

UAAACT NEWS

2005 Utah Augmentative Conference—*Inspire the Next Generation*

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The UAAACT Leadership Council is happy to announce the 2005 UAAACT Conference at the Davis Conference Center and adjoining Hilton Garden Inn on February 10th and 11th, 2005. The theme will be "Inspire the Next Generation." In addition to keynote speakers Emily Rubin and Susan Johnston, many vendors and local assistive technology experts will be sharing their wisdom and experience in conference sessions.

Because the conference is being paid for out of the UAAACT grant, UAAACT members have first priority in registering for the limited 350 conference openings. Currently, there are about 125 UAAACT members. This will be the only mailing regarding the UAAACT conference. Please share the conference registration form with others who may benefit from attending the conference. There is no conference registration fee for Utah residents.

In preparation for the conference, there are four things you should do: 1) get permission from your school or district administration to attend the conference, 2) fill out and fax or mail the enclosed registration form to The Computer Center, 3) call the Hilton Garden Inn before January 21st and reserve a hotel room (please see HOTEL information below), and 4) make copies of the enclosed registration form and share it with another educator, school or district technology coordinator, parent or other interested person.

HOTEL- We suggest that UAAACT members living 50 miles or more from Layton stay at the hotel. If you are staying for the UAAACT dinner on Thursday evening, you are eligible for a hotel room on that night even if you do not live 50 miles from Layton. You should make your own hotel reservations by calling the Hilton Garden Inn at 801-416-8899. When making your hotel reservations, please indicate that you are attending the UAAACT Conference and want the \$63 per night rate. Rooms are the same price for single, double, or triple occupancy. As in the past, we request that you stay with another UAAACT member to keep costs to a minimum. The UAAACT project will pay the complete hotel bill for UAAACT members based on the double occupancy rate of \$63. If you decide to room with a family member, a non-UAAACT member or by yourself, you may be required to pay the other half of your hotel bill. We have provided the hotel with a list of UAAACT members so your room charges can be directly billed to the UAAACT account. However, you may still need to reserve your room with a credit card to cover incidentals.

Many of the meals will be provided as part of the conference. Other meals and mileage will be reimbursed when you submit a conference reimbursement form. The reimbursement forms will be distributed at the UAAACT dinner on Thursday evening. We hope all UAAACT members will make a special effort to attend the UAAACT dinner as it is the only opportunity we have to meet together until we hold another UAAACT conference in 2007. Besides that, there will be some prizes and awards given out. If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to call The Computer Center (801) 887-9380 or toll free at 888-866-5550. See you there!



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

Phone: 801-877-9380
Toll free: 888-866-5550

Nominations Requested for the H. Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Award

During the 2005 UAAACT Conference, the UAAACT Leadership Council will present the fourth H. Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Award in Augmentative Communication. Ken's wife, Ginger Rhode, and long time UAAACT members, Tricia Pearson and Lou Dwire are the previous recipients of this award.

The H. KENTON REAVIS DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN AUGMENTATIVE COMMUNICATION is established in honor of Ken's leadership and contribution to the field of augmentative communication services in the State of Utah. Ken was a pioneer in developing a statewide program for evaluating the technology needs of students who are limited in oral and written communication skills. The purpose of the award is to recognize an individual in the State of Utah whose outstanding service has enhanced communication skills of students with disabilities.

This award is open to persons who serve on Utah Augmentative Alternative Assistive Communication and Technology (UAAACT) teams or others who provide leadership or direct services to enhance the communication skills of students with disabilities. Please consider an individual you know who meets these criteria and nominate that person for this award.

In your nomination, please include the name of your nominee, a brief description of why he or she deserves the award, and your name and contact information. Please submit your nomination to the Computer Center by January 27, 2005. The award will be presented at the UAAACT Conference on February 10, 2005.

Mail or fax nominations to:
 Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities
 Attn: UAAACT Leadership Council
 1595 West 500 South
 Salt Lake City, UT 84104
 Fax 801-887-9382

Driving Directions to the Davis Conference Center and 2005 UAAACT Conference

1. Take I-15 to Layton area
2. Take exit 335 (Antelope Drive) and head east .6 miles
3. Turn RIGHT on 700 WEST and head south .2 miles
4. Turn RIGHT on HERITAGE PARK BLVD and watch for the Hilton Garden Inn and Davis Conference Center .2 miles

New Booklet: *The Public School's Special Education System as a Funding Source*

To read more about the responsibility of public school districts' responsibility regarding assistive technology funding, you may want to review *The Public School's Special Education System as a Funding Source: The Cutting Edge*. A free PDF version of the book is available at this web site: <http://www.nls.org/specedat.htm>. A printed version can be ordered at the web site for \$4.00.

Assistive Technology Consideration and the IEP

Every IEP team is required to "consider" the need for assistive technology for every child receiving special education services, as part of the new Special Factors requirement in IDEA '97. IDEA '97 states:

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF IEP-

B) CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL FACTORS-

(v) consider whether the child requires assistive technology devices and services.

In the Utah State Office of Education Special Education Rules, it reads:

"The IEP team, in conducting a meeting to review and, if appropriate, revise a student's IEP, shall consider the factors below:

(5) Consider whether the student requires assistive technology devices and services in order to receive Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). Assistive technology devices and assistive technology services for students with disabilities may be provided as special education, related services, or, in the case of students with disabilities to be educated in regular classes, as supplementary aids and services."

But what does it mean to "consider"? How will every IEP team do that? What is the difference between consideration and assessment? The Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative (WATI) has become a national resource in helping school districts as they implement the "consideration of AT" requirement.

Dr. Penny Reed, past Director of WATI has stated, "In thinking about 'consideration' some things are pretty clear. One is that consideration is a brief process, one that can take place within every IEP meeting. The other is that in order to consider the need for assistive technology, at least one person on the IEP team must have some knowledge about assistive technology. You cannot "consider" something about which you know nothing".

WATI has developed several forms to support school districts with the consideration of assistive technology. Please see the WATI Assistive Technology Checklist at www.uaaact.org, click the UAAACT Team Forms link, under WATI Forms, click on AT Checklist 1. This form could be used in IEP meetings to:

1. Consider assistive technology in the areas where the student has limited skills, and
2. To document that assistive technology was considered in the Comments section of the form.

If your IEP team feels a need to go beyond the basic AT consideration requirements, WATI has also developed a tool to further guide the IEP Team. It is called the AT Consideration Guide.

See: <http://www.wati.org/atconsideration.htm> and click on the appropriate link at the bottom of the page. The AT Consideration Guide leads the IEP Team through a series of questions designed to help them determine whether the student does or does not "need" assistive technology devices or services.

When considering a child's need for AT, there are four general conclusions that can be reached.

1. The first is that current interventions (whatever they may be) are working and nothing new is needed, including AT.
2. The second possibility is that AT is already being used (or there has been a trial with AT) so that we know that it does work. In that case the IEP Team should write into the IEP the assistive technology that is needed to insure that it continues to be available for the child.
3. The third possibility is that the IEP Team may conclude that new AT should be tried. In that case, the IEP Team will need to describe in the IEP the type of AT to be tried, including the features they think may help, such as "having the computer speak the text as the student writes."

4. Finally, the last possibility is that the IEP Team will find that they simply do not know enough to make a decision. If, after five or ten minutes of discussing a student's need for assistive technology, your IEP team cannot decide if a student needs assistive technology or if they know the student would benefit from assistive technology but they don't know which products or devices a student needs, an AT evaluation may be helpful. Enter the UAAACT Team. A parent, teacher, administrator (anyone concerned about the student) can complete a UAAACT Referral Form and submit it to the UAAACT team leader. See UAAACT Teams and the School Districts They Serve at: <http://www.usor.utah.gov/uaaact/uact2.html>.

At the above web site, there is a link to the UAAACT Referral Form and contact information for each UAAACT team leader in the state.

When a student receives an assistive technology assessment from a UAAACT team, the UAAACT team will provide the IEP Team with the results of the assessment. UAAACT members serve as advisors to the IEP team. The **decision** about what assistive technology devices and services a student requires and how they are included in the IEP is the responsibility of the IEP Team.

If you would like more information on this topic, please contact Craig Boogaard at The Computer Center for Citizens With Disabilities at (801) 887-9533 or cboogaar@utah.gov

For reading this article, you may be eligible for a free copy of "Circletime Tales Deluxe" for your team. Please call Lynn Marcoux at The Computer Center (887-9380 or toll free at 888-866-5550) to see if you qualify. Circletime Tales Deluxe is a Stages Level 2 software program.

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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.

Deadline to submit team training plan	December 9, 2004
UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting	December 10, 2004 from Noon to 3:00 pm
First deadline to order team equipment	December 17, 2004
“Math Software for Students with Disabilities” by Craig Boogaard	January 13, 2005 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm
UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting	January 28, 2005 from Noon to 3:00 pm
Dynavox Training by Nancy Hamilton	February 8, 2005 from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm
UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting	February 9, 2005 time and place TBA
<i>UAAACT Conference, Davis Conference Center</i>	<i>February 10-11, 2005</i>
“Boardmaker” by Scott Baggaley	March 11, 2005 1:00 to 3:00 pm
“Speaking Dynamically Pro” by Craig Boogaard	April 1, 2005 1:00 to 3:00 pm
Final deadline to order team equipment	April 1, 2005
UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting	April 8, 2005 Noon to 3:00 pm
UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting	May 6, 2005 Noon to 3:00 pm
“Reading Software” by Scott Baggaley	May 13, 2005 1:00 to 3:00 pm