



## Student Worker Feature

Oklahoma ABLE Tech employs a number of Oklahoma State University students every year who provide invaluable assistance in executing the work of all sponsored programs. We're going to profile these students in the next few issues of this newsletter.



**Maegan Needham** is a sophomore, majoring in Strategic Communications. She works with the marketing team to design and publish THIS newsletter(!), flyers promoting events, weekly and monthly eBlasts and eNews, updating the website and much, much more. We hope to have Maegan with us for another 2 years as she completes her degree!



**Nikhil Jain** is a graduate student, pursuing a Masters in Computer Science. He is a citizen of India and received his bachelor's degree, also in computer science, from a major university in India. Nikhil's expertise has been very valuable to ABLE Tech as we transition from our current website to a new one we plan to launch in Spring 2017!

## ABLE Tech Direct Loan Amount Increased to \$2,500

ABLE Tech developed a Direct Loan program a little over a year ago to provide a direct lending option to consumers, who need to purchase less costly assistive technology (AT). Up to this point, the maximum loan dollar for the Direct Loan was \$1,500. ABLE Tech has restructured the Direct Loan policy to include loans \$2,500 or less for needed AT. This means AT such as eye glasses, iPads, computer software, hearing aids, and many other pieces of AT valued under \$2,500 can be paid in monthly payments with low interest and easy monthly installments. In addition, policy has been created to allow more flexibility in the repayment terms, varying from 12 to 36 months, depending on the approved loan amount.

The Direct Loan option has the same guidelines as a guaranty loan, which means anyone with a disability can apply for the loan. Of course, ABLE Tech still has the Financial Loan program intended for AT valued over \$2,500 that is financed in partnership with BancFirst. To learn more about both programs, you can contact Shelley Gladden with ABLE Tech or visit ABLE Tech's webpage for Financial Loans.



## Special Education Resolution Center (SERC)

The Special Education Resolution Center (SERC) works collaboratively with the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) to help parents and school districts resolve disputes regarding the special education of students. SERC

provides stakeholder training in effective communication skills at the prevention stage of conflict. Once conflict has reached disagreement, SERC provides innovative programs to assist parties in resolving their differences at the earliest stage possible. SERC provides highly trained mediators to assist the parties in coming to

agreement. In those instances where the parties are unable to resolve their dispute, SERC provides a fair and impartial hearing system. Fair, impartial and knowledgeable hearing officers conduct administrative hearings to settle the differences of the parties in a timely manner. These processes are in place so that Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment will be available to Oklahoma children.

The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Consortium of Appropriate Dispute Resolution (CADRE) have identified Oklahoma as one of four exemplar alternative dispute resolution programs in the United States. Visit <http://serc.okstate.edu> for more information on services available to families and school districts.

## ABLE Tech Resources Guide School Districts in Developing AT Procedures

Educators will find guidance for selecting and providing assistive technology for students in a resource ABLE Tech staff have created called the "Virtual Binder." The Virtual Binder is based on the Quality Indicators for Assistive Technology (QIAT) which provides a framework for delivering and evaluating the provision of AT devices and services.

The Virtual Binder shows promising practices in AT service delivery and includes sample operational procedures that school districts can customize to suit their needs. Forms and checklists from industry-recognized authorities such as the Big East Educational Cooperative, the Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative, and the SETT Framework and SETT Scaffold for Tool Selection by Joy Zabala are also included.

The Virtual Binder is included in the technical assistance document, Assistive Technology for Children and Youth with Disabilities IDEA Part B, which is commonly referred to as the "AT T.A. Document". Find ABLE Tech's "Virtual Binder" online at [https://www.ok.gov/abletech/documents/Oklahoma\\_AT-TA\\_Document.pdf](https://www.ok.gov/abletech/documents/Oklahoma_AT-TA_Document.pdf)

ABLE Tech contracts with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to provide assistive technology (AT) services and training for Oklahoma students, educators, and parents. If you have questions or need assistance, call 800-257-1705.



## Oklahoma Equipment Exchange

The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange (OEE) is a FREE program to help Oklahomans with disabilities acquire affordable equipment. To donate, sell, or locate equipment, visit our website or call us at 888.885.5588 (v/tty).



In Oklahoma City, you may call the Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP) at 405.523.4810 for FREE durable medical equipment such as canes, scooters, and hospital beds. Donations are always welcome!

Available Items	
Child Specialized Car Seats	For Sale
Several types of back and knee braces/stabilizers	FREE
Variety of Oxygen Concentrator Tubing & accessories	FREE
CCTV, Topaz 22" Desktop Video Magnifier	\$1,250
1998 Ford Escort Vehicle w/ Hand Controls	\$1,500
Electric Wheelchairs, several	For Sale

## Assistive Technology Device Feature



### HowdaHUG Seat

The chair is designed to cradle the body with cocoon-like support and provide a calming hug and soothing rocking. Designed for "fidgety kids" who present a need for deep sensory input to find focus, calm and containment. The HowdaHug Seat comes in three different sizes for children of different ages and heights.

## Partner Success Story

Lilly is a 4 year old from Tulsa County and has Down syndrome. She is very speech delayed and can't articulate well enough to be understood. She was becoming exceedingly frustrated and her parents were afraid of her losing confidence. Pathways helped Lilly find a communication device to help her communicate. Because of this device, she has improved in all activities, her confidence improved, and she now can participate in activities led by non-therapists.



## Upcoming Webinars

Full details available at: [www.bitly/ABTwebinars](http://www.bitly/ABTwebinars)

01/10/17	Daily Living
02/14/17	Hearing
03/07/17	Vision
04/11/17	Seating, Positioning, & Mobility

## iDevice App Feature



### AppWriter US

AppWriter is the first text editor for the iPad to offer users of all ages with reading and writing disabilities the necessary tools for unlocking a world of information. AppWriter is packed with incredible assistive features. All tools and features are seamlessly integrated and comprised of context based word suggestions, text-to-speech, integrated PDF-reader, OCR, a custom keyboard and the special Dyslexie-font.

## Oklahoma AT Center Locations

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and its partners operate device demonstration and device loan programs to increase access to AT. Inventory is available and searchable online, and individuals may borrow devices for up to six weeks at no cost. Please go to: [at.okstate.edu](http://at.okstate.edu)



Oklahoma ABLE Tech



Hearing Loss Association



NewView Oklahoma



Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders



Total Source For Hearing Loss and Access



The Children's Center



Pathways Therapy Center



John W. Keys Speech and Hearing Center

The partners below are mobility dealers offering vans, scooters and adaptive equipment for your current vehicle. They don't loan vehicles but can demonstrate all capabilities of the equipment.



Handicapped Vehicle Services, Tulsa



Newby-Vance Mobility, Guthrie



United Access Mobility, Oklahoma City

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## Events and Training

- FEB 16 | Intermediate Level AT Support Team Workshop - Sand Springs
- FEB 23 | TVI Training - Part 1 (Google Hangout) - Jenks
- FEB 25 | AT Bootcamp for OSDE - 2500 N. Lincoln Blvd., OKC - Room 215
- FEB 27 | Beginners AT Support Team Workshop - Sand Springs
- MAR 7 | AT Discovery Webinar: "Vision" with Kimberly Berry
- APR 11 | AT Discovery Webinar: "Seating, Positioning, Mobility" with Dina Anderson

**Connect with us >>>**



This publication is available in alternative formats; please call 800.257.1705 (V/TTY) for more information. The Oklahoma State University Department of Wellness is the lead agency for Oklahoma ABLE Tech. ABLE Tech is funded through the Administration for Community Living of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and maintains coordination and collaboration efforts with partners throughout the state of Oklahoma.