

UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative, Alternative, Assistive Communication
And Technology Teams

UAAACT Web Site: <http://168.178.150.136/uaaact>

October 2010

Editor
Suzanne B. Anderson

**The Computer
Center for Citizens
with Disabilities**

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Salt Lake City, Utah
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**Lynn Marcoux
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Greetings Greetings

We would like to welcome back all the members of the UAAACT Teams. Hopefully you had a wonderful summer vacation and have come back filled with enthusiasm and lots of new energy. We have been having a fantastic fall season with lots of sunshine and the chance to view the slowly changing colors in our beautiful mountains.

If you are new to UAAACT, we welcome you to our group. Being part of a UAAACT team is a great opportunity to feel satisfaction in helping others. Sometimes things just fall into place and other times it takes some real “head scratching” to come up with workable ideas for the students that we are sent to help. But it is well worth the effort.

We have had some great opportunities for training during September and we encourage you to take advantage of other trainings that will be planned during the year by Scott and Craig. If you want trainings in your district, contact Scott or Craig to schedule. Mark your calendars for our State Conference in February. It promises to be terrific!

Remember to keep a record of the hours that are spent with evaluations and service provided for students - along with a list of the equipment that is being used from your district inventory and is checked out from the UCAT inventory.

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| <u>October, 2010</u> | <u>Submit Team Equipment orders (see information on page 2)</u> |
| <u>October 7, 2010</u> | <u>UCAT Open House (3:00-7:00 PM)</u> |
| <u>November 3, 2010</u> | <u>Due date for Proposal Form – Conference Presentations</u> |
| <u>January 5, 2011</u> | <u>Due date for Ken Reavis Service Award Nominations</u> |
| <u>February 8-10, 2011</u> | <u>State UAAACT Conference - Ogden</u> |

Up Coming Events and Training

UAAACT Conference

Mark your calendars! It is the year for our UAAACT Conference. Plans are already made and the Leadership Council is hard at work. The decision was made to return to Ogden for our conference this year. All events will be held at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center and Hampton Inn and Suites on February 8th, 9th, and 10th, 2011.

On Tuesday, February 8th (1-4 PM) Pati King-DeBaun will present a pre-conference workshop for UAAACT Team members. There will be a UAAACT dinner and meeting at 6:00 PM after the pre-conference workshop.

The conference will begin on Wednesday for those registered. The keynote speaker will be Gail Van Tatenhove and on Thursday the keynote speaker will be Dave Edyburn.

More detailed information will be forth coming.

Request for Proposals.

UAAACT members (teams) are invited to present a 60 or 90 minute workshop at the 2011 UAAACT Conference. Many UAAACT members have outstanding skills in AT assessment procedures. Others know the “ins” and “outs” of augmentative communication devices or assistive technology products and some have skills and techniques for working with students with various needs. Please share your knowledge and wisdom at the conference. If you are selected to present at the conference, you will earn a \$500 equipment stipend for your team. Please complete a proposal form by November 3, 2010 and submit it as requested at the bottom of the form. Please also be aware that presenters will need to submit their session handouts by January 5, 2011 so the handout can be included in the conference book/CD.

*See Proposal Form on page 8 of the newsletter.



Leadership Council Assignments 2010-2011

Council Chair – Mona Oversteg

UAAACT Reporting – Nadean Lescoe
Conference Details

Britta Scullion – Presenter Gifts

Julia Parslow – Ken Reavis Award

Nadean Lescoe – Selecting and Organizing
Facilitators

Conference Program

Judy Olson and Craig Boogaard

Vendor Hall

Judy Roberts and Scott Baggaley

Registration – Lynn Marcoux

Newsletter Editor – Suzanne Anderson

Team Equipment Budgets

Craig distributed team equipment budgets during the team leader meeting on 09/17/10. If you were not at this meeting, you can contact Craig (cboogaar@utah.gov) to request your team equipment budgets. Team leaders may submit team orders to Lynn Marcoux any time before March 1, 2011. If there is an item you need quickly, call Lynn to clarify your needs (801-887-9380). When making requests for ordering materials, be sure to:

1. List item with the name of the company, address of the company, item number and cost.
2. Submit completed information to Lynn. She will need all of the above listed information before ordering. Fax orders to 801-887-9382.
3. It is always good to keep a tally of costs so that you don't go over your allotted budget.

- Of Note -

For Team leaders in distant areas, Scott Baggaley is planning to take the iPad and Wii workshops on the road to insure that your team receives this training. You may want to contact him to arrange a date and location for these workshops in your area. Scott can be reached by email at: sbaggaley@utah.gov or phone: 801-887-9534 Scott has developed great workshops with lots of information to be shared.

From Our Leader

I recently read a statement in a document* from the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative. I believe the statement describes our UAAACT teams. This is what it said:

“A knowledgeable, supportive network of people working together to help every IEP Team choose and provide appropriate AT devices and services.”

I thought to myself, “This is a perfect description of a UAAACT team!” As I interact with UAAACT members, I see some incredibly smart educators who really know their stuff and do an astonishing job of helping IEP teams and students with disabilities use the best assistive technology tools. I congratulate you on your success! You might ask, “What success?” UAAACT teams conducted assistive technology assessments for 2,103 students during the 2009-10 school year. That means that each of you played a part in helping over two thousand Utah students meet the goals on their IEP through the appropriate application of augmentative communication devices and other assistive technology tools. That sounds like success to me.

It is very likely that even more students will be served by UAAACT teams this year. I have wondered how I could help UAAACT members find even greater success this year. I found my answer at the QIAT Consortium (pronounced “quiet”). The QIAT Consortium is a group of assistive technology experts (Joy Zabala, Penny Reed, Gayl Bowser and others) from around the county, who have worked to improve AT services. They have established a list of seven “quality indicators” to help AT teams know that they are doing a good job as they conduct assistive technology assessments. I would like to suggest that during one of your team meetings early in the school year, you review the Quality Indicators for Assessment of Assistive Technology Needs” (listed below). Consider together ways that your team can be even more helpful to students as you implement these quality indicators in your student

Assessments. Thank you for your dedication and the excellent service that you provide to the students in Utah! I am proud to associate with the dedicated educators who serve on UAAACT teams. Best wishes for an outstanding school year.

Sincerely,
Craig Boogaard

*Assessing Students’ Needs for Assistive Technology (2009) can be found at:

<http://www.wati.org/content/supports/free/pdf/ASNAT5thEditionJun09.pdf>

Quality Indicators for Assessment of Assistive Technology Needs

Quality Indicators for Assessment of Assistive Technology needs is a process conducted by a team, used to identify tools and strategies to address a student’s specific need(s). The issues that lead to an AT assessment may be very simple and quickly answered or more complex and challenging. Assessment takes place when these issues are beyond the scope of the problem solving that occurs as a part of normal service delivery.

1. **Procedures for all aspects of assistive technology assessment are clearly defined and consistently applied.**

Intent: Throughout the educational agency, personnel are well informed and trained about assessment procedures and how to initiate them. There is consistency throughout the agency in the conducting of assistive technology assessments. Procedures may include - but are not limited to - initiating an assessment, planning and conducting an assessment, conducting trials, collecting data, reporting results, and resolving conflicts.

2. Assistive technology assessments are conducted by a team with the collective knowledge and skills needed to determine possible assistive technology solutions that address the needs and abilities of the student, demands of the customary environments, educational goals, and related activities.

Intent: Team membership is flexible and varies according to the knowledge and skills needed to address student needs. The student and family are active team members. Various team members bring different information and strengths to the assessment process.

3. All assistive technology assessments include a functional assessment in the student's customary environments, such as the classroom, lunchroom, playground, home, community setting, or work place.

Intent: The assessment process includes activities that occur in the student's current or anticipated environments because characteristics and demands in each may vary. Team member's work together to gather specific data and relevant information in identified environments to contribute to assessment decisions.

4. Assistive technology assessments, including needed trials, are completed within reasonable timelines.

Intent: Assessments are initiated in a timely fashion and completed within a time line that is reasonable as determined by the IEP team. The timeline complies with applicable state and agency requirements.

5. Recommendations from assistive technology assessments are based on data about the student, environments and tasks.

Intent: The assessment includes information about the student's needs and abilities, demands of various environments, educational tasks, and objectives. Data may be gathered from sources such as student performance records, results of experimental trials, direct observation, interviews with students or significant others, and anecdotal records.

6. The assessment provides the IEP team with clearly documented recommendations that guide decisions about the selection, acquisition, and use of assistive technology devices and services.

Intent: A written rationale is provided for any recommendations that are made. Recommendations may include assessment activities and results, suggested devices and alternative ways of addressing needs, services required by the student and others, and suggested strategies for implementation and use.

7. Assistive technology needs are reassessed any time changes in the student, the environments and/or the tasks result in the student's needs not being met with current devices and/or services.

Intent: An assistive technology assessment is available any time it is needed due to changes that have affected the student. The assessment can be requested by the parent or any other member of the IEP team.

COMMON ERRORS

1. Procedures for conducting AT assessment are not defined, or are not customized to meet the student's needs.
2. A team approach to assessment is not utilized.
3. Individuals participating in an assessment do not have the skills necessary to conduct the assessment, and do not seek additional help.
4. Team members do not have adequate time to conduct assessment processes, including necessary trials with AT.
5. Communication between team members is not clear.
6. The student is not involved in the assessment process.
7. When the assessment is conducted by any team other than the student's IEP team, the needs of the student or expectations for the assessment are not communicated.

For additional information on Quality AT services, see:

www.qiat.org

Request for Nominations H.Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Award

During the 2001 UAAACT Conference, the UAAACT Leadership Council presented the first H. Kenton Reavis Distinguished Service Award in Augmentative Communication. Ken's wife, Ginger Rhode, and long time UAAACT member Tricia Pearson, were the first recipients of the award. Other's receiving this award are: Lou Dwire (2003), Jim West (2005), Linda Summers (2005), Gwen Evans (2007), Myrna Pool (2007), Suzanne Anderson (2009), and Tobey Fields (2009).

This award was 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 this 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 by **January 5, 2011**. The award will be presented at the 2011 UAAACT Conference on February 9, 2011. Email your nomination to Julia Parslow at: julia.parslow@sevier.k12.ut.us
Or mail your nomination to:
Julia Parslow – Sevier School District Office
180 North 600 East Richfield, UT 84701

Remember

All the forms for team and equipment reporting are in the UAAACT Handbook and at the UAAACT web site.

Proloquo2go video training

There are several short and very helpful Proloquo2go video clips at the web site:
<http://www.proloquo2go.com/resources/article/introductory-videos>

If your school district blocks this web site, Scott can make a DVD with these video clips and send it to you.



**“The mediocre teacher tells.
The good teacher explains.
The superior teacher demonstrates.
The great teacher inspires.”**

William Arthur Ward

A Message from Jocelyn Taylor



2010 – 2011 is an exciting time to be involved with the UAAACT teams. Since being established in 1987, the UAAACT teams have provided and made available a new range of AAC solutions, applications, and innovative hardware and software for our students with disabilities. We have hard-working and knowledgeable people working behind the scenes to ensure our students have the access they need.

Craig Boogaard and Scott Baggaley work hard to seek out, find, and learn about new technology so that our students have access to effective communication systems. Lynn Marcoux keeps us all organized finding the best deals, ordering, loaning, and tracking equipment. The UAAACT Leadership Council meets regularly and carefully reviews new products, makes recommendations for Purchase and plans for the UAAACT Conference. We'll see you all at the UAAACT conference in February, 2011.

The district team leaders disseminate information, conduct in-service and technical support and assistance to team members, and maintain equipment and student records.

Our UAAACT team members served 2,103 students during the 2009-2010 school year and they put in nearly 25,765 hours of service in behalf of students with disabilities.

Thanks to everyone for all you do and welcome to a wonderful new school year!

*Sincerely,
Jocelyn Taylor
USOE Education Specialist- UAAACT*



Announcing a New Service at USU !

A VOICE FOR ALL

Utah State University
Logan, Utah

Ensuring effective communication for people
with severe speech and
language disabilities

Utah State University, Department of
Communication Disorders and Deaf Education
will, at no charge, provide the following for
individuals with severe speech and language
disabilities who may benefit from high tech,
speech generating devices:

- **Augmentative and Alternative Communication Evaluations** for individuals to identify the most appropriate speech generating devices to meet daily communication needs.
- **Development of a written report** following the evaluation.
- **Development and implementation of an individualized treatment plan** identifying training, programming and needed supports

AUGMENTATIVE and ALTERNATIVE COMMUNICATION

Augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) is any method that supplements or replaces speech and writing when these are temporarily or permanently impaired and inadequate to meet all or some of a person's communication needs. Use of AAC involves selecting messages or codes from a set of possibilities. The user can use these elements alone or in combination in order to communicate a variety of messages.

SPEECH GENERATING DEVICES

The inability to communicate using speech arising from developmental or acquired disabilities is a most challenging condition to face. Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) products such as Speech Generating Devices (SGDs) can, for certain individuals, provide a means of effective speech communication. SGDs vary widely in physical features, as well as the methods by which language is accessed. Features to be considered:

- **Speech**: using a human or computerized voice.
- **Symbols**: SGDs may come with their own symbols or you can add your own symbols, photos or other images.
- **Generating Language**: SGDs create messages using symbols, words, spelling or a combination of these.
- **Access**: Options for physical operation of the device using direct access, switches, joysticks, mouse or head pointer.
- **Output**: The device may be capable of connecting to and controlling other equipment such as a computer, printer, or electrical equipment.

Tobey Fields, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech Language Pathologist
Assistive Technology Specialist
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Deaf Education
Speech-Language-Hearing Center
Utah State University, Logan, Utah
Phone: 435-797-1375
Fax: 435-797-0221



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PROPOSAL FORM FOR 2011 UAACT CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

The 2011 UAACT Conference will be held at the Ogden Eccles Conference Center (2415 Washington Blvd, Ogden, UT 84401-2315) on February 9 and 10, 2011. Approximately 350 individuals will attend the conference. Session attendance may vary from 30 to 100 participants.

PRESENTER #1:

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ FAX: _____

Email: _____ CO:PRESENTER/S

Name and Day Phone : _____

TITLE OF PRESENTATION:

Please write a 1-2 sentence summary (about 25 words) that could be printed in the PROGRAM if the presentation is accepted:

This session would best be presented in: ____60 minutes or ____90 minutes

EQUIPMENT REQUIREMENTS - NO CHANGES AFTER JANUARY 21, 2011

Equipment you are requesting for your presentation:

___ (1) Projection Screen ___ (1) 1/2" VHS VCR

___ (1) Easel, Pad & Markers ___ (1) Overhead Projector (for transparencies)

___ (1) Computer Projector

Equipment you are bringing for your presentation:

It is expressly understood that any equipment not checked off is the responsibility of the presenter, unless otherwise listed.

_____ Date _____

(Signature)

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Please return this proposal form by **November 3, 2010** to:

The Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities
CALL FOR PRESENTERS
1595 W. 500 South
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

For more information, contact Lynn Marcoux, Scott Baggaley or Craig Boogaard

Phone: 801-887-9380 or toll free in Utah at 888-866-5550

FAX: 801-887-9382

Email: cboogaar@utah.gov

Presenters will be notified by **December 17, 2010** if they are accepted. The UAAACT Conference Planning Committee has decided to prepare a printed “Proceedings” booklet and give everyone at the conference a handout for every conference session. With this in mind, we ask that all presenters mail their session handouts to The Computer Center for Citizens with Disabilities (see address above) by January 5, 2011. Thank you for your interest in the 2011 UAAACT Conference.