



Topics in Assistive Technology

November 19-20, 2009

Greater Richmond Convention Center, Downtown Richmond

This conference is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Centers and the Hospital Education Program at Children's Hospital, Richmond

Thursday, November 19

Workshops: Select from over 30 practitioner and vendor sessions on a broad range of AT topics. During one-hour workshops, presenters will share their experiences and insights about the effective use of assistive and instructional technology by individuals with disabilities (preschool through high school) and the families and professionals who work with them. Topics focus on the practical application of AT and are useful for general and special educators, related services personnel, assistive technology teams, instructional technology specialists, administrators, family members and others interested in helping students with disabilities achieve success. Come learn, share ideas and network with others! Bring your camera so you can take ideas back to your classrooms. Session descriptions can be found at <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>.

Exhibits: Explore the latest technology with leading assistive technology manufacturers and vendors. Vendors will provide short mini-demonstrations during the "exclusive exhibits hour" over lunch. Vendors are listed at <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>.

Ice Cream Social: Stay a little longer after the sessions to network, share ideas and discuss current topics with other AT enthusiasts during the ice cream social! Yum!

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Friday, November 20 Features half-day workshop sessions and exhibits

Assistive Technology Assessment: Everyone Has a Role to Play (Workshop 1)

Presenter: Gayl Bowser, M.S., Ed., International Assistive Technology Consultant, Roseburg, OR

Everyone has a role to play when an IEP begins the process of assessing and considering a student's need for assistive technology. Experts and specialists are needed to lead the process and share information about the tools that might help a student overcome barriers to performance, but when each member of the IEP team shares their own specialized knowledge about the child, the environment and the tasks the student needs to accomplish, an AT assessment is more likely to result in improved performance and achievement. This session will offer strategies such as framing the question, collaborative assessment strategies and defining the change we want to see. Strategies like these enhance the teamwork aspects of an AT assessment. Participants will have the chance to practice these strategies in simulations that address the AT Assessments of students they know.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Technology Toolkit for Writing (Workshop 2)

Presenter: Kelly Fonner, M.S., Educational/Assistive Technology Trainer & Consultant, Lake Geneva, WI and Scott Marfilus, M.A., Assistive/Educational Technology Consultant, Bayside, WI

Is writing to your students merely dictation and copying? Although dictation is an intervention, it is found to be an overused accommodation and students are not getting daily opportunities and know-how with the "real" writing experience. There is a growing number of tools in assistive technology which provide options for writing through letters, whole words, sentence builders, story makers, and several pictures to text options. Come see a wide variety of lo-tech and software-based examples of what writing can look like from kindergarten to high school. Multiple levels of support will be addressed as well as the process of creating writing scaffolds. Come willing to share your ideas as well!

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Educating Students with Autism in General Education Classes: Evidence-Based and Promising Practices to Facilitate Membership, Participation, and Learning (Workshop 3)

Presenter: Michael McSheehan, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of New Hampshire

There is a growing body of research on teaching students with ASD academic content. How does it translate into practice in the classroom? What supports need to be in place for this to happen? This session will highlight the most recent advances in inclusive education research for students with ASD. Examples will emphasize students with labels of autism and cognitive impairment engaged in general education classrooms, learning general education academics.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Boardmaker Plus! Across the Curriculum (Workshop 4)

Presenter: Dawn Smith, M.Ed., Education and Learning, DynaVox Mayer-Johnson

This hands-on computer lab will explore the many benefits and innovative uses of **Boardmaker Plus!** Basic programming tips will be shared along with a review of new Version 6.0 features. Consider a total classroom solution approach including the

creation of schedules, transition activities, symbol-supported literacy activities, and so much more. Boardmaker Software helps students learn and understand and helps teachers plan and deliver instruction. From the homeroom bell, to getting on the bus, **Boardmaker Plus!** can be customized to meet your needs. Are you tired of creating boards that you are sure someone else has created? Find out how to search for activities that teachers or SLPs around the world may have created, and even share your boards. This is a great class both for anyone wanting to better understand the applications of **Boardmaker Plus!** and for those wanting to learn more about basic programming.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Intermediate*

AT Data Collection and Implementation Planning: Everyone Has a Role to Play (Workshop 5)

Presenter: Gayl Bowser, M.S., Ed., International Assistive Technology Consultant, Roseburg, OR

After an AT Assessment team has identified assistive technology tools that have the potential to help overcome barriers, it is important to collect data about the usefulness of those tools for the student. Data-based decisions about a student's need for assistive technology are more likely to result in functional use in daily routines and activities. In addition, they ensure more effective use of agency time, money and human resources. Information from this session will be drawn from numerous sources including *How do you know it? How can you show it?* Participants will learn strategies to plan for implementation during the assessment process and to integrate data collection into the work of all AT Team members.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Tech Supports in Math Tasks (Workshop 6)

Presenter: Scott Marfilus, M.A., Assistive/Educational Technology Consultant, Bayside, WI

Do your students struggle with numeracy? Math is more than rote memorization of facts. Math learning problems are varied and complex and are not the same for every student. The symptoms of math learning problems can be grouped into three categories: computation errors, weak quantitative concepts, and poor performance in daily math activities. Through the use of instructional technologies, students can become proficient in numeracy and communicate effectively with others through the basic language of mathematics. Technology can help practice and reinforce math skills, and also allows material to be presented to students which may better match their learning style. Technology allows a student to demonstrate how well they are working within this medium, and then allows them to build upon their strengths. Students who receive teaching geared to their learning style, are able to master concepts and move on to more advanced work. This session will demonstrate a variety of tools and programs that cover a wide range of mathematical concepts. Participants will receive a resource list with various websites that will assist students from an instructional level as well as a practice level.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Supports for Reading Comprehension in the Content Areas (Workshop 7)

Presenter: Kelly Fonner, M.S., Educational/Assistive Technology Trainer & Consultant, Lake Geneva, WI,

There is a converging body of research that has identified five essential elements of effective reading instruction: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Text Comprehension. This session will look specifically at how technology can assist students in comprehending the text and materials they are reading. Strategies and suggestions will cover low tech to high tech and incorporate many tools you already have access to or that may be easily attained. Various technology supports will be shared for pre-reading, during reading and post-reading activities. Come and find out how to support struggling readers in the curriculum content areas. These strategies will enable your struggling readers to comprehend text they are reading on a daily basis. Participants will learn how to systematically teach comprehension strategies and use technology to support independent implementation of these strategies. This session will focus on grades 4-12 and post-secondary.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Augmentative Communication & Inclusive Education: Using AAC to Facilitate Membership, Participation, and Learning in the General Education Classroom (Workshop 8)

Presenter: Michael McSheehan, Clinical Assistant Professor, University of New Hampshire

Assistive technology for communication, when seen as an integrated part of general instruction, is effective for students with complex communication needs. A 4-step planning process will be presented and audience members will practice using this strategy for incorporating AT/AAC into general instruction. This session will emphasize participation in the general education instruction and "features" of AT/AAC.

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Advanced*

Boardmaker Plus! in Early Education: Strategies For Creating a Rich Learning Environment (Workshop 9)

Presenter: Dawn Smith, B.S., M.Ed., Education and Learning, DynaVox /Mayer-Johnson

Participants will learn and practice how to use Boardmaker software to create spectacular print-based and interactive computer-based materials in this hands-on lab. Come ready to make calendars, worksheets, visual schedules, attendance charts, lunch count charts, flash cards and more. Also, come see how to add fun sounds and voices to your boards with **Boardmaker Plus!** Keep your students engaged while reinforcing skills. Are you looking to establish a routine in your classroom, support behavior, and learn tips for organization? Come with ideas and your USB storage device to take home your Boardmaker creations!

HALF DAY SESSION

Participant Skill Level: *Beginner to Intermediate*

AGENDA**Thursday, November 19, 2009**

7:45 – 8:30 REGISTRATION
8:30 – 3:15 PRACTITIONER AND COMMERCIAL VENDOR WORKSHOPS
12:15 – 1:15 BOX LUNCHES AND EXCLUSIVE EXHIBITS HOUR
3:15 – 4:15 ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Friday, November 19, 2009

7:45 – 8:30 REGISTRATION
8:30 – 11:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Workshop 1:

Gayl Bowser- Assistive Technology Assessment: Everyone Has a Role to Play

Workshop 2:

Kelly Fonner & Scott Marfilus - Technology Toolkit for Writing

Workshop 3:

Michael McSheehan - Educating Students with Autism in General Education Classes: Evidence-Based and Promising Practices ...

Workshop 4:

Dawn Smith- *Boardmaker Plus!* Across the Curriculum

11:30 – 12:30 BOX LUNCH

12:30 – 3:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Workshop 5:

Gayl Bowser - AT Data Collection and Implementation Planning: Everyone Has a Role to Play

Workshop 6:

Scott Marfilus - Tech Supports in Math Tasks

Workshop 7:

Kelly Fonner – Supports for Reading Comprehension in the Content Areas

Workshop 8:

Michael McSheehan – Augmentative Communication & Inclusive Education: Using AAC to Facilitate Membership, Participation, and Learning in the Gen. Ed. Classroom

Workshop 9:

Dawn Smith - *Boardmaker Plus!* in Early Education: Strategies for Creating a Rich Learning Environment

Conference Registration Fee:

\$100 (2 days), **\$50** (one day)

Family members may apply for tuition assistance by contacting ttacevents@vcu.edu. We regret that child care is **not** available at the conference. **Parking is available at the Greater Richmond Convention Center for a fee of \$6.00 per day.**

Conference Registration Deadline: November 6, 2009

No refunds. Substitutions are accepted.

Off-Site Hotel Information:

Hilton Garden Inn, 501 East Broad St., Downtown Richmond
Conference Rates: \$109.00 (plus tax); valet parking only for fee, (804) 344-4300, <http://www.hriproperties.com>

When making hotel reservations at the Hilton Garden Inn, please identify yourself as attending the TechKnowledge 2009 Conference. This recently renovated historic hotel is located across the street from the convention center.

Alternate Hotels at Non-conference Rates:

Holiday Inn Express, (804) 788-1600
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Downtown, (804) 788-0900
Doubletree Hotel, Downtown, (804) 644-9871

REGISTRATION FORM

(PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT)

Name: _____

Position: _____

School/Program: _____

School Division (City/County): _____

Ages Served: 0-2____ 3-5____ 6-11____ 12-14____ 15+____

Home/School Address (Circle one): _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email address: _____

Thursday, November 19

___ Yes, I plan to attend the practitioner and commercial vendor workshops and exhibits. Workshop descriptions are available at <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>.

Friday, November 20

NOTE: Please mark the workshops below according to your preference – 1 being first choice and 4 being last choice for AM and PM sessions. If for some reason your first choice is unavailable, you will automatically be placed in your second choice selection, and so on. Workshop selections will be noted on your conference name tag.

AM SESSIONS

___ **Workshop 1:** Assistive Technology Assessment: Everyone ...

___ **Workshop 2:** Technology Toolkit for Writing

___ **Workshop 3:** Educating Students with Autism in Gen. Ed. ...

___ **Workshop 4:** *Boardmaker Plus!* Across the Curriculum

PM SESSIONS

___ **Workshop 5:** AT Data Collection and Implementation Planning ...

___ **Workshop 6:** Tech Supports in Math Tasks

___ **Workshop 7:** Supports for Reading Comprehension in the Content...

___ **Workshop 8:** Augmentative Communication & Inclusive Education...

___ **Workshop 9:** *Boardmaker Plus!* in Early Education...

TOTAL ENCLOSED: 1 Day Total: _____ 2 Day Total: _____
(\$50) (\$100)

PO #/SCHOOL DIVISION _____

Please return by November 6, 2009

Checks payable to: VCU T/TAC

Mail to: TechKnowledge Conference Registration
10 East Franklin St., Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23219
ttacevents@vcu.edu

Toll Free: 1-800-426-1595 **FAX:** 804-828-7495

If you require special conference or meal accommodations, please contact ttacevents@vcu.edu by November 6, 2009.

Confirmation & Directions will be e-mailed prior to conference.

REGISTER ONLINE, BY MAIL OR FAX

Visit <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac> and click on the TechKnowledge 2009 Conference information link under "What's New."



TechKnowledge

Register Online, by Mail or FAX

Register Online at <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>. Follow the links to the TechKnowledge 2009 Conference under "What's New." Check out the full conference and session descriptions there. If difficulties occur with online registration, please print the registration form and mail or fax to the attention of TechKnowledge Conference Registration at the address below:

For General Information, please contact:

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