

Minnesota STAR
Program
A System of
Technology to
Achieve Results



*Minnesota's Assistive Technology
Act Program*

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Constellations

Spring 2009

Assistive Technology (AT) Works!

Celebrating Excellence

On April 14, 2009, the Capitol Rotunda radiated with excitement as family, friends, and coworkers joined legislators and others interested in assistive technology to applaud the 2009 STAR Award for Excellence in Assistive Technology recipients. Award winners (listed below) model excellence in promoting the use of assistive technology so that all Minnesotans, regardless of age or disability, have the opportunity to participate more fully at home, school, work and throughout the community.

AT Consumer

Doug Crosby, Belle Plaine
Dan Tomson, Wayzata

Service Provider

AgrAbility, Willmar

AT Advocate

Deen Swart, Hackensack

AT Innovation

Bruce Mulder, Minneapolis

Educator

Cindy Taplin Mason, Wabasha
Monica Huntoon, Plainview
Mike Sorbel, Maple Plain
Kelly Dunn, New Brighton

Lifetime Achievement

Joan Breslin Larson, Shoreview
Anita Schermer, St. Paul
Maxine Slobof, Mendota Heights

Community Collaboration

Willmar Community Planning Committee



2009 Award Ceremony, Capitol Rotunda, Saint Paul, Minnesota



STAR Spotlight

Discover what activities STAR is working on around the state.

Device Demonstration – Minnesotans can request individualized demonstrations of devices available through STAR's statewide loan program.

Device Loan – STAR's statewide loan program lets Minnesotans borrow assistive technology for short term (30-day) use so that they can try a device—at home, school, work or in the community—in order to decide if the device is the right one for them.

To schedule a demonstration or borrow a device contact STAR's device demonstration and loan partners:

PACTT, a program of Ability Building Center
Rochester, Minnesota, 507-535-7101, pactt@abcinc.org,
www.abc-pactt.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Central Minnesota,
St. Cloud, Minnesota, 320-253-0765,
888-616-3726 (toll free), tech@ucpcentralmn.org,
www.ucpcentralmn.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota (MATLN program), St. Paul, Minnesota, 651-646-7588, 877-528-5678 (toll free), ucpmnmatln@hotmail.com, www.ucpmn.org

In addition to the services above, STAR has been busy helping Minnesotans through the following activities:

Device Reutilization – In May, STAR announced the availability of \$50,000 in operational funds for reutilization activities (reuse and recycling) of Assistive Technology (AT) in Minnesota.

Transition – STAR also announced the availability of \$10,000 in cosponsorship funds for transition conferences held in Minnesota. Conferences will focus on training relating to transition and the use of Assistive Technology by students with disabilities (served under IDEA) or adults with disabilities who are maintaining or transitioning to community living and/or employment.

Visit STAR's Web site for a list of awardees receiving funds for device reuse activities and transition training.

Information and Assistance - STAR staff enjoyed meeting many Minnesotans while exhibiting at the following conferences: AT Expo (Fargo/Moorhead), Charting the Cs (Alexandria), Day of Excellence (Marshall), and Handi Medical (Saint Paul).

In February, STAR's 2008-2009 Directory of Funding and Assistive Technology Resources was released. See back cover for more information on how to order your free copy.

Collaboration - STAR works with other agencies, organizations, and non-profits. Recent collaborative activities include hosting a multi-agency work group on accessibility and usability of e-government services, serving on the Minnesota Department of Education's AT Leadership Team, participating in the Department of Human Service's Monitoring Technology work group and Minnesota State Council on Disability AT Study work group.



AT a Glance

Here is a quick glance at some assistive technology (AT) that can help you have fun this summer. To learn more or to borrow these items contact STAR or one of our loan program partners.

- Freedom Outfitter Tent (Eureka) – wheelchair accessible tent, sleeps 2
- Kodak Easy Share (Orcca) – switch adapted digital camera
- Wii mote (Broadened Horizons) – switch adapted PlayStation game controller
- Big Arcade Stick (RJ Cooper) – big button and joystick controller for arcade style video games
- All-Turn It Spinner (Able Net) – switch activated spinner promotes turn taking and choice making skills

Regional Updates

Each year the Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation awards grants to non-profit organizations that provide services to individuals living with paralysis. This year the Foundation proudly announced that the Center for Independent Living of NE MN, on behalf of the Minnesota Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative (MRATC), was one of 145 recipients receiving \$13,900.00 in aid.

MRATC will use the grant to help those living with paralysis become active members in everyday life. MRATC will accomplish this goal by providing recreational assistive technology for people with disabilities in Minnesota to trial in an effort to educate consumers, families, and professionals on the vast recreational opportunities available with the utilization of assistive technology. Through a partnership with the MN Regional Assistive Technology Networks, members of the MN Regions Assistive Technology Collaborative (MRATC) anticipate this program will increase awareness of untapped recreational opportunities for people with disabilities throughout Minnesota. For more information contact Access North Center for Independent Living of NE MN (218) 262-6675 or visit their Web site at www.accessnorth.net.

STARTE
Reusing Assistive
Technology!
Visit STAR Technology
Exchange
www.mnstarte.org

Mark Your Calendar

June

Building AT Capacity, PACER Center/Simon Technology Center (www.pacer.org), June 16, 2009, online event.

QIAT Summit, Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology Services, June 23-24, 2009, Roseville, MN. For more information contact Joan Breslin Larson 651-582-1599 or joan.breslin-larson@state.mn.us.

RESNA Conference, Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (www.resna.org), June 23-27, 2009, New Orleans, LA

Up to the MN*AT, Minnesota Department of Education, Special Education Services, June 25-26, 2009, Roseville, MN. For more information contact Joan Breslin Larson 651-582-1599 or joan.breslin-larson@state.mn.us.

College, Career and Technology Session for teens transitioning to college or work, Camp Courage (www.couragecenter.org/camps), June 25 – July 3. For more information call 320-963-3121 or 866-520-0504 (Toll Free).

July

Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council meeting, July 21, 2009. Location to be announced. For more information call 651-201-2640.

August

Age & Disabilities Odyssey Department of Human Services (www.mnaging.org/odyssey), August 17-19, 2009, Rochester, MN





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Let STAR Help You Stay Informed!

- Request a free copy of our 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
- Become a registered user of STAR Technology Exchange at www.starte.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 star.program@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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