

*Oklahoma's
Assistive Technology Act
Program
800-257-1705*

*Oklahoma ABLE Tech is
a federal grant program
located at Oklahoma
State University in
Stillwater.*

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ABLE Tech Highlights Statewide Contributions

We are pleased to share with you Oklahoma ABLE Tech's highlights and key activities reported in our 2006 annual report recently published and distributed to Oklahoma's legislators.

Increased access and acquisition of assistive technology is key to improving the lives of persons with disabilities in order that they may participate and be more independent in school, at home, the workplace and in the community. ABLE Tech serves individuals of all ages and all disabilities in Oklahoma.

Statistics and Highlights

- Assistive technology (AT) training and awareness events served over 2000 people
- The Alternative Financing Program provided \$291,829 in AT device low interest bank loans assisting Oklahomans with disabilities
- 181 AT devices exchanged from sellers to buyers for a savings of \$89,614
- 453 AT devices recycled and donated to Oklahomans with disabilities for a savings of \$362,400
- 215 AT devices loaned to 192 Oklahomans in "try before you buy" short-term loan program
- 1300 AT devices demonstrated to Oklahomans
- ABLE Tech and its partners provide 7 AT loan and demonstration sites to give Oklahomans an opportunity to touch, try, and take home AT devices and improve independence in the community, schools, and workplace.
- ABLE Tech provided information technology accessibility training to 1100 state agency and post secondary personnel.
- ABLE Tech provided training on AT devices such as: computers, software, health and safety devices, daily living items, and developmental disability devices.
- ABLE Tech trained individuals and agencies on topics such as funding for AT, laws and policies, accessible information technology, accessible textbooks, education and community transition.
- "Fire Safety for Oklahomans with Disabilities" received 462 applications from individuals with disabilities in 61 of the 77 Oklahoma counties who will receive professionally installed specialized smoke alarms.
- ABLE Tech's partner, Sooner AMBUCS Share4Life Komputers donated 453 recycled computers to individuals to improve independent living and vocational skills.
- The Special Education Resolution Center settled 97% of special education due process hearing requests, saving an estimated \$450,000 to \$3,150,000 in tax payer dollars.
- Oklahoma AgrAbility is the state's leader in promoting success in agriculture for people with disabilities and their families and the resource of choice for information on accommodating agricultural work and living environments for hundreds of Oklahomans.



by Linda Jaco, Oklahoma ABLE Tech Director and the Assistant Director of Sponsored Programs, OSU Seretean Wellness Center, Stillwater, OK



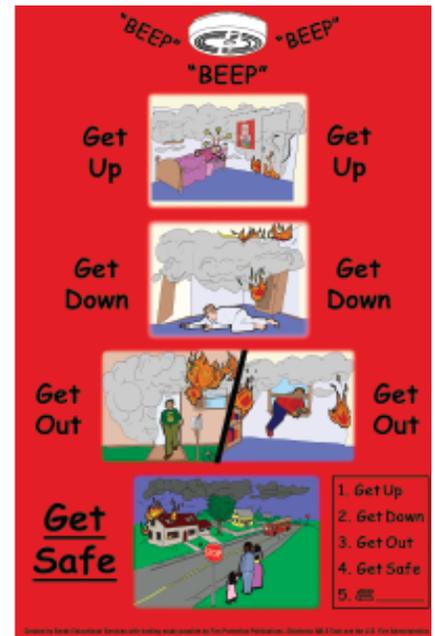
Oklahoma AgrAbility/ABLE Tech is honored to receive the Community Partner Award of the Year from the Department of Rehabilitation Services. The award was announced at the People with Disabilities Awareness Day 2007 held at the State Capitol in April. AgrAbility and DRS partner to provide an educational program to enhance the professional competencies of rural agricultural professionals, rehabilitation and health care providers, vocational counselors and other providers of service to individuals with disabilities and their families who engage in agriculture or agriculture-related occupations.

Pictured left: Carla Wilhite (AgrAbility Specialist), Linda Jaco (Assistant Director of Sponsored Programs, OSU Seretean Wellness Center) and Linda Parker, (Director of the Department of Rehabilitation Services.)

Fire Safety for Oklahomans

"Fire Safety for Oklahomans with Disabilities" continues to flourish. Recently, we learned of another family saved because of their specialized smoke alarms. They had a cooking fire but were not aware of it until the new smoke alarm alerted them. To date, six families were saved due to the alarms installed through this program. We have received 493 applications for specialized smoke alarms throughout the state. To learn more about the program or to download an application, visit <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> and select "Fire Safety."

The fire safety classes for adults with developmental disabilities are also going well. Trainers from the Developmental Disabilities Services Division (DDSD) have taught approximately ten separate groups, reaching over 50 adults. The course consists of three group classes and a home visit when participants receive a free smoke alarm that can be tested by remote control. Also during the home visit, the DDSD trainer asks participants to demonstrate their home escape plans and how to test their new smoke alarms. For more information, call Oklahoma ABLE Tech toll-free at 800-257-1705 Voice/TTY.



Participants receive a poster when they complete the fire safety classes.



The Special Education Resolution Center continues attending and providing quality training in the area of special education. SERC is sending two persons for a four day training at LRP's 28th Annual Institute for Legal Issues for Educating Individuals with Disabilities in San Diego, California on April 22-25th. This conference features approximately 44 sessions on the latest information pertaining to special education in Part B and Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

Future training sessions sponsored by SERC include an administrative hearing training on May 11-12 and substantive training of IDEA on November 13, 2007. The May training is designed to provide hearing officers with the opportunity to refine writing and legal research skills, to participate in work study groups related to the conducting of hearings, and to practice skills in mock hearings. Jim Gerl, a national consultant for hearing officers, will assist the group in working toward national hearing officer certification. Cheryl Baber and Denelda Richardson will continue working with the officers on issue identification and writing skills, and LRP publications will assist the officers in quickly researching the latest information in special education.

On November 13, 2007, Art Cernosia, national special education consultant, will return for a full day of training on the IDEA at the Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma City campus. This training will again be open to the public for a reasonable cost. Participants, last year, were so impressed by this interesting and informative speaker, that many requested a return performance. If you are interested in an in-depth look at the IDEA, this is the conference to attend! For more information, contact the SERC office at (918) 712-9632 or (888) 267-0028 toll free. Jo Anne Pool is the Program Manager. Visit the SERC website: www.ok.gov/abletech/Special_Education_Resolution_Center

Did you know that ABLE Tech and our statewide partners have over 900 assistive technology (AT) devices available for loan at no cost? Through the following locations, individuals can "try before they buy" a variety of items before making a decision to purchase AT for use at home, community, school, or workplace. The ABLE Tech website lists all of the equipment at <http://okabletech.okstate.edu/>.

ABLE Tech Demonstration and Loan Program, Stillwater

A popular device loaned from ABLE Tech is the Nady Personal FM Listening System. The system delivers clear, professional sounding audio without distracting ambient noise and can transmit up to 200' away, or up to 500' with line-of-sight. The wireless listening system is useful in the classroom, in meetings, and other group gatherings. The individual with a hearing impairment wears the earphones or headphones and the speaker uses the lapel microphone. The system consists of one transmitter with lavalier microphone, an ultra-compact receiver, and a mini earphone. Price is approximately \$139.00.



Visual Services of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma City

The Optelec ClearView + is a commonly loaned CCTV to try in workplace, educational, and community settings. CCTV's are specially designed to enlarge printed material for people who have low vision and can no longer comfortably use glasses or special lenses to read regular size print. Optelec products use a video camera that focuses on the printed page. The print is then enlarged and displayed on a monitor. People with macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, retinitis pigmentosa, and inoperable cataracts are all potential CCTV users. \$1800-\$3600.



Hearing Helpers at Integris, Oklahoma City

The Clarity MHA100 cell phone amplifier is available for loan. It is a mobile headset amplifier ideal for people with hearing loss as well as for people who use their cell phones in noisy environments. It combines a mobile phone headset/earbud with amplification for the hard of hearing and increases incoming sound up to 3x louder or 24 dB. It easily connects between your mobile phone and the headset. This amplifier works with most cellular and cordless phones with a standard 2.5mm headset jack. Most headset-ready phones are compatible with the unit. It has voice/sound activated operations, volume control, automatic on/off switch, and a belt clip. \$54.95



Oklahoma League for the Blind, Oklahoma City

The MonoMouse was recently loaned to an individual to try at home to decide if they would like to purchase one. The MonoMouse is an ergonomic, hand held black and white video magnifier that is designed to plug into a television set. Magnification is 22X on a 20" monitor or 15XS on a 14" monitor. It also provides a split screen view. Available for purchase from a variety of sources, approximately \$198.00



Mary K. Chapman Center for Communicative Disorders, University of Tulsa

The SpringBoard Plus is a communication device loaned in March to an individual to assist in educational and community living settings. It is an augmented communication device with five integrated versions of pre-stored vocabulary with a special emphasis on core words that power most speech. The Spanish/English version flips from languages using a single key. Prentke Romich, \$2375.



Total Source for Hearing Loss and Access, Tulsa

The TSHA loan program offers a variety of devices to assist with hearing loss. The Reizen RE 50 was recently loaned to an individual to try out at home. This amplified telephone features an adjustable amplifier that increases incoming volume up to 40dB. It is a speaker phone and is hearing aid t-coil compatible. Approximate cost: \$140.



AMBUCS ASK

The ASK Project in Norman refurbishes donated computers for adults and children with disabilities throughout Oklahoma. During October –December, the ASK program provided free computers to 98 Oklahomans with disabilities.

Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center, OKC and Tulsa

OATC locations provide AmTryke loans. An AmTryke is a therapeutic tricycle suitable for children approximately 2-8 years old. The unique tricycle is hand and/or foot powered. It improves motor coordination, increases self-esteem, and is fun to ride. toddler tryke \$289, regular tryke \$499.



Many students with disabilities and their families are frustrated because the students' disabilities interfere with their ability to access the curriculum, participate in learning activities, and demonstrate their knowledge and skills. Assistive technology can play a key role in helping students to participate and achieve in the educational environment, but there are still many barriers to overcome.



One of these barriers arises from things commonly found in the classroom: print-based instructional materials such as textbooks, supplemental readings, and worksheets. Lots of students have difficulties with print materials, and we're not just talking about those who are blind or have low-vision. A student with a physical disability such as cerebral palsy may not be able to manipulate the pages of a book. A student with a reading disability may have difficulty processing the print on a page. A student with attention deficit disorder may find it difficult to concentrate when confronted with dense passages of text. A student with an intellectual disability may find the vocabulary in the text beyond his level of comprehension.

Another barrier arises when teachers and administrators are not aware of the tools and strategies that facilitate access to learning or do not know how to get them or use them in the classroom. Although our state's Individualized Education Program (IEP) form requires explicit consideration of a student's assistive technology needs, too often the assembled members of that child's team are not aware that there are tools that can help students access instructional content and demonstrate their competence.

On the federal level, the release of the regulations for the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 brings with it some urgency in implementing the new **National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)**. This new provision, which went into effect on December 3, 2006, reminds schools of their obligations to ensure that print disabilities shouldn't be a barrier to accessing curricular content. It establishes a new mechanism to help schools get more timely access to instructional content in appropriate formats.

With sustained attention to these issues at the state and federal levels, we should begin to see some fundamental changes to curriculum access in our classrooms. Oklahoma ABLE Tech is committed to assisting students, families, and educators in this process. Please contact us if you would like to explore technology options, or if you would like to borrow some technology to try out at school or at home. Remember, there is absolutely no cost for access to devices for trial use through Oklahoma ABLE Tech, and sometimes a piece of hardware or software can make all the difference in the world!

by Linda Jaco, Oklahoma ABLE Tech Director and the Assistant Director of Sponsored Programs, OSU Seretean Wellness Center, Stillwater, OK

Statewide Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Training

Approximately 1,035 state agency and post secondary institution personnel attended the third annual Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility training event in Oklahoma City on March 13-14, 2007.

ABLE Tech partnered with the Department of Central Services to provide seven sessions addressing Oklahoma's EIT accessibility standards.

Jon Brundage, TecAccess Senior Accessibility Consultant, returned for a second year to provide the well-received training sessions.



Oklahoma ABLE Tech in partnership with BancFirst and the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) offers an Alternative Financing Program (AFP) for Oklahomans with disabilities. The AFP is a low interest and/or low interest guaranty bank loan that provides individuals with disabilities or those that have a dependent with a disability the opportunity to borrow money for the purchase of needed assistive technology.

Through this quarter, the number of AFP applications has doubled compared to last year's second quarter loans. The majority of the loans have been for the purchase of hearing aids and modified vehicles. The increase in numbers can be attributed to outreach and program reputation but also indicates that the program meets a funding need for individuals to purchase certain types of assistive technologies where funding resources are unavailable. To learn more about this program, please visit the "Financing Activities" link on our website at <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> or call us at 1-888-885-5588.



The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange is a Free program to help Oklahomans with disabilities acquire affordable, used equipment. Log on to the Equipment Exchange website to see what is available or to list your sale items. If you don't have computer access, you can call ABLE Tech to list your devices or inquire about a product. **Call us at 1-888-885-5588. Below is a list of items currently for sale or FREE on <http://oec.okstate.edu>!**

Daily Living

bath or shower bench, free
choice switch interface, free
clip on vegetable peeler, free
desk microphone stand, free
GE trimline telephone, free
oxygen cart with wheels, free
oxygen concentrators, free
walker, free
hospital bed, free
continuous positive airway pressure (cpap) machine
bedside commode
delmar stress test and treadmill
new disposable briefs
electric air mattress system for twin bed
electric seat lift device
new flotation mattress and pump
invacare electric hospital bed with mattress and rails
pulse dose portable oxygen system with tank
transfer shower chair
tub chair
underpads

Environmental Adaptations

remote environmental control from Tash, free
jumbo remote, free
automatic door openers
bathmaster 2000 bath tub lift
hospital bed sunrise medical electric twin
cardio stress tester, Quinton 4000
rail with folding leg attaches to wall for assistance in getting up from seated position.

Computer Related

inkjet 'stylewriter ii' printer for mac, apple, older desktop model. uses bc-02 cartridges, free
VXI Parrott voice recognition headset with switch, free

Other

microphone with clamp-on stand adapter, free
portable overhead projector, free

Mobility, Seating & Positioning

4 wheeled walker, cruiser deluxe with seat
electric wheel chair, Quickie v-521
Golden companion II scooter, four wheels
jazzy power chair from Pride Mobility
manual wheelchair
pediatric electric wheelchair - Permobil Koala
portable transfer aid
Quantum 600 electric rehab wheelchair
scooter chair, Guardian S5
vertical home lift, from Mac's liftgate inc.
walker
Quickie s-525 power wheelchair
Pronto m-50 m51 electric wheelchair
wheelchair from Invacare
electric wheelchair, Jazzy 1100 (2)
electric Merits P3201 wheelchair
Jet1 power chair

Learning, Cognitive, & Developmental

Wynn Software from Freedom Scientific, literacy software tool, free

Vehicle Modification and Transportation

hand controls for vehicle
portable ramp for van
scooter lift for auto (2)
wheelchair-scooter lift for pick up
wheelchair-scooter lift for vehicle, (7 listed)

Recreation, Sports and Leisure

drumming bunny toy, free
jumpy crab toy, free
mickey mouse toy, free

Devices Needed

child wheelchair for a 3 year old CP child
loading ramp for Suburban vehicle

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

AA-5-13370

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Seretean Wellness Center
REAL SOLUTIONS FOR REAL PEOPLE



Resources and Events

ABLE Tech Online Resources

- Oklahoma ABLE Tech; <http://okabletech.okstate.edu>
- AT Equipment Exchange Program; <http://oec.okstate.edu>
- State Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility; www.accessibility.ok.gov
- AgrAbility; <http://agrability.okstate.edu/>
- Fire Safety; http://www.ok.gov/abletech/Fire_Safety

January-April: ABLE Tech provides SoonerStart AT Training in various locations throughout the state.

April 20: Family Matters Conference - Helping Children Face the Future. Moore/Norman Technology Center, Oklahoma City. For more information call 918-696-7292.

April 20, 23: The Oklahoma State Department of Education Special Education Services Division will hold IDEA 2004 Public Comment Meetings in Oklahoma City on April 23 at 6:30 p.m. at the Metro Tech Center and in Tulsa on April 20 at 6:30 p.m. at the Tulsa Tech Center, Riverside Campus.

May 8-10: OK Conference on Aging. Reed Center, Midwest City. ABLE Tech presenting: "Do you see what I see? Assistive technology for vision loss".

June 7-8; 11-15: Autism Summer Symposium 2007. Moore Public Schools, Central Elementary. Provides an opportunity for teachers and other service providers to gain first hand knowledge about autism from kids and families. Call 405-271-6824 ext. 45143.

June 7-10: 8th Annual UCO Endeavor Games for Athletes with Physical Disabilities. Call 405-974-3151.

June 25-27: ABLE Tech will present at the 2nd Annual Oklahoma Transition Institute sponsored by the State Department of Education; Norman High School. Call 521-4869.

Visit the next Oklahoma ABLE Tech Open House!

Date: May 17, 2007

Time: 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: OSU Seretean Wellness Center Lecture Hall, Stillwater

Featuring: New Devices for Hearing