disabilities” by Craig Boogaard | January 13, 2004 from 1:00-3:00 |
| UAAACT Leadership Council | January 28, 2004 from Noon-3:00 |
| UAAACT Leadership Council | February 9, 2004 TBA |
| UAAACT State Conference | February 10-11, 2004 in Layton |
