

UAAACT News

Utah Augmentative, Alternative, Assistive Communication And Technology Teams

UAAACT Web Site: www.uaaact.org

**December
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CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF TEAMING



2013 UAAACT CONFERENCE

The UAAACT Conference is scheduled for February 27 and 28, 2013 at the Provo Marriott. A pre-conference session for all Team members will be held on Tuesday February 26 at 1 – 4:30 pm. Penny Reed, former director of the Wisconsin Technology Initiative (WATI) will be the pre-conference presenter. ***If you haven't done so already, please return your team profiles to Craig Boogaard as soon as possible.*** The UAAACT dinner and meeting for team members will be held Tuesday evening from 6:00 – 8:30 pm. The conference will conclude on Thursday, February 28 at 12:00 noon followed by lunch and vendor prizes.

If you or your team members have not yet registered for the 2013 UAAACT conference, you need to do so now. ***First preference will be given to team members, but general registration is open from December 1st.*** To register, visit the UAAACT website and click on the Conference Webpage link. Scroll down until you see the registration information for team members. If you are a team member, you must fill out the team member registration form. Be sure and encourage your co-workers to register for this free conference early as space is limited to about 350 people.

UAAACT members who follow in-state travel policies will be reimbursed for approved travel including mileage, meals and hotel. Please car pool when possible. The Provo Marriott hotel has offered a special rate for those attending the UAAACT Conference. Conference rates are \$81 for a room with two beds and two occupants. The triple rate is \$91. UAAACT members who share a room with another UAAACT member will have their full hotel bill reimbursed. UAAACT members who choose to have their own room will be reimbursed for half of the room rate. Reservations should be made directly with Marriott reservations at 1-800-228-9290 or 801-370-3538. Hotel ***reservations must be made by 5:00 PM on February 5, 2013 to get this rate.*** UAAACT members who live and work over 50 miles from the Provo Marriott Hotel are eligible for a hotel stay on Tues. and Wed. February 26th and 27th. Contact Lynn Marcoux at 801-887-9380 if you have a question about your eligibility to be reimbursed for your hotel room.

Legislative Council



The legislative council has been at work collaborating with Craig, Scott, and Lynn to plan the upcoming conference, future trainings, equipment for teams, and looking for ways to help us all serve students. Some of the things we have been discussing follow:

**A Rose By Any Other Name . . .
UAAACT → UATT**

As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the UAAACT project serving students with disabilities, it has been proposed that we simplify our name to **Utah Assistive Technology Team (UATT)**. This name will be easier to explain to parents and educators (without stumbling over the A's), and will accurately reflect who we are and what we do. You can weigh in by emailing Craig or Scott, or your council member (See Sept newsletter.)

To celebrate our new name, we are launching a **LOGO CONTEST**. We hope to use the new LOGO for the February Conference. The winning submission will merit a \$500 equipment stipend for their team. Feel free to draft talent within and outside your team. You might consider not only the name/acronym, but technology, 25 years, teaming. Please submit ideas to cboogaar@utah.gov by Jan 3.

Do you have any *old, old, old* UAAACT equipment on your shelves? Equipment that you may not even know what it was used for? If so, enter it into the **UAAACT Conference Contest**. To celebrate our 25th anniversary, we will have a contest to see who recognizes some of our old original equipment and can say what it was used for. If you have some equipment that might fit the bill, please contact Craig Boogaard at cboogaar@utah.edu by January 14, 2013.

Call for Conference Presenters

We are still accepting proposals if you would like to present at the UAAACT conference. Teams that present will receive a \$500 equipment stipend. Forms can be found on the UAAACT website. Proposals are due by January 9, 2013.

UCET Conference

The UCET conference will be held Friday and Saturday, March 8 & 9, 2013 at Jordan High School. They are currently looking for people willing to present at the conference. Presenter Registration closes December 21, 2012. Due to our own conference in February, the UAAACT project will not provide any financial support for registration fees.

If you are interested in presenting, please go to the [online form](#) and fill out the session title and personal information. Forms can also be found at: <http://goo.gl/qlbMd>

AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO NOTE:

Read&Write for Google Docs: A Free Study Skills Toolbar with Text-to-Speech and More
Read&Write for Google Docs is a new toolbar from textHELP that is now available for free as an add-on for Google Chrome. It features text-to-speech, word definitions, picture dictionary using widget symbol library, a fact finder, a highlighter and more. To find out more, go to the following websites:

YouTube: <http://youtu.be/wW3gRv9gRCI>

<http://paulhami.edublogs.org/2012/11/15/readwrite-for-google-docs-a-free-study-skills-toolbar-with-text-to-speech-and-more/>



Free App Trial

Pati King Debaun has created several apps for the iPad. They are called My Own Books 2 go. She will give each team a 6 month trial. To sign up, go to pati@creativecommuniating.com.

Guided Access? A new tool on iOS 6

AT LAST!!!! Guided Access is the new feature on the iPad iOS 6 that has some great potential for our use of iPads. With Guided Access, you can restrict access by locking a student into the app you want them to use. It is great for kids who are always switching to a game as soon as they are unobserved or who accidentally leave an app with an inaccurate touch. You can make the iPad act like a dedicated AAC device when using Proloquo2Go or any other AAC app. If you are interested, check out this link:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=N_cPotZ_q4c.

Guided access can be configured easily in Settings under Accessibility.

Speaking of iPads and AAC, in Alpine School District, we have been using the free app Sounding Board as an introduction to using the iPad for AAC. Our students learn to use a static choice board SGD and then to navigate a dynamic display with Sounding Board. When ready they can move up to a more complex app.

Merrie Smithson reported that her district has ordered several Talk Tablet apps, as an affordable alternative to more expensive comprehensive AAC apps. She was able to get a free download trial, to try it before she ordered.

As you trial apps and find success or frustration, please spread the word to us.

New AT website

A new AT website, called the AT Collective, was announced by Don Johnston at the Closing the Gap conference in October 2012. This free resource is for AT professionals who want to share information or ask questions of AT experts on a variety of assistive technology topics. Current topics include AT Funding, Accessible Materials, PAR: First Steps, VIDEO: AIM Simply Said, Connecting AT and IT, and Evaluation of Teacher Effectiveness. To learn more about this free AT resource, see:

<http://atcollective.com/>

Free AT webinars

If you are looking for training opportunities but your budget is limited, check out the free training opportunities listed below. A variety of companies offer free AT and AAC webinars.

Prentke Romich Company PRC offers ASHA credit for participation in their workshops.

<http://www.prentrom.com/training>

AbleNet: www.ablenetinc.com/au

The Accessible Technology Coalition:

<http://atcoalition.org/trainings>

There have been over 30 free webinars on accessible and assistive technology in 2012, so how do you find/search for the archives, handouts, and recordings that address the topic you're interested in? We've got them indexed so you can search by disability, age range, etc.

<http://www.tboxapps.com/webinars.aspx>; and

<http://www.tobii.com/en/assistive-technology/north-america/news-events/live-webinar-calendar/>

The ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education) SETSIG (Special Education Technology Special Interest Group) offers a series of webinars, open to all.

For more conference details, and upcoming events, check the UAAACT Website.

