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STAR and its partners are proud to offer free device demonstrations and device loans to Minnesotans statewide.



Constellations

Winter 2011

Fourth Annual STAR Awards!

Do you know someone in Minnesota who deserves to be recognized for his or her hard work and dedication to promoting the use of assistive technology? If you do, this is your chance to submit a nomination for a STAR Award of Excellence in Assistive Technology. On Tuesday, **April 5, 2011**, STAR will celebrate its fourth annual STAR Awards. The celebration will begin by recognizing recipients of the 2011 STAR Award during an afternoon ceremony, which will be held in the Capitol Rotunda. A reception in the Capitol Great Hall will follow the ceremony. To be considered for an award, nominees must exemplify leadership through their efforts and success at promoting the use of assistive technology in one of the following roles:

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Consumer | Employer |
| Advocate | Innovator |
| Educator | Life Achievement |
| Service Provider | |

For more information or to request a nomination packet, contact STAR at 651-201-2640 or visit our Web site at www.starprogram.state.mn.us.

The Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council

When the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 was reauthorized in 2004, the newly amended act included the establishment of an Assistive Technology Advisory Council. The purpose of the Council is to provide federal AT Act programs with consumer-driven and responsive advice for planning, implementing, and evaluating AT Act related activities including measurable goals. Council members are appointed by the governor and are comprised of individuals with disabilities, family members, or guardians, and a representative from the following state agencies: State Services for the Blind, Department of Education, Workforce Investment Board, Center for Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Services. If you would like to learn more about the advisory council or view a list of our current members, visit www.starprogram.state.mn.us.



STAR Spotlight

Discover what activities STAR and its partners are working on around the state.

Partner News

Ability Building Center, People Achieving Change through Technology 507.535.7101 (Rochester): PACTT is moving. As of January 2, 2011, PACTT will be located at Ability Building Center, 1911 14th Street NW, Rochester, MN. The phone number will remain the same.

PACER Center, Simon Technology Center 952.838.9000, 800.537.2237 (Bloomington): Through a grant with the MN STAR program, PACER created two videos, inspired by the style of Common Craft videos, to help others better understand assistive technology and assistive technology lending libraries. Visit PACER or STAR's website to view these videos:

- Simply Said: Understanding Assistive Technology
- Simply Said: Understanding Assistive Technology Lending Libraries

UCP of Central MN 320.253.0765, 888.616.3726 (Saint Cloud): UCP of Central MN recently added an iPad with two communication apps (Proloquo2Go and MyTalk) to its loan inventory

UCP of Minnesota/MATLN program 651.646.7588, 877.528.5678 (Saint Paul): MATLN added four new communication devices to its device loan inventory – the C8 and S32 by Tobii ATI; a Vantage Lite by PRC; and a Maestro by Dynavox.

STAR Statistics

1,358 devices were borrowed from STAR's device loan partners between October 2009 and September 2010.

658 devices were demonstrated to Minnesotans between October 2009 and September 2010.



AT a Glance

Here is a quick glance at types of assistive technology (AT) for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Interact AS is a software program that converts spoken words to typed text and also reads typed or written text out loud allowing people who are deaf to communicate with people who do not know sign language. The program runs on Microsoft's XP, Vista or Windows 7 operating system. To learn more visit the company's website at www.speechgear.com.

UbiDuo is a wireless device that consists of two units; each unit contains a screen and keyboard. The UbiDuo allows real-time face-to-face typed communication. Typed conversations can be printed or saved and transferred to a computer. Up to four units can participate in a conversation. To learn more visit the company's website at www.scomm.com.

SoundAMP R is an app for the iPhone, iPod Touch, and iPad that sends amplified sound to earbuds attached to the device. This app also allows the user to adjust volume including background volume, as well as, record sound. To learn more visit iTunes or the developer's website at www.gingerlabs.com.

Web Accessibility Tips

If you or someone you know is responsible for posting web content, consider subscribing to STAR Point, an email distribution list maintained by STAR. Once a week during 2011, STAR will post web accessibility tips. These tips are designed to help you create content that is accessible to people with disabilities and those who use assistive technology to access the web. For more information, contact Kim.Moccia@state.mn.us.

State & Regional Updates

New Website Teaches Basic Captioning Concepts

The Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind and Hard of Hearing Minnesotans recently launched an online self-study course that teaches basic concepts needed to make informed decisions on what tools and resources to use when captioning web videos. This free course is designed for anyone responsible for managing an organization's website content. To learn more about Video Captioning Essentials visit www.mncdhh.org/captioningessentials.

STARTE
Reusing Assistive Technology!
www.mnstarthe.org

Meet the Future Face of Employment

The Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities has a new website section designed to help anyone interested in supporting individuals with autism spectrum disorder to be employed in technology fields. Discover why digital literacy is important and why people on the autism spectrum must be included in the digital economy by visiting www.mnddc.org/asd-employment.

Mark Your Calendar

Events labeled with an [E] indicate STAR will be exhibiting at this event. Events labeled with a [P] indicate that STAR staff will be presenting at this event.



January

Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council Meeting (January 18) Saint Paul, MN

www.starprogram.state.mn.us/advisory

Assistive Technology Industry Association Conference (January 26-29) Orlando, FL www.atia.org

February

Autism & Employment (February 11) 3M Corporate Headquarters, Saint Paul, MN www.ausm.org

March

Washington County Adaptive Equipment Resource Fair (March 3) Cottage Grove, MN[E] Contact Denise Steans at 651.430.4168 for more information.

26th Annual International Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference (March 14-19) San Diego, CA www.csunconference.org

April

STAR Award of Excellence in Assistive Technology (April 5) Capitol Rotunda, Saint Paul, MN

www.starprogram.state.mn.us

Charting the Cs 3rd Annual Cross Categorical Conference (April 10-12) Arrowwood Resort, Alexandria, MN [E] www.lcsc.org

8th Annual Assistive Technology Expo (April 27-28) Ramada Plaza Suites, Fargo, ND [E] www.atexpo.org

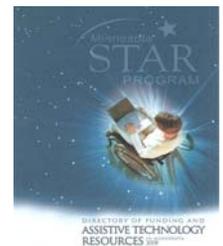


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Stay Informed!

- Check out the online edition of the 2008-2009 Funding and Assistive Technology Directory
- Subscribe to STAR Point and receive emails on assistive technology news and events
- Subscribe to Constellations, our quarterly newsletter
- Visit our Web site www.starprogram.state.mn.us
- Become a registered user of STAR Technology Exchange at wwwmnstarte.org



For more information, contact STAR by calling 651.201.2640, 888.234.1267 (toll-free) or send an email to star.program@state.mn.us. Minnesotans with a hearing or speech disability may call us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800.627.3529.

When you are done reading this newsletter please share with others or recycle. Thank you!

All STAR materials are available in alternative formats

This document can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, Braille, audio tape or disk by calling 651.201.2640 or 888.234.1267 (toll free). Consumers with a hearing or speech disability may call us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800.627.3529, or by sending an email to starprogram@state.mn.us.

¡FOLLETOS EN ESPAÑOL! STAR ha empezado traducir folletos en Inglés a Español. Actualmente, STAR tiene dos folletos en Español: "Directorio de Recursos de Financiamiento para Tecnología Asistiva en Minnesota" y "El Programa STAR: Un Sistema de Tecnología para Lograr Resultados."

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