

Summer, 2014

The 16th Annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute: MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES, MULTIPLE SOLUTIONS



AzTAP, as a program of the Institute for Human Development (IHD) at Northern

Arizona University, supports IHD's vision that people with disabilities fully

participate in all life experiences. Assistive Technology is a means to facilitate participation and inclusion in the richness of life experiences. **The 16th Annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute** is designed so that our participants leave this conference with greater knowledge about how assistive technology can be better used to achieve this vision.

This conference attracts a diverse group of participants. With Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) and Arizona Department of Education, Exceptional Student Services (ADE-ESS) as conference cosponsors, many attendees are service providers working with people across the age and disability spectrum and in various environments. They bring multiple perspectives to how and what they do. Accordingly, the conference focuses on the need for assistive technology solutions from multiple perspectives. We have chosen our key note and closing speakers (Haben Girma and Carolyn Phillips respectively) because their personal success stories reflect the profound impact of assistive technology on their lives.

To keep things fresh, we have added new features to this year's conference including use of the AzTAP website for detailed, regularly updated information and a simpler registration process. An impressive number of you were willing to give up your Sunday to participate in

the "AT Boot Camp" pre-conference workshop, designed for those who wanted an immersive AT learning experience. We have expanded the number of breakout sessions from 35 to 56 for this year. The result is increased choices and the opportunity for participants to earn additional continuing education hours. As part of the breakout session options, we have included Vendor Spotlight presentations where vendors will be doing shorter, focused presentations on their products and services. We have increased the size of the Exhibit Hall in terms of both space and the number companies and organizations represented. As in past, we have been fortunate to receive wonderful door prize donations (including a current-season Coach purse) for our raffle drawing, but we are changing things up a bit and holding the drawings at different times during the conference. We are also pleased to announce that **free Wi-Fi** will be available throughout the Conference Center. Bring your own device (BYOD) so that you can download conference information onto your smartphone or tablet using Twoppy, our mobile App.

Finally, since 2014 is AzTAP's **20th anniversary**, we will be highlighting how the program has evolved over the past two decades. Make sure to come and have some anniversary cake during the reception on Monday afternoon.

Art Without Limits by Zot Artz



What kid doesn't like to draw on the sidewalk with chalk? However, if you are a child with a disability it's easy to end up being an

onlooker rather than a participant. But it doesn't have to be that way!

AzTAP, in collaboration with UCP of Central Arizona and Ryan House, brought Dwayne Szot of Zot Artz to Phoenix in March for a remarkable community event that gave kids in wheelchairs (as well as those who can walk) the opportunity to create their own art projects. Dwayne designs and builds adapted art equipment that makes it possible for anyone to make fun, colorful and beautiful artwork. In the morning, Dwayne held a workshop to teach service providers how to use his equipment. In the afternoon, children and adults with disabilities as well as siblings were able to display their creativity. By using specially designed chalk holders or paint rollers, the children were able to produce large scale chalk drawings and vividly colored mural paintings.



Here's what some participants told us about the event: "My son and I had a wonderful experience at Art Without Limits. It was refreshing to see so many amazing children together creating beautiful art." One of the siblings said: "It was great! My sister got to draw and make designs on the back of her chair."



Based on the event's success, AzTAP will be purchasing a selection of this equipment that

will be available for loan in our lending library.

Community Collaborations

The Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP) continually looks for ways to make

Assistive Technology (AT) devices available to the community in the most beneficial and efficient way possible. To support that goal, AzTAP would like to expand our collaborations with community organizations interested in establishing a partnership to have AT devices placed with them on long term loan. AzTAP currently has a number of successful partnerships in place with several groups around the state.

AzTAP entered its most recent long term loan equipment agreement with Ashley Clyde, LLC, a local home health care agency. AzTAP provided Ashley Clyde with 50 different activities-of-daily-living, low-vision and hearing-related assistive technology devices that will be kept at their office and used by their Occupational Therapists and Occupational Therapy Assistants in their daily work with patients. Demonstration and trial use of these devices help the therapist and patient decide if the AT device actually helps the person in their real life, home environment.

By having direct access to this equipment in their office, Ashley Clyde staff members no longer have to come to AzTAP to pick up and bring back borrowed devices. In return, every month Ashley Clyde staff will provide AzTAP with (non-identifiable) outcome data on each patient's experience with the equipment and their satisfaction level with having the opportunity to use the items. We believe this is a win/win situation for everyone - patients, therapy staff and AzTAP.

If your agency or program works with persons with disabilities and you would like to discuss establishing a similar long term device loan partnership with AzTAP, please contact us at AskAzTAP@nau.edu or 602.728.9534.

Emergency Preparedness

Nobody really wants to think about how any disaster – natural or manmade – could affect our lives. However, with fire season upon us, this can become more than a remote

possibility, especially for people living in highly forested, rural areas. Everyone should be prepared for emergencies, and if you are a person with a disability or have a family member with a disability, it is even more important to have a plan in place and to know what resources are available before an emergency situation develops. In Arizona, there has been a huge effort to ensure that people with disabilities, and others with access and functional needs are included in the state's emergency preparedness planning process.

AzTAP is pleased to offer a **free webinar** on this subject. "**Partners-in-Preparedness**" is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13th from 3:00-4:00 p.m. It will be presented by Tony DiRienzi, Independent Living Advocate and Pete Weaver, Director, Maricopa County Department of Emergency Management. Register at <http://aztap.org/at-education/register-online/>.



**Spotlight on AT:
Assistive Technology for
Meal Time Independence -
Focusing on Tremors**

It is frustrating and difficult to eat independently if you have tremors that make it hard to keep food on the fork or spoon. We have received several requests for silverware that can be used for people with Parkinson's or other essential tremors. In response, AzTAP has several items in our loan and demonstration inventory designed to help people with this problem.

We recently purchased a spoon called **Liftware**. Created for people with tremors, the manufacturer calls this utensil "tremor cancellation in the palm of your hand."

A typical solution for people with this type of condition is the use of weighted utensils to steady the hand. *Liftware* is different, because it works through a computer chip to electronically stabilize the spoon portion of the device when someone is experiencing tremors.



Although the spoon is currently the only attachment, the company will be coming out with other attachments,

including a fork and key holder. The device is small and has a rechargeable battery. According to the manufacturer, over 100 algorithms were tested and the device provided a 70% tremor cancellation rate for the spoon. We are interested in getting feedback about how well this item actually works, so please make an appointment for a demonstration and/or equipment loan to try out this new product. At AzTAP, we base our purchases on consumer feedback and inquiry. The retail price for this product is \$295.00 from <https://www.liftlabsdesign.com>.

Weighted utensils are the second type of product mentioned earlier. The most popular weighted utensils at AzTAP are the **Parkinson's Weighted Kits**.

These kits include a knife, fork, teaspoon, tablespoon, 12 ounce insulated mug and two universal holders for pen/pencil/razor, etc.



This set can be viewed at <http://tinyurl.com/pahkz8x> and costs \$99.95.

Another kind of weighted utensil is adjustable, so the weight can be anywhere between 2 to 8 ounces. This may be beneficial if there is a possibility the weight of a utensil would need to be changed. The link to the website for this type of device is <http://tinyurl.com/ohkntuj>. The price for a soup spoon is \$24.63.

AzTAP has all of these devices available for demonstration and loan. AzTAP does not sell any products and there is no charge for device loans or demonstration. Prices and websites are provided for informational purposes only

and no endorsement is implied. Please contact us at 602.728.9534, 1.800.477.9921, or AskAzTAP@nau.edu for more information.

"App"-ealing Technology

Since our last Newsletter, the AzTAP Loan Library has increased the number of assistive technology related apps from 130 to 190. Our extensive list of apps may be useful in many areas, such as speech communication, vision and hearing impairments, and daily living. In this issue, we are highlighting two apps designed for people with Learning, Cognitive, and Developmental disabilities:



NaviDys: This app provides modifications of web sites for people with reading disabilities, dyslexia, low vision, blindness and other disabilities that make reading difficult. *NaviDys* is a

web browser for the iPad (iOS 5.0 or later). The user may customize the web site's font, including the specific font for dyslexia, known as *Dyslexie*. In addition to selecting an easier to read font, the user may also customize settings for line spacing, letter spacing, and text size. These options make reading the web much easier for people with visual disabilities. Currently, *NaviDys* is available for iPads only.

AudioNote Lite: If taking notes quickly and remembering the context in which they were taken is challenging, try *AudioNote Lite*. This app combines the functionality of a notepad and voice recorder, therefore synchronizing notes and audio. Each note links directly to the point at which it was recorded. This means the user does not have to search through an entire recording; *AudioNote Lite* takes you right to the spot you want to hear. Use *AudioNote Lite* on an iPad or iPhone (iOS 5.1 or later, and optimized for iPhone 5) at school or work. This



Lite version is limited to 10 minutes of audio per note and 2 hours total. If you would like unlimited recording and improved sharing options, upgrade to the full *AudioNote* app.

To view our current list of Apps, visit <http://aztap.org/at-devices/at-device-spotlight/>.

Using Technology to Get Technology

We have updated and simplified the online Request Form for our loan and demonstration services. Now you can easily request to borrow devices, schedule a demonstration or ask for more information about a specific assistive technology item using this new form. Search our inventory at http://azatdemoloanprogram.org/search_inventory.php/.

Contact Us

The Arizona Technology Access Program
2400 N. Central Avenue, Suite 300
Phoenix, AZ 85004

Jill Pleasant, Program Director – 602.728.9532

Janelle Bauerle, ADE Loan Library Coordinator - 928.523.6774

Mellowdee Brooks, AT Specialist – 602.776.4667

Clayton Guffey, AT Specialist – 602.776.4699

Adi Kalika, AT Program Asst – 602.728-9534

Martha Lewis, Program Associate – 602.776.4670

Laura Wooten-LaFranier – Office Specialist
602.728.9533

Visit our website at www.aztap.org or scan this QR Code into your mobile device:



AzTAP



@AzTAPinfo

Share your thoughts and communicate with AzTAP friends and fans

AzTAP is a Phoenix-based program of the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University

This document is available in alternative formats. Call 602.728.9534.