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Events and Training

Apr. 13 | Missouri Power Up AT Conference; Columbia, MO

Apr. 14-15 | Information Professionals for Oklahoma Conference;
 Oklahoma City, OK

Apr. 16 | Access for All Workforce Regional Training; Atoka, OK

Apr. 20 | Disability Awareness Day; Oklahoma City, OK

Apr. 21 | Sooner Success on the Road; Muskogee, OK

Apr. 23 | Access for All Workforce Regional Training; Ada, OK

Apr. 30 | Oklahoma Works Conference

May | Arthritis Awareness Month

May 22 | Oklahoma Parents Center Statewide Conference; Midwest City, OK

June 25-28 | Hearing Loss Association Annual Conference; St. Louis, MO

July 7-9 | Engage Oklahoma OSDE Conference; Oklahoma City, OK

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Spotlight on Success:

This 15-year-old was provided a short-term loan of a Sensitrac Wheelchair Mount, which allowed a switch to be secured to her wheelchair. Correct positioning of the switch provided her access to a speech-generating device for communication in her classes.

Thanks to the specialists at The Children's Center and the appropriate AT, this young lady now has more opportunities throughout the day to use her communication device to interact with others and participate in activities of daily living.



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AT Support Team Training

Webinar Facilitates Conversation

ABLE Tech will soon be offering expanded training opportunities for Oklahoma School District Assistive Technology (AT) Teams, through its contract with the Oklahoma State Department of Education to provide AT and Information Services. Beginning in the fall, ABLE Tech will offer two training tracks: one designed for teams that participated during the previous school years, and another tailored to the needs of new AT teams.

Workshops for new teams will be held in Ada, Seminole, and Woodward, and will deliver the same foundational training content ABLE Tech provided in 2013-14 and 2014-15. Workshops for returning AT teams will deliver new content and will be held in Lawton, Oklahoma City, and Stillwater.

National author and Special Education Consultant, Gayl Bowser, will be the Fall 2015 featured trainer. Bowser's work as an independent consultant focuses on the integration of technology into the educational programs of students with disabilities.

Bowser is the former Coordinator of the Oregon Technology Access Program (OTAP) and provides AT consultation, training and technical assistance throughout the United States and internationally.

Participants will learn to apply concepts to ensure quality AT services and effective implementation for student success. Bowser will cover the important roles of AT Team members, AT feature matching with student case-studies, successful AT implementation, and the four basic aspects of AT competence. Teams will have an opportunity to learn more about AT and accommodation ideas through hands-on exploration.

In addition to AT Support Team Training, ABLE Tech also offers workshops on Accessible Educational Materials (AEM) to help educators learn about the free and low-cost options for providing accessible textbooks and other reading materials to students who have difficulty gaining meaning from standard materials.



SoonerStart Recognition Winner 2015

2nd Quarter:
Craig County Team

This SoonerStart team will receive new assistive technology (AT) to include in their county kit. Infants and toddlers under 3 years old and their families will be able to receive demonstrations of the new AT items. These services help families determine appropriate accommodations for children and decide whether or not they need AT.

Congratulations, Craig County!

Spotlight on Success:

This SoonerStart team demonstrated AT and helped this little boy receive a Kid Kart positioning chair with mobility base. The system offers support for body alignment and stability and will help him improve fine motor functioning during learning and self-feeding activities. The tray offers a surface to trial a communication system, and improved posture during outings will also improve interactions with his environment visually and socially while reducing fatigue!



The Web Accessibility in Higher Education Project Update: The Accessibility Games

In January of this year ABLE Tech invited institutions that participate in our Web Accessibility in Higher Education Project (WAHEP) to participate in a game. The goal of the game was to make their institution's website more accessible to people with disabilities. There were some basic rules, including a fixed amount of time for institutions to work on their websites and remove barriers to access. Thanks to several longtime ABLE Tech partners, we put together a prize package that we hoped would bring teams into the Accessibility Games.

In all, seven institutions signed up to compete in the games. The competition ended on March 5th, and a winner was determined on March 27th. We are very excited to announce that **Northern Oklahoma College (NOC)** won the first ever WAHEP Accessibility Games!

The other six participating institutions all did exceptional jobs. We were thrilled to see that each of the teams scored closely to one another in the final judging.

Teams informed us that they learned a lot about accessibility during the games, and we're happy that the competition gave them a fun opportunity to change their websites for the better.

Congratulations, and thank you, to everyone that participated!



There is still time to register for the annual People with Disabilities Awareness Day, April 20!



Oklahoma AT Center Locations

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and its partners operate device demonstration and short-term 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. <http://oec.okstate.edu/loan>



Oklahoma ABLE Tech



Hearing Loss Association



the children's center
REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
The Children's Center



NewView Oklahoma



Department of Communication
Sciences and Disorders



Mary K. Chapman Center
for Communicative Disorders



Total Source For Hearing
Loss and Access



Department of Rehabilitation Services
Visual Services Center Division

SEARCH OUR ONLINE INVENTORY!

What does your debt look like?

Understand your Income-to-Debt Ratio

An individual's *Income-to-Debt Ratio* is very important. It is especially important if you are a person with a disability, or caring for a person with a disability. You don't want to be caught off guard if you need to make a necessary purchase related to AT such as a new hearing aid, speech communication device or a co-pay on a piece of durable medical equipment.

With limited income, and greater regular expenses, it is easy to put yourself at risk financially. Here is an easy way to look at your monthly debt percentage: divide your total monthly debt by your total monthly income. This gives you a percentage of your debt, referred to as *Income-to-Debt Ratio*.

What does this percentage mean?

- 15% or less = Great
- 16% - 23% = Good
- 24% - 38% = Fair
- 39% - 50% = High
- 51+% = Dangerous

Most financial institutions will not loan money to someone who is in the "high" or "dangerous" category. However, the ABLE Tech bank loan program has systems in place to help those individuals get the financial resources they need to make those kinds of purchases. For more information, contact Shelley Gladden at 800.257.1705, or email her at: shelley.gladden@okstate.edu.



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 needed for things like: wheelchairs, commodes, and walkers.

Here is a quick preview of items you can find online at the exchange!

Item Description	Asking Price
Bubbling Foot Spa	FREE
Canes	FREE
Cervical Collars	FREE
Disposable Diapers	FREE
Ostomy Bags	FREE
Various knee/elbow Pads	FREE
Hoyer Lift - Manual	\$200

Assistive Device Highlight

Reminder Rosie - Hear a loved ones' voice every day.

Reminder Rosie is a low-tech memory aid device. It is an easy-to-use talking alarm clock with personalized voice reminders for seniors, caregivers, older adults and the visually impaired.

It is a simple, hands-free, inexpensive solution to remember your medication, appointments, and everyday tasks while also serving as a voice-activated digital alarm clock.



To request a six-week trial, visit us online at:

<http://oec.okstate.edu/loan>

Bookshare Spotlight on Success

A teacher contacted ABLE Tech for help with selecting AT to make page turning easier for a student who has limited use of his hands. We recommended the Sammons Preston Page Turner, which is a rigid device that wraps around the hand and has a rubbery tip for pushing pages. We also recommended switching to digital textbooks, novels and other reading materials from Bookshare.

For a student who cannot hold a book or turn the pages independently, digital text offers the benefit of being able to store multiple books. Depending on the device used, the student could navigate the text using finger swipes or a switch, and the text can be read aloud with synthesized speech.

Digital format offers many additional accessibility features which can improve comprehension, including synchronized highlighting as the text is read, and adjustable colors and font sizes.

ABLE Tech loans AT for accessing digital text. Call 800-257-1705 or visit <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> for more information.

