

Oklahoma's  
Assistive Technology Act  
Program  
800-257-1705V/TDD

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

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## Successful Financing Program Helps Oklahomans Purchase Assistive Technology

Oklahoma ABLE Tech's vision is to "Get AT in the hands of Oklahomans with disabilities". We accomplish this through many programs and services including our 4 state-level activities:

- Device Demonstration
- Device Short-term Loan
- Device Reutilization Program
- State Financing Activities

The Alternative Financing Program (AFP) is structured within the state financing activities. The AFP is a low interest and/or 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 assistive technology. Oklahoma ABLE Tech in partnership with BancFirst of Stillwater and the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation offers the Alternative Financing Program. The Access to Telework Fund Program (ATF) is a similar low interest bank loan program. The purpose of the ATF program is to increase access to and funding of computers and other equipment, including adaptive equipment so that Oklahomans with disabilities can telework.

Nearly every American uses technology to make life easier. For someone with a disability, however, technology is more than a luxury...it is an essential tool for independence. The Alternative Financing Program is designed to help meet the funding needs of individuals with disabilities by offering a low interest bank loan with flexible underwriting guidelines and extended terms. The AFP terms for unsecured loans on items such as hearing aids, wheelchairs, adapted computers, hospital beds, and lift equipment is a fixed interest rate of 5% and a maximum term of 3 years. Terms for secured loans on items such as modified vehicles, home modifications, or guaranteed loans are 5% with a maximum loan of 5 years. AFP applicants that are denied the low interest BancFirst of Stillwater loan can seek a guaranty of the loan through the Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT). Under established policies and procedures, OkAT a non-profit organization, can guaranty the loan of qualified applicants.

During the AFP's first year in 2001, ABLE Tech staff worked with one BancFirst loan officer to close the first 20 loans. In 2006, the AFP helped 56 individuals obtain low interest loans, and in the first nine months of 2007, 66 loans have already closed. The program has grown exceptionally; therefore, BancFirst added two more staff members to manage the AFP. Sandy Stuart is the contact person at BancFirst serving AFP customers. Debbie Thomas and Casey Brown are the loan officers managing the AFP applications. Having two loan officers and Sandy as a point person allows BancFirst to provide true quality customer service. Ms. Stuart

facilitates communication with the customer and indicates the experience is very positive for both clients and the bank. "We have a great program with a fast turn around," said Casey Brown, "the bottom line is that we're doing a positive thing and we're making things affordable."

Shelby Sanders joined Oklahoma ABLE Tech in August 2006 as the Loan Coordinator. She speaks with potential AFP clients about the low interest bank loan program and other funding options that may be available for the needed assistive technology. She also manages the applications for the guaranteed low interest loan program. AFP staff members are ready to help with the purchase of any type of special equipment or technology. Please call BancFirst of Stillwater at 1-800-446-9401 or Oklahoma ABLE Tech at 1-888-885-5588.

*Pictured left to right: Casey Brown, Debbie Thomas, Sandy Stuart, and Shelby Sanders*



## 2007 Oklahoma Legislation Supports ABLE Tech Programs



We are very pleased to announce that the 2007 Oklahoma Legislature appropriated state dollars to Oklahoma ABLE Tech. The money is a pass through appropriation to the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, which in turn provides the money to Oklahoma ABLE Tech through an agreed upon contractual arrangement. This funding will help to offset federal cuts and will make it possible for Oklahoma ABLE Tech to maintain the assistive technology services that have been established in Oklahoma. The need for AT can only be expected to increase as our population ages and demands to be productive and independent. This investment by the State will help to ensure the rapid advances in technology are not leaving hundreds of Oklahomans with disabilities behind as they experience the effects of disabilities at work, school, home and in their community. In addition to receiving state appropriations, several disability-related bills made it successfully through the legislative process and have been signed into law by Governor Henry. In particular, three of these bills have direct impact on the work that Oklahoma ABLE Tech does.

**AgrAbility HB-1695** Authored by: Enns (H); Anderson (S) Creates the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project Act. Provides that subject to availability of funds, the Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service shall provide, through the existing AgrAbility Program and contracts with other entities, assistance to persons with disabilities in farming or other agriculture-related businesses. The bill states that the Oklahoma AgrAbility Project Fund may be created at some future time as funds become available for project activities.

**Office of Handicapped Concerns HB-1084** Authored by: Wesselhoft (H); Wilcoxson (S) Renames the Office of Handicapped Concerns to the Office of Disability Concerns. Also extends the end date for the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Advisory Council from 2007 to July 1, 2008.

**Developmental disabilities: Olmstead planning HB-1933** Authored by: Steele (H); Constance Johnson (S) Extends the end date for the Olmstead Strategic Planning Committee from a 2007 date to a 2010 date. Adds an additional duty for the Committee, "to monitor and assist with the implementation of the plan." Another added duty is to examine the feasibility of expanding eligibility for DDSD waiver services to include people with disabilities who are not eligible for help through the Advantage Waiver or who are at risk for out-of-home placements. Establishes that the Oklahoma Health Care Authority shall develop and implement, no later than December 31, 2010, a durable medical equipment retrieval program. Annual reports from the Committee are required each July through 2010.

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

## Smoke Alarm Program is Making Oklahomans Safer

"Fire Safety Solutions for People with Disabilities," is designed to distribute and install free smoke alarms, as well as provide Fire Safety messages to Oklahomans with disabilities. Fire Protection Publications and Oklahoma ABLE Tech, both at Oklahoma State University, have created a partnership to provide specific fire safety messages to people who are deaf, hard of hearing, blind/low vision, or mobility impaired. This program will also serve as an important example to other states so they have a model to establish their own smoke alarm distribution program for people with disabilities.

The program has installed specialized smoke alarms in 431 homes across Oklahoma. Specifically, we have installed the alarm for people with hearing impairments in 353 homes, meaning those people are now alerted when the smoke alarm is activated and can respond accordingly. A good way to measure the success of our fire safety program is by counting homes without smoke alarms altogether or without working smoke alarms. These numbers are significant because many people are injured or killed in home fire due to a lack of smoke alarms that would alert them to such a fire.

The homes we have visited are no different than the national trends. Consider the following facts about the homes we have visited:

- 27% of the homes had no smoke alarms
- 18% of the homes had no working smoke alarms. At each home, we test all the alarms and replace batteries.
- 29% of the homes had smoke alarms that were 10 years or older. Smoke alarms must be replaced every 10 years.

These numbers show how this program is making Oklahomans safer, and we know that six families have been saved due to the specialized alarm alerting them to a fire. Visit <http://okabletech.okstate.edu> (Select "Fire Safety") for a smoke alarm application or for more information about the program. Or call 1-888-885-5588 toll free.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, in partnership with 6 locations, operates an assistive technology (AT) device demonstration and short-term loan program to increase accessibility and utilization of AT. The program is available to Oklahoma residents with disabilities, their family members, and the professionals that support them. The following success stories highlight positive results for Oklahomans. Our equipment inventory includes a wide range of AT for: communication, computer access, hearing, vision, daily living, environmental adaptations, learning/development, health, safety and recreation. 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. ABLE Tech staff provides guidance on funding resources for AT equipment. Visit our website <http://okabletech.okstate.edu/>.

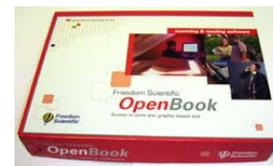
### Oklahoma ABLE Tech Program, Stillwater

ABLE Tech recently assisted a family from Tulsa County. The parents of a two and half year old son with spinal muscular atrophy requested a short term loan of the SmartNav3 hands free mouse for computer access. The SmartNav hands free mouse enabled him to control the computer by moving only his finger. SmartNav can also be used by moving your head less than an inch. By using the SmartNav, he is able to fully navigate a computer by himself instead of having others set up games for him.



### Visual Services of the Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma City

An individual with low vision from Lincoln County received AT assistance from the Visual Services Center to improve job related functions. She needed equipment and software that would be accessible to her disability and would provide a better way to organize and track inventory, create and submit reports, and track sales. VS staff demonstrated a CCTV, a scanner, and a computer with various software: Jaws, Zoomtext, and Openbook. She was able to borrow the equipment through a short-term loan to determine if the AT would meet her needs. The AT helped her accomplish her goals and increase the speed of customer service. OpenBook software allows her to scan her inventory and data sheets into the computer in a text format, and then use a Freedom Box to easily edit, read, and submit her paperwork electronically.



### Hearing Loss Association of Oklahoma City, Integris Third Age Life Center

A 63 year old individual from Oklahoma City with hearing loss visited the HLA Hearing Helper Room to find out more about daily living devices. She wanted to find a better morning alarm clock method and borrowed the Shake Awake vibrating alarm clock. She previously wore her hearing aids at night so that she could hear the regular alarm clock, but this was uncomfortable. Placing the Shake Awake vibrating alarm clock under her pillow worked very well. She was grateful for the new idea of using the vibrating alarm clock.



### Oklahoma League for the Blind, Oklahoma City

The AT demo and loan program at OLB provided a way for a 42 year old individual from Oklahoma City to learn more about and try a variety of low tech devices for the blind. Trying the devices enabled the consumer to gain a better understanding of AT and its features. Borrowing AT allowed her to try the devices at home thus increasing her knowledge and giving her more confidence and independence.



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

Due to a stroke, a 63 year old individual from Tulsa County became non-verbal. Living at home with family, he was unable to consistently communicate with family members and needed a way to communicate in case of an emergency. The family visited the Mary K. Chapman Center to see demonstrations of communication devices with voice output. With limited finances, having the ability to try out a device at home was important in determining an appropriate device. He borrowed the SuperTalker and was successful in using the device; however, at the end of the loan period, he and the family determined that his interest in the SuperTalker was limited and found that it would be more appropriate for him to use a low-tech communication book. Without the loan experience, the family may have spent a large amount of their limited funds to purchase a device that would not have been used.



### Total Source for Hearing Loss and Access, Tulsa

An individual in her late 40s from Tulsa County borrowed one of the CapTel phones available at the TSHA Assistive Technology Center. She tried the phone at TSHA and loved it. She then took it home for further testing. At the end of the loan period she applied to the DRS Equipment Program and received her own phone. She was hired by an agency in Tulsa doing office work which required phone use, so she returned to the TSHA AT center to borrow another CapTel phone to try at work. The company decided it worked well for her and purchased a phone. Borrowing this device enhanced her daily life and promoted continued independence by allowing her to continue to use the telephone at home and as a job site accommodation.



### Oklahoma Assistive Technology Center, OKC and Tulsa

An individual with a 2 year-old granddaughter borrowed an Amtryke to use during a recent “Walk for the Cure” event. She reported that her granddaughter was very successful using the tryke and the adult handle was great for the grandmother to use when the little one got too tired to peddle. 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.





## AgrAbility Adds Additional Staff

Oklahoma AgrAbility would like to welcome Gwen Doshier as its newest full time staff member. Gwen recently graduated from Oklahoma City Community College as an Occupational Therapy Assistant, and has accepted the position as Oklahoma's AgrAbility Program Assistant. Her duties include: direct assistance networking, peer support advisor, and educator. Gwen will give direct assistance to farmers by making farm visits and giving recommendations on how to overcome barriers. She will network with other agencies concerning farming health issues. As the advisor for the Peer Support Group (farmers with disabilities who give support to other farmers with newly acquired injuries), she will be responsible for resources to keep the group informed and trained, and keep them connected with other farmers as they need support. As an educator she will give demonstrations to farm groups concerning the obstacles and solutions involved in farming with disabilities. Gwen stated, "I'm very excited to have the opportunity to work with Oklahoma's AgrAbility Project and happy to be involved with Oklahoma farmers/ranchers."



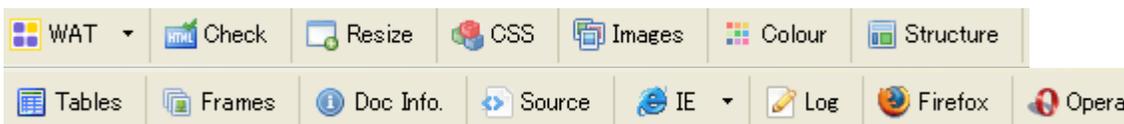
## SERC Training News

Jo Anne Pool, Program Manager of the Oklahoma Special Education Resolution Center and Andrea Braeutigam, Program Manager of the Institute for Dispute Resolution at Oklahoma State University, will present training sessions on good meeting management and facilitation skills during the Summer IEP Institutes this July. The IEP Institutes are sponsored by the State Department of Education, Special Education Services and are offered in five regions of the state. The training is attended by Oklahoma special education teachers and provides information related to Individualized Education Plans (IEPs), which are developed to help meet the educational needs of students with disabilities. The goal of the two-day training is to assist teachers in developing effective, appropriate, and compliant IEPs.

On November 13, 2007, Art Cernosia, a 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 were so impressed last year 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.

SERC hearing officers will attend the National Association of Hearing Officials Conference on November 4-7 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Visit <http://serc.okstate.edu> for more information.

## Web Accessibility Toolbar for Internet Explorer Now Available



The **Web Accessibility Toolbar (For IE), Version 2.0 Beta** has been developed to aid manual examination of web pages for a variety of aspects of accessibility. It consists of a range of functions that:

- identify components of a web page
- provide access to alternate views of page content
- facilitate the use of 3rd party online applications

The WAT toolbar is freeware and is provided by the Web Accessibility Tools Consortium and can be downloaded at <http://www.paciellogroup.com/resources/wat-ie-about.html>.



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**

Healthdyne Tranquility plus CPAP  
 Choice switch interface, free  
 Clip on vegetable peeler  
 Bedside commode, free  
 Commode-Super Deluxe bariatric  
 Portable oxygen system  
 Desk microphone stand  
 Orthomatic adjustable electric king bed with mattress  
 Flotation twin mattress with pump.  
 GE Trimline telephone, free  
 Hill Rom 850 commercial hospital bed  
 Invacare Electric hospital bed  
 Mattress-electric air mattress system for twin bed  
 Oxygen cart with wheels, Free  
 Tub chair  
 Invacare tub & shower chair  
 Walker, Free  
 SenTech Stage IV 3000 mattress  
 nebulizer, free  
 trapeze for hospital bed

### **Environmental Adaptations**

Power Access 4300 commercial automatic door opener  
 Electric twin hospital bed  
 BathMaster 2000 bathtub lift  
 Quinton 4000 stress tester  
 Rail with folding leg

### **Computer Related**

Parrott Voice Recognition Headset with switch, free

### **Vehicle Modification and Transportation**

1997 Chevy Full Size Van with Ricon Lift  
 Portable Hand controls for Vehicle  
 Lift-Rack-N-Roll electric lift for 3 or 4 wheel scooters  
 Scooter lifts for auto  
 Van-2000 Ford Econoline E-150 with Ricon Lift  
 Wheelchair-Scooter Lift for Pickup Truck  
 Wheelchair-Scooter Lifts for Vehicle

### **Other**

Microphone with clamp-on stand adapter, Free  
 Overhead Projector, Free

### **Mobility, Seating & Positioning**

Tumbleform small adult Carrie seat rover, free  
 Folding power chair  
 Full body large mesh sling  
 Electric hospital bed  
 Electric hospital bed - Free  
 Invacare hydraulic lift - In-home lifting system  
 Jazzy 1103 power chair  
 Jazzy 1107 power chair  
 Vertical home lift  
 Manual wheelchair  
 Mattress-Demafloat low air loss bed cushion  
 Offset trapeze bar-octagon tube  
 Jazzy Power Chair (2)  
 Invacare power wheelchair  
 Quickie S-525 power wheelchair  
 Powerchair- permobil C-300  
 Roll-In shower chair, Free  
 Scooter - Electric (Shoprider)  
 Swivel clamp & bracket, Invacare  
 Walker  
 Walker for child, Kaye Products  
 Wheelchair, Invacare  
 Wheelchair - Electric Merits P3201  
 Wheelchair - manual transport  
 Electric Jazzy 1100 wheelchair  
 Wheelchair - pediatric electric, Permobil Koala  
 Wheelchair Recliner -Tracer  
 Quickie electric wheelchair  
 Wheelchair-electric Hoveround  
 Wheelchair, manual  
 Wheelchair-Quantum 600 electric rehab  
 Wheelchair-tilt recline  
 Jet 1 power chair  
 Tilt n Space shower chair

### **Vision**

PDI Smart TV –color magnifier for low vision  
 Traveller portable magnifier CCTV

### **Devices Needed**

Fully electric hospital bed in good condition  
 Large manual wheelchair  
 Power wheelchair  
 Loading ramp, to load and un-load wheelchair for a 1988 Suburban vehicle.

# Oklahoma ABLE Tech

AA-5-13370

**Robin Purdie**, Director OSU  
Seretean Wellness Center

## Oklahoma ABLE Tech

**Linda Jaco**, Program Director  
and Assistant Director of  
Sponsored Programs, OSU  
Seretean Wellness Center

**Milissa Gofourth**, Program  
Manager

**Diana Sargent**, Senior  
Administration Support  
Specialist

**Shelby Sanders**, AFP Loan  
Coordinator

**Brenda Dawes**, AT Program  
Specialist and Web Coordinator

**Sherril York**, Training/Outreach  
Specialist

**Carla Wilhite**, AgrAbility  
Program Specialist

**Gwen Doshier**, AgrAbility  
Program Assistant

**Lacy Landrum**, Fire Safety  
Program Coordinator

**Jo Anne Pool**, SERC Program  
Manager

**Shannon Esmeyer**, SERC  
Administrative Assistant



## Resources and Events

- **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](http://www.accessibility.ok.gov)
- **AgrAbility**; <http://agrability.okstate.edu/>
- **Fire Safety**; [http://www.ok.gov/abletech/Fire\\_Safety](http://www.ok.gov/abletech/Fire_Safety)
- **2-1-1** is an easy to remember telephone number that connects people with important community services and volunteer opportunities. 2-1-1 provides callers with information about and referrals to human services for every day needs and in times of crisis. <http://www.211oklahoma.org/>
- **OK- First** Emergency Preparation Training, Products, & Information <http://okfirst.ocs.ou.edu/>
- **Joint** Oklahoma Information Network Services and Resources for Oklahoma <http://www.join.ok.gov/>
- **IDEAS** Information on Disability for Empowerment, Advocacy, and Support: general national and state resources <http://www.katrinadisability.info/oklahoma.html>
- **July 18 OSDH Long Term Care Training**, Tulsa. ABLE Tech presentation: Simple Solutions to Increase Independence for Everyday Living
- **July 19 National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns Annual Conference**, OKC. ABLE Tech presentation: Getting to the Core of state Assistive Technology Programs: How to Put Technology into the Hands of Individuals with Disabilities.
- **July 25 Oklahoma ABLE Tech Advisory Council Meeting**, OKC
- **August 30 Encyclomedia**, ABLE Tech presentation: Got Access? Exploring Accessibility Options in Windows XP and Vista
- **Sept. 12 OSDH Developmental Disabilities Training**, OKC. ABLE Tech presentation: Simple Solutions to Increase Independence for Everyday Living
- **Sept. 21 Neural Perspectives Conference**, ABLE Tech presentation: Traumatic Brain Injury and Assistive Technology
- **Oct. 11 OSDH Long Term Care Training**, OKC. ABLE Tech presentation: Simple Solutions to Increase Independence for Everyday Living
- **September 28-30 Oklahoma Council of the Blind Convention**, OKC
- **October 31 OKC Mayor's Committee on Disability Concerns** awards luncheon, Clarion Meridian Convention Center. The Mayor's committee is seeking nominations for awards to outstanding metro area citizens with disabilities and leaders in promoting people with disabilities. A new award, "Clearing the Path Award", will be new this year and presented along with other awards to individuals, employers, organizations and the media for contributions to the employment and social advancement of persons with disabilities. [http://www.okc.gov/news/2007\\_06/disability\\_awards.html](http://www.okc.gov/news/2007_06/disability_awards.html).

## We're On the Web!

<http://okabletech.okstate.edu>

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