

Oklahoma ABLE Tech Hosts Legislative Visit

Congressman Tom Cole (Oklahoma - 4th District) toured several Oklahoma ABLE Tech programs while in Oklahoma this month. Linda Jaco, Director of Sponsored Programs in the Department of Wellness at Oklahoma State University took Representative Cole to NewView Oklahoma, the Hearing Loss Association, and the Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program in Oklahoma City. These programs provide services to Oklahomans with disabilities to increase independence and opportunity in community, educational, and employment settings.

NewView Oklahoma and the Hearing Loss Association both manage the ABLE Tech assistive technology centers allowing individuals to learn more about AT devices and services through demonstration and short-term loan programs. ABLE Tech collaborates with multiple locations and purchases assistive technology for partnering centers to better serve Oklahomans. The AT demonstration and loan programs allow individuals an opportunity to compare features of AT and to borrow AT for six weeks in order to try out at home, school, on the job, or in the community.

The Oklahoma Durable Medical Equipment Reuse Program (OKDMERP) is a new program made possible through a partnership with Oklahoma ABLE Tech and the Oklahoma Health Care Authority. Oklahoma is one of only three states that manages a system to re-distribute Medicaid purchased DME. This program allows Oklahomans to obtain slightly used DME free of charge through donations. OKDMERP retrieves donated items, sanitizes and refurbishes the equipment to its original working condition, and then redistributes it to local residents. While SoonerCare members have priority, all Oklahomans with disabilities and/or health conditions are eligible to participate in the program regardless of age or income. Katie Woodward, Program Manager of OKDMERP said, "This program allows people, regardless of their income, age, or disability, to gain independence. Since the program began OKDMERP has reassigned 101 devices, and these donations have made a marked difference in the lives of Oklahomans."

Program inventory will change based on donations but should include a range of devices to meet a variety of needs. Devices that can be donated will include: communication devices, CPAPs, gait trainers, nebulizers, quad canes, shower chairs, walkers, bath benches, commodes, patient lifts, standers, hospital beds, wheelchairs, and scooters. If you are interested in donating an item or you are looking for equipment, please contact Katie Woodward at 405-523-4810 or by email at katie.woodward@okstate.edu.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech is Oklahoma's Assistive Technology Act Program and one of 24 sponsored programs administered through OSU Student Affairs, Department of Wellness. Oklahoma ABLE Tech, funded by the US Department of Education, Rehabilitation Services Administration, has been serving Oklahomans with disabilities for over 17 years. The hope is through these and other ABLE Tech partnerships throughout the state, Oklahomans will gain increased access to assistive technology and used DME thereby helping persons with disabilities or chronic health conditions to learn, work, and live more independently.



(L to R) Nancy Landrum, HLA Director; Josh Grogis, Field Representative to Rep. Cole; Rep. Tom Cole; and Linda Jaco, Director of Sponsored Programs

Family Information Guide to Assistive Technology and Transition Planning

The Family Center on Technology and Disability has published the Family Information Guide to Assistive Technology and Transition Planning in both English and Spanish. The guide includes an overview of transition planning and assistive technology, guidance on how to make a successful transition with assistive technology, information on laws governing accommodations and transition, and a glossary. The guide is available at http://www.fctd.info/show/fig_summary.

Special Rate Financing Program Offered to Oklahomans

Need assistance purchasing a piece of assistive technology (AT) or equipment? Or even need a home modification to make your home or office more accessible? Oklahoma ABLE Tech provides a Special Finance Low Interest Bank Loan for Oklahomans with Disabilities to gain access to purchasing such needed equipment or AT.

Oklahoma ABLE Tech, in conjunction with Oklahoma Assistive Technology Foundation (OkAT) and BancFirst, offers two Alternative Special Rate Financing Programs for those in need of purchasing AT. The two programs are the AFP (Alternative Financing Program) and the ATF (Access to Telework Fund) Program.

The purpose of the Alternative Financing Program is designed to allow a person to borrow funds to purchase assistive technology, such as hearing aids, home modifications, lift equipment, medical devices, or communication devices.

The purpose of the Access to Telework Fund Program is to reduce or eliminate barriers to employment experienced by individuals with disabilities. Telework would apply to individuals with a disability who are currently unemployed, underemployed, self-employed or needing to maintain employment. Under this program, borrowers can purchase items related to their specific employment goals, such as: specialized software, computers, hearing aids, office equipment, home modifications,

or specific equipment related to disability and business goals, such as modified farm machinery, custom engraving and printing equipment, to name a few.

For both programs, the application process is relatively easy. It begins with contacting Oklahoma ABLE Tech. We will guide you through the process, including the BancFirst application. The loan terms include a 6 percent interest rate, up to 60 months, and minimal closing documentation fees. If the applicant cannot secure the loan alone with BancFirst, they can seek a guaranty of the loan through OkAT. OkAT, a non-profit organization, can guaranty the loan of qualified persons with the criteria of 1) no more than 50 percent debt to income ratio; 2) person is actively working to correct any adverse credit problems; 3) person has the current capacity to repay the loan as scheduled.

For more information on our Special Rate Financing Program, contact us today at:

Oklahoma ABLE Tech
c/o OkAT
905 S. Main
Stillwater, OK 74074
Toll Free Line: 888-885-5588
email: shelley.gladden@okstate.edu
www.okatfoundation.org
www.okabletech.okstate.edu

Oklahoma AT Center Locations

Oklahoma ABLE Tech and partners operate assistive technology (AT) device demonstration and short-term loan programs to increase accessibility to AT. The assistive technology inventory is available and searchable online at <http://oec.okstate.edu/loan/>. Oklahoma ABLE Tech allows individuals to borrow devices for six weeks at no cost.

**The Visual Services Center
& Low Vision Clinic**
"Opening Doors to Opportunity" The Oklahoma
**DRS Department of
Rehabilitation
Services**
Oklahoma City
405-522-3442

 **Hearing Loss
Association**
of Oklahoma City
405-717-9820


THE
UNIVERSITY
of TULSA

Mary K. Chapman Center for
Communicative Disorders
918-631-2913



Stillwater, OK
800-257-1705

Opening Doors to Opportunity

IDRS
Oklahoma Department
of Rehabilitation Services

Oklahoma City
405-951-3400



Total Source for Hearing
Loss & Access,
Tulsa 918-832-8742


newview
OKLAHOMA
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU CAN SEE IT'S WHAT YOU CAN BE

Oklahoma City
405-232-4644

Search the inventory of
1900 devices:
<http://oec.okstate.edu/loan>



DEPARTMENT OF
Communication Sciences
and Disorders



Lightwriter® SL40 Connect

Communicate efficiently and effectively either through face to face communication, SMS texting, or make mobile phone calls from this small compact device at home or when you are out and about.

The SL40 Connect will also allow the user to back up and restore all settings, words and phrases and transfer notes to and from the device to a PC using a memory stick.

- user-friendly, intuitive interface - easy to use functions
- out-facing daylight readable display - encourages conversational interaction in all settings
- Natural Selection Prediction - enables faster communication
- mobile phone capabilities – use the voice synthesiser to make phone calls and use SMS to send text messages
- backup, transfer & restore - the ability to transfer text documents, backup and restore personalized words and phrases to and from a PC using a memory stick
- trainable infrared control - extending the world of AAC to control basic IR controlled devices in the home
- adjustable keyboard - suitable for a wide range of users
- choice of high quality Acapela voices - US English or US Spanish.



For more information, for a demonstration or to borrow the Lightwriter for 6 weeks, please call Oklahoma ABLE Tech at 1-800-257-1705.

Success! Assistive Technology and My Story

The assistive technology program at the University of Tulsa's Speech Pathology Department provided a Tulsa man the proper resources to obtain the Tobii, a multi-function eye controlled communication device.

He was diagnosed with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and was able to work with Dr. Sandra Wright, assistant professor in speech-language pathology at UT, while in ICU to overcome barriers—such as lack of knowledge about assistive technology and shortage of funds—to assist him with augmentative communication.

“Obtaining the Tobii device allowed me to regain my ability to communicate, as speech had been difficult or impossible for many months,” said the Tulsa resident. “The importance of this cannot be overstated.”

Wright worked one-on-one with him to help troubleshoot technical issues, learn to use the system and use more of the programs included with the device.

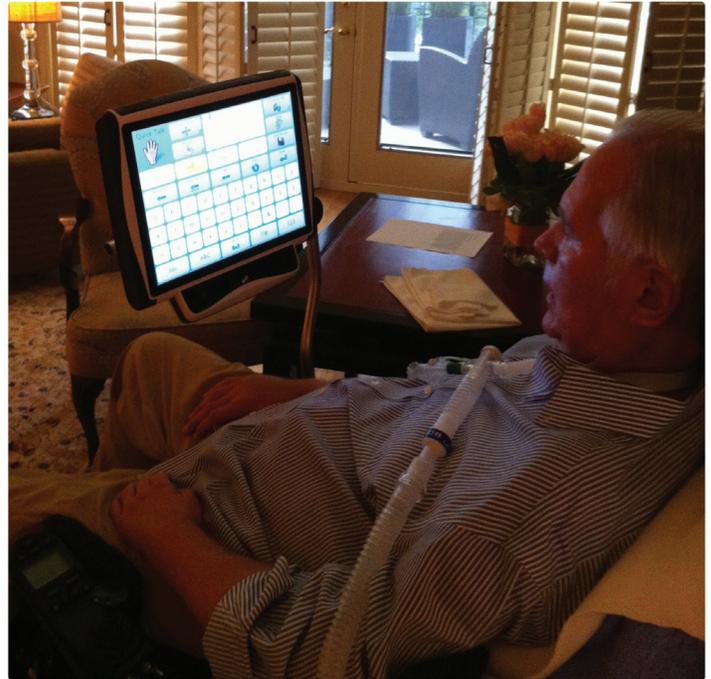
“Acquiring and implementing this device would have been impossible without the ongoing support of the TU program and Dr. Wright herself. It improved my physical and emotional well being in spite of this devastating disease,” he said.

“I have described the contribution of Dr. Wright's program and the eye controlled speech technology as 'life changing.' Given the extreme losses that accompany this disease, regaining the ability to communicate is an immense addition to one's quality of life.”

ALS is a disease of the nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary muscle movement. ALS is also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. It affects approximately 5 out of every 100,000 people worldwide.

For more information, contact:
University of Tulsa
Center for Communicative Disorders
2820 E 5th Street
Tulsa, OK 74104
918-631-2913

For more information about the Tobii eye controlled communication device, visit www.tobii.com.



Tulsa resident using his Tobii multi-function eye controlled communication device, provided by Oklahoma ABLE Tech.



ABLE Tech Welcomes New Staff

Oklahoma ABLE Tech recently welcomed Tierra Eller as the marketing coordinator. Eller has been in marketing and communications for six years. She worked in Oklahoma State University's Cooperative Extension as a communications specialist for nearly four years. She graduated from OSU in 2006 with a bachelor's degree in agricultural communications. Eller resides in the Stillwater area with her husband, Kyle; 4-year-old daughter, Kinley; and 2-month-old son, Trigg.



The Oklahoma Equipment Exchange is a free program to help Oklahomans with disabilities acquire affordable equipment. Log onto the Equipment Exchange website, <http://oec.okstate.edu>, or call ABLE Tech to list your devices or inquire about products at 888.885.5588. Below is a list of items currently for sale or FREE.

Available Devices

<i>Category</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>Item Description</i>	<i>Asking Price</i>
Daily Living	Payne	Cane (Red Tip)	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Child's Forearm Crutches	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Compact Y Pump Set	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Compression Pantyhose	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	CPAP Machine Remstar M Series	\$100
Daily Living	Payne	Diabetic Supplies	FREE
Daily Living	Oklahoma	Diapers (Adult Attends)	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Easy Feed Enteral Nutrition Bag	FREE
Daily Living	Kay	Hospital Bed	\$300
Daily Living	Kay	Hydraulic Lift & Mesh Sling	\$600
Daily Living	Oklahoma	Incontinence Pads - Male Guards	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Invacare Exercise Pulley Set	FREE
Daily Living	Oklahoma	Jetta Soaking Tub 6 ft	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Kendall T.E.D. Anti-Embolism Stockings	FREE
Daily Living	Kay	Mattress Demafloat low air loss bed cushion	\$1,000
Daily Living	Payne	Neoprene/Elastic Back Support	FREE
Daily Living	Kay	Offset Trapeze Bar & Swivel Clamp Bracket	\$234
Daily Living	Payne	Orthofix Spinal Growth Stimulator	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Sock N Stocking Aid	FREE
Daily Living	Payne	Swivel Feather Razor	FREE
Mobility Related	Cleveland	Electric Scooter (2009 Bruno Typhoon)	\$550
Mobility Related	Payne	Power Wheelchair (Child)	\$600
Mobility Related	Cleveland	Easy Stand Evolv Youth Stander	\$1,900
Mobility Related	Tulsa	Electric Wheelchair	\$500
Mobility Related	Oklahoma	Electric Wheelchair	\$500
Mobility Related	Oklahoma	Hoyer Patient Lift	\$500
Mobility Related	Oklahoma	Jazzy Power Chair	\$200
Mobility Related	Creek	Allure Power Chair	\$400
Mobility Related	Creek	Jazzy Power Chair	\$400
Mobility Related	Rogers	Toilet-Shower Seat (Child)	\$500
Mobility Related	Oklahoma	Walker (Foldable)	\$30
Mobility Related	Kay	Wheelchair Recliner	\$400
Mobility Related	Kay	Wheelchair (Tilt/Recline)	\$500
Learning Related	Payne	Neo Portable Communication Device (3)	FREE
Vehicle and Related	Oklahoma	Hand Controls for Vehicle (portable)	\$400
Vehicle and Related	Oklahoma	Van with Lift 2009 Dodge GrandCaravan	\$50,000
Vehicle and Related	Oklahoma	Van with Lift 2005 Vision Conversion Van	\$23,000
Vehicle and Related	Oklahoma	Wheelchair Lift for Van	\$500
Vehicle and Related	Rogers	Wheelchair lift- swingout only	\$100
Vehicle and Related	Siloam Springs, AR	Van with Lift 1995 Ford Club	\$4,000
Vision	Payne	GPS Trekker Pro for Visually Impaired	FREE
Vision	Raleigh, NC	Magnifier, SARA CE	\$600
Vision	Springdale, AR	CCTV Magnifier (Black & White)	\$900
Vision	Springdale, AR	CCTV Magnifier (Color)	\$1,000

Oklahoma ABLÉ Tech AIM Tip of the Month



By Kimberly Berry

Through a cooperative effort with Liberty Braille, Oklahoma ABLÉ Tech has helped to introduce digital text and iPads to more than 60 Oklahoma K-12 students with visual impairment. The Read2Go app lets you enlarge the font, change colors and have the text read aloud. The iPad can also be paired with a refreshable braille display giving students the opportunity to continue improving their braille literacy.

For many students using large print or braille books, accessing digital text on an iPad has been life-changing. Here's what one teacher had to say: "Thanks so much! You have no idea how the iPads have changed the lives of these

students! I wish you could see the smiles I have seen when I give them an iPad, because they KNOW what they can do with it! You know the 'stigma' of packing large print or Braille books around! NOW these kids are envied because THEY have the latest technology... It is awesome!!!" Gail Patterson, TVI, Tulsa.

For more information about AIM, iPads or other assistive technology, contact ABLÉ Tech at 800-257-1705 or visit www.okabletech.okstate.edu/AIM.html.

AgrAbility Fall Conference

*Rehabilitating Oklahoma Farmers & Ranchers
with Injury, Illness or Disabling Conditions*

Oklahoma  AgrAbility

Purpose

The purpose of this conference is to incorporate and expand participant's knowledge related to assessing rehabilitation needs of farmers and ranchers. Specifically, the conference focuses on tailoring individual farm and ranch assessments, appropriate identification of assistive technology, accommodation, and funding.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the conference, participants will:

1. Describe the common disabling conditions farmers and ranchers encounter, based on current research.
2. Identify common agricultural obstacles, barriers, and safety concerns.
3. Identify assistive technology and adaptive equipment recommended by farmers, ranchers, and their families.
4. Identify ways to tailor an assessment to meet the needs of the individual with a disability and develop a comprehensive plan of care.
5. Describe state resources and funding options available, and specifics needed for documentation of need.
6. Identify appropriate modifications and equipment based on farm assessments completed through the use of photography.
7. Integrate the course material through clinical studies of Oklahoma farmers and ranchers with disabilities.

Additional Details

- Registration deadline is Oct. 24, 2012.
- Seating for the conference is limited.
- Conference fees include handouts, certificate of attendance, break refreshments on both days, box lunch on Friday. No lunch is scheduled Saturday.
- Refunds will not be made after Oct. 26.

Nov. 2-3, 2012
OSU Seretean Wellness Center
Stillwater, OK

AgrAbility and Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service Continue to Tackle Arthritis!

The Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program is a low-impact physical activity program proven to reduce pain and decrease stiffness. The routines include gentle range-of-motion exercises that are suitable for every fitness level.

Contact your local Extension educator for more information about a course in your area.



Collaboration and Conflict

The Special Education Resolution Center (SERC) provides “Effective Collaboration” training to school districts and parents. The ability of people with diverse experience and perspective to collaborate to mutual purpose is essential to the successful implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This is particularly true with the development of an IEP/IFSP. The original designers believed children are best served when parents, educators, service providers and agencies work together to provide coordinated systems of care.

Collaboration is easy when we interpret a situation the same way and draw similar conclusions regarding appropriate courses of action. It becomes much more complex when we experience inevitable conflict while attempting to address complex issues.

Peter Senge states, “In great teams, conflict becomes productive. The free flow of conflicting ideas is critical for creative thinking, for discovering new solutions no one individual would have come to on his own.”

For more information, contact JoAnne Pool at 888-267-0028 or visit www.serc.okstate.edu.

Make and Take - One SoonerStart Team's Solution to a Small Budget

SoonerStart is an amazing program in Oklahoma that serves infants and toddlers with disabilities and developmental delays at no cost to families.

The Oklahoma State Department of Education and the Oklahoma State Department of Health collaborate to provide these early intervention services. For many years, they have also partnered with Oklahoma ABLE Tech in an effort to increase children's access to assistive technology (AT). There are many excellent SoonerStart teams all over the state, but one stands out in ABLE Tech's eyes as it demonstrates many pieces of AT that are made out of...trash cans?

The Bryan County team—which serves Atoka, Marshall, and Bryan counties in southern Oklahoma—has a knack for creating AT on a small budget that is beyond impressive. Their team makes trash can standers, laundry basket assisted seating, and modified toys out of items found around the home. Their creativity enables families to access AT and acquire it quickly as they likely already own the necessary items. By showing families how to create AT in the home, solutions are immediate and affordable. Thank you for your initiative and creativity! By Allyson Robinson

World of Apps

The App revolution is exciting. Finding and downloading apps to your phone or tablet is easy, functional, and cost efficient. Today, most people are learning there are software applications to help individuals with varying abilities. They help us communicate, accomplish tasks, and organize our daily lives. In this way, apps have brought people with and without disabilities into closer proximity to one another. Here is a selection of online resources to help you get started:

IEAR.org: www.iear.org/iear/category/special-education. Review of apps are categorized by grade level and tagged by subject.

Apps for Children with Special Needs: www.a4cwsn.com. Videos of apps in action to help parents, educators, caregivers and professionals make more informed purchases.

Mobile Learning for Special Needs: <http://mobilelearning4specialneeds.wikispaces.com>. Special education Wiki includes almost 200 iPad/iPhone apps organized by category in addition to articles, video case studies and captioned video tutorials on devices.

Moms With Apps: www.momswithapps.com. Special needs and an online catalog of apps created by family-friendly developers.

iPodsibilities: www.ipodsibilities.com. Using iPods and iPads in the classroom. Apps, reviews, lesson plans, special education.

Teach with Your iPad: <http://teachwithyouripad.wikispaces.com/Special+Education+Apps>.

iPhone/iPad Apps for AAC, Magnification, Vision Support, and Literacy Support. <http://www.spectronics.co.nz/>. Explanations and comparisons of apps provided by the Spectronics website--a supplier of inclusive learning technologies in Australia and New Zealand.

AAC TechConnect Apps Assistant: <http://www.aactechconnect.com>.

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INFO-Line: 888.885.5588

Kent Bunker, Director, OSU Department of Wellness

Oklahoma ABLE Tech

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Brenda Dawes, Program Manager

Milissa Gofourth, Program Manager

Kimberly Berry, AT Teacher

Tierra Eller, Marketing Coordinator

Shelley Gladden, Loan Coordinator

Tammie Honeyman, Human Resources Coordinator

Allyson Robinson, SLP, AT Project Specialist

Shelby Sanders, AT Project Specialist

Diana Sargent, Senior Administration Support Specialist

Lisa Croston, Fiscal Officer

Sandra Stevenson, AgrAbility Program Manager

JoAnne Pool-Blades, SERC Program Manager

Shannon Esmeyer, SERC Administrative Assistant

Kimberly Dunn, OKDMERP Administrative Assistant

Brian Sargent, OKDMERP Site Coordinator

Katie Woodward, OKDMERP Program Manager

Calendar of Events



DEPARTMENT OF
Wellness

Striving to be America's HEALTHIEST Campus

Oct. 23-24: WAHEP Higher Education Web Accessibility Event; OSU-OKC. http://www.ok.gov/abletech/IT_Accessibility/octoberwahep.html

Nov. 2: Learning Disabilities Association of Oklahoma Conference; Rose State College, Midwest City. <http://www.ldao.org/conference.php>

Nov. 2-3: AgrAbility Conference; OSU Seretean Wellness Center, Stillwater.

Nov. 7-9: Oklahoma Transition Institute Conference; Embassy Suites in Norman.

April 4-5, 2013: Oklahoma Association on Higher Education and Disability. <http://www.ok-ahead.org/>

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