

UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative, Alternative, Assistive Communication And Technology Teams

UAAACT Web Site: www.uaaact.org

September 2012

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Seems impossible but summer is over and we are all back to working with students. The Leadership Council is busy planning a full and exciting UAAACT Conference for February. Other trainings can be found on the website, and watch for emails from Craig, Scott, and Lynn. The Leadership Council has approved some team equipment, and Lynn still has team equipment at UCAT. Check in with her. Thanks to Craig, Scott, and Lynn for all they do to help us to provide the best service possible for our students.

Mark your Calendars for Upcoming Events

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| Sept. 27th
1:00-4:00 | <u>New Team Member Training</u>
Computer Center |
| Sept. 28th
9:30-9:55 | <u>Team Leaders Meeting (budgets handed out)</u>
Computer Center |
| Sept. 28th
10:00-noon | <u>Don Johnston Workshop by Ruth Ziolkowski</u>
Computer Center - Register with Lynn |
| Oct. 1st | <u>Registration opens for UAAACT Conference (see website: www.uaaact.org)</u> |
| Nov. 1st
Nov. 1st | <u>Team reviews due to Craig (see additional info)</u>
<u>Submissions due for UAAACT Logo Contest (see additional info)</u> |
| Nov. 8th
10:30 | <u>UAAACT Leadership Council Meeting</u> |
| Dec. 1st | <u>Cut-off date for first priority registration for UAAACT members for UAAACT conference</u> |
| Feb. 5th
5:00 p.m. | <u>Cut-off date for reservations at Marriott at conference price</u> |
| Feb. 26th | <u>Pre-conference for UAAACT Team members</u> |
| Feb. 27th -28th | <u>UAAACT Conference, Provo Marriott (see additional info)</u> |

See additional information on following pages.

Check out the UAAACT Website for dates for other trainings.

Watch your e-mails for additional information

Save the dates – 2013 UAAACT Conference

The UAAACT Pre-Conference for UAAACT members and Special Education Directors will be on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 from 1-5:00 PM at the Provo Marriott Hotel and Conference Center. Penny Reed, former director of the Wisconsin Technology Initiative (WATI), will be the presenter. She will discuss Education Tech Points: Profile of AT Services in Schools. The UAAACT dinner and meeting will be held that evening from 6-8:30 PM.

The 2013 UAAACT Conference will be at the Provo Marriott Hotel on February 27 and 28. Don Johnston will be the keynote speaker on September 27th. On the 28th, the workshops will conclude at noon and we will finish the conference with lunch and vendor prizes.

Registration procedures for the conference will be posted on the UAAACT web site in October. Registration will be free to Utah residents but will be limited to about 350 people. Please share the conference dates (but not the pre-conference information) with special educators in your district.

UAAACT team members will have priority registration through Dec. 1, 2012. After that, it will be first come, first serve.

AT Training Videos Available

The Basic Assistive Technology Training provided through Utah State University in April 2012 by the Interagency Outreach Training Initiative (IOTI) has produced 11 training videos. Topics range from AT for the blind and deaf, AAC, accessible vehicle options, home modifications and more! Trainers are area experts and professionals. Watch all of the videos at: <http://www.youtube.com/user/BasicATTrainin g/videos>.

Review of Assistive Technology Services

In October, UAAACT teams will be asked to complete a brief review of their Assistive Technology services in seven areas:

1. Consideration and Referral
2. Evaluation Procedures
3. Equipment Trial Periods
4. Plan Development
5. Implementation
6. Periodic Review
7. Transition

The results of your review of services will help Penny Reed as she discusses full implementation of the Education Tech Points: Profile of AT Services in Schools. Please begin working with your district administration to get permission to participate in the UAAACT Conference activities. We look forward to seeing all UAAACT members at the conference.

September Training

There is a UAAACT Workshop on Friday, September 28th by Ruth Ziolkowski, President of the Don Johnston Company. The workshop will be held in Room 300 in the Judy Ann Buffmire Building (UAAACT Building) at 1595 West 500 South, Salt Lake City, UT 84104, from 10:00 AM to Noon. Ruth will provide an overview of Improv, Snap and Read, the new web based Start to Finish books, and PAR-the Protocol for Accommodations in Reading. PAR is a free systematic assessment for making data-based reading accommodation decisions for students. This is a free workshop but you must register to attend. To register for this workshop, email Lynn Marcoux at:

lmarcoux@utah.gov

This workshop will be available over the distance (VISION) system to Vocational Rehabilitation offices in Logan, Provo, Payson, Richfield, Price, Cedar City and St. George. For more information contact Craig Boogaard at: cboogaar@utah.gov

Changes to Leadership Council

The Leadership Council welcomed three new members at our April meeting. They are Tammy Roring from Box Elder, Merrie Smithson from Salt Lake, and Starla Blackburn from Alpine. They replaced Judy Roberts from Jordan, Britta Scullion from Canyons and Nadean Lescoe from Ogden. We appreciate the good work Judy, Britta and Nadean provided the Council for the last two years!

Council Member	Team Represented	Council Member's Work Number
Merrie Smithson	Both Granite teams, Murray, Canyons, and Salt Lake and Tooele	801-582-9315
Melanie Bowen	Park City/Summit/Morgan/Rich, Grand/San Juan, Carbon/Emery, and Duchesne/Uintah/ Daggett	435-783-4318
Starla Blackburn	Alpine, Provo/Wasatch, Both Jordan Teams, and Nebo	801-756-8551
Tammy Roring	Ogden City, Box Elder, Cache, and Logan	435-230-3071
Chad Fletcher	Kane/Garfield, Washington, Juab/Sanpete/Sevier/Piute, and Iron/Millard/Beaver	435-592-3306
Denise Warren	Both Davis Teams, Weber, USDB	801-464-2045

In addition to these team members, for those who might not know, Craig, Scott and Lynn sit on the council, as does Jocelyn Taylor, from USOE.

Welcome Teams Y and Z

The UAAACT project welcomes two new teams for the 2012-13 school year. Tooele and Murray School Districts will now have their own teams. Tooele will be Team Y and Murray will be Team Z. Tracy Stewart is the team leader for Team Y and Joelle Rasmussen is the team leader for Team Z.

UAAACT Project and Charter Schools

Are you ever confused about the role UAAACT plays when it comes to Charter schools? Because Charter schools are public schools, students in Charter schools have access to all the equipment in the UAAACT central library for assessment purposes.

There are three service patterns available to charter schools. First, the charter school can contract with an existing UAAACT team to provide evaluations and/or consultations. The charter school will be billed for the team's time and will need to provide its own equipment if they want to implement the technology beyond the assessment period. Second, charter schools can contact Craig or Scott, free of charge, for evaluations and equipment check-out. This has been the primary method of serving students in Charter schools. However, there have been so many requests for services to Charter school students that it has become problematic for Craig and Scott. They are overextended by serving all of the charter school students. As a result, option three has been approved. Option three, when charter schools contact Craig or Scott, they will be given information about how to contract with retired UAAACT members for services. If there are no retired members in the area, Craig or Scott will serve these charter schools when they are supporting UAAACT teams in that area. The retired UAAACT members who provide this service will be paid an hourly stipend and for their travel mileage. In each case, UAAACT equipment is available to the Charter school students for 30 day assessments and not for long term loans.

Release of Proloquo2Go 2.0 Announced by AssistiveWare

We are thrilled to announce the release of Proloquo2Go 2.0! Version 2.0 introduces two new, research-based vocabularies: Basic Communication and Core Words. An analysis of commonly used sentences has shown that the Core Words vocabulary reduces the number of steps to build a sentence by more than 30%, when compared to previous versions of Proloquo2Go.

The completely redesigned editing interface of Proloquo2Go 2.0 offers many other new, cool features including:

- Change the appearance of an individual page or button
- Hide and dim buttons
- Create different pages with different grids
- Order buttons any way you like:
- Alphabetical: order buttons alphabetically
- Custom Order: order buttons next to each other anywhere you like
- Free Positioning: order buttons anywhere you like, leaving empty slots
- Add Paging buttons for those who cannot swipe

Version 2.0 also offers multiuser support, making it significantly easier for therapists and teachers to support multiple users on one device.

Besides improvements to editing, there are several new voices available as a free download! As a first in the industry, version 2.0 includes two real British children's voices: Harry and Rosie. These were developed in a collaboration between AssistiveWare and Acapela Group. Moreover, new character voices allow the user to speak with a happy, bad guy, little creature or sad voice.

Google Search Feature

When a student is doing research on the internet, a Google search feature can be helpful. Students and teachers can search for a topic at a specific reading level. For instance, a junior high school teacher looking for content for her students or a second-language learner might want web pages written at a basic reading level. A scientist searching for the latest findings from the experts may want to limit results to those at advanced reading levels.

To limit your search results to a specific reading level, follow these steps:

Click More Search Tools on the left side of the search results page.

Click Reading Level. You'll now see results annotated with reading levels as well as a percentage breakdown of results by reading level.

To filter your results by a specific reading level, select your desired level (Basic, Intermediate, or Advanced).

At any time, you can click the X in the right corner of the blue bar beneath the search box to go back to seeing all results.

Learn more about the options and tools on the left side of the search results page. Alternatively, you can access the reading level tool on the Advanced Search new window page. To get to this page, click the gear icon gear icon in the top right corner of the search results page and select Advanced search. You can also visit the page directly at google.com/advanced_search.

For additional information, see:

<http://googleblog.blogspot.com/2012/03/learnin-g-independence-with-google.html>

Changes to Medicaid Funding for Aug. Com. devices

A recent change in Utah Medicaid requirements makes it more difficult to successfully get Medicaid funding for a Speech Augmentative Communication Device (SACD). The new Utah Medicaid requirement for the four week trial period requires the child to use the exact device for which funding is requested. Their term is “4 week successful trial of ordered device.”

Previously, we could use a trial period with a similar device to document the child’s success. For example, a Dynavox DV4 could be used during the trial period and a Dynavox V could be ordered. But now, if you want the Dynavox V+ to be purchased for the child, the four week trial must be with the new Dynavox V+.

This may not seem to be much of a change, but it has implications for UAAACT evaluations. Although we try to keep our UAAACT lending library current, we don’t always have the newest products available for use in student evaluations. We have the Dynavox V in our lending library, but we do not have the new Dynavox V+. For Medicaid funding purposes, a four-week trial with the Dynavox V would not work because you want funding for a Dynavox V+. This is only an issue if you are pursuing funding from Medicaid.

Speech Language Pathologists in Utah are working with the Disability Law Center in Salt Lake City to see if Medicaid requirements can be changed to remove this stringent trial use requirement. Until that happens, be aware that if you are seeking Medicaid funding for a child’s device, you must have a four-week trial with the exact device you hope to order for that student.

A New Blog for UAAACT

At the UAAACT Leadership Council meeting, Scott introduced the idea of a UAAACT Blog in order to keep up with new apps and other technology or “free stuff” that become available. As some of you may know, UCET does a blog, updated frequently, similar to this, but more focused on general education. Scott’s blog would allow us to share new apps and resources we have found, comment on those we have tried, and generally keep up with the newest technology. You can find the UAAACT Blog at: <http://uaaact.blogspot.com/>

LOGO CONTEST

For those with an artistic or graphic flair, the council approved a contest for a new UAAACT logo. We hope to use the logo for the first time at the UAAACT conference in February. Your design should represent assistive technology in some way. The winning submission will win a \$500 team equipment stipend. Please submit your ideas to: cboogaar@utah.gov by Nov. 1st.

Call for presenters

Just a reminder to put the UAAACT conference on your calendar. And one more thing. . . **teams that present at the UAAACT conference will be given a stipend for additional equipment**, so send in your great ideas to Craig! Watch for an email with session proposal details.

