Workshop and Breakout Sessions

Hands on Workshop

Workshop in a Bag: Assistive Technology that is Good, Fast, and Cheap! - Michael Papp
It is possible to construct some assistive technology solutions for less than $5. Skilled Rehab Engineers, OTs, and PTs frequently build practical devices using recycled materials, plastics, tapes, and fasteners easily found at your local hardware store. With a bag of basic tools and some materials, it is often possible to make simple switches and mounts, custom knobs and hand grips, and a wide array of position devices. During the workshop, several quick and simple devices will be made, and participants will have the opportunity to make and take a simple piece of assistive technology.

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1. What is an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) Certification - Jewell Dickson – ATP Track
This presentation will cover how to become a RESNA ATP. The RESNA ATP Certification Program validates that professionals are competent in their ability to provide direct consumer related Assistive Technology (AT) services in the areas of AT Practice such as, seating and mobility, Augmentative and Alternative Communication, computer access, EADLs, technology for sensory impairment, recreation, environmental modification, accessible transportation, and technology for learning disabilities.

2. An Overview of the Advancements in Prosthetic Technology - Glenn Crumpton
This presentation will cover prosthetic technology and the advancement in prosthetic technology. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the new technology that is available for individuals using prosthetics and orthotics.

3. Assistive Technology in the 21st Century: A Shift from Universal to Highly Customized Design Solutions - Jerrod Windham
With the evolution of digital fabrication comes a new approach to universal design. In many cases, the goal is no longer to design one universal product that meets the needs of all. There is an increased desire to design platforms and systems that harness the power of digital fabrication in order to create a device that meets the unique needs of the individual. This presentation will show participants how 3D printing is being used to develop assistive technology devices.

4. Wynn Software by Freedom Scientific – Mike Wood
Don't let language-based learning disabilities hinder your academic or professional progress. This comprehensive program provides individuals who struggle with reading and writing the tools they need to succeed in an academic or professional setting. In this session, we will cover the support tools that Wynn offers and get a hands-on look at the program in use. Upon completion of the session, the participant will have a greater insight to this particular assistive technology solution for individuals with language-based learning disabilities who are pursuing their dreams.
This presentation is designed to educate participants on computer accessibility. The presenter will provide instruction on different ways to access a personal computer for individuals with physical impairments including eye gaze technology, voice-activated technology, using a stylus with adaptive equipment, alternate keyboards/mouse, and switch access. Computer accessibility can assist in environmental control by turning the computer into a television using certain websites for viewing television and movies. Aside from watching television and movies, one can also increase independence in leisure by playing games or reading. Discussion will include how computer access can increase one’s role in employment, education, independent living, and leisure/recreation. Participants will learn how to use a personal computer to access email, social media, telecommunication websites, and other productive tools. Upon completion, participants will have an understanding of how computer use and accessibility can increase independence.

6. Using AT in the Early Childhood Classroom - Deana Aumalis
At the end of the session, participants will have an understanding of how to use simple assistive technology to involve students with disabilities in an inclusive preschool environment. Various examples of simple assistive technology devices that can be used/set up with ease in the preschool classroom will be demonstrated.

7. Emerging Assistive Technology and the Future - Nicholas DiChiara
Learn about how emerging wearable devices such as Google Glass are becoming powerful assistive technology platforms, including lessons learned and best practices. Since the advent of smart phones consumer technology has been advancing at an astonishing rate. These smart devices continue to vary in size and are rapidly expanding their abilities to assist with our lives. Wearables, as they’ve been aptly named, are quickly cultivating a market expected to be worth over $19 billion by 2018. This growth and innovation yields an opportune time for developers to take these platforms that make our lives easier and adapt them to help those who need it most. Currently, the Lab for Assistive Technology and Education at Auburn University has been working with Google Glass to do exactly that. Primarily focused on ways to assist the deaf, we are researching and developing applications that provide real-time tools.

8. AT 101 - This is Jeopardy! Ashley McLeroy – Jeffrey Mega
Do you want to learn your assistive technology basics? Want to have fun doing it? Ears perk up. We are going to offer you the opportunity to win prizes while you learn about AT. Slight smile. Be sure to come prepared to have fun and remember to phrase your answers in the form of a question because “This is AT Jeopardy!”

9. Driving Independence, We’ve Come So Far! Craig Rogers – ATP Track
Driving is known as one of the most significant obstacles for achieving true independence for individuals with disabilities. We will explore the possibilities of adaptive driver rehabilitation programs and the potential for independence for the individual with mild to severe physical or cognitive disabilities. Technology continues to advance in all aspects of daily life; and this is true in the field of adaptive driving. We will look into where the technology has evolved from then to now, and what the future holds for individuals with disabilities.
10. “App”solute Accessibility for ALL: iPad Use for ALL Disabilities – Kate Moseley
Individuals with disabilities are often not considered when thinking about the world of the iPad. iPads are becoming commonly used, powerful pieces of technology that can be utilized by ALL individuals; the key is accessibility. Many individuals with disabilities are able to successfully use an iPad independently and effectively once the device is made accessible for their varying needs. This session will present the accessibility features of an iPad, from Voice Over, Switch Access, Guided Access, and more. Participants will also learn how to hook up Bluetooth and switch interface switches to control the entire iPad by just pressing a button.

11. Funding Augmentative Communication Devices – Funding Requirements: Navigating the Process – Sonia Moore Cleckler
Do you know any non-verbal or minimally verbal children or adults who may benefit from an augmentative communication device? Do some of them have Alabama Medicaid? The process of having these devices funded through Alabama Medicaid can be difficult if you do not know how to write the report or understand what documentation is required for the funding request. This lack of knowledge results in a request for additional information from Medicaid and/or a denial, which significantly delays providing a “voice” for children and adults. Learn how to “navigate the process” effectively and efficiently! This presentation will also hit on other funding source, i.e., Blue Cross, trends in accepting reports and providing funding.

This presentation will address how assistive technology has evolved over the years for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. Current technology demonstrations will be provided with a focus on accommodations in the workplace, emergency preparedness, and independent living.

We will discuss, “the most frequently asked questions about wheelchairs.” Just as all people with disabilities differ in their presentation and functional abilities, wheelchairs vary as well. Wheelchairs can be manual or power and everything in between. Components vary even more, and the whole process of selection can be overwhelming. This presentation will answer: How do I know when I, one of my clients, or someone I care about need a wheelchair? Does insurance cover it? How do I decide on which one or type? Who supplies and repairs them? What’s the process of getting one? In the wheelchair industry, fraud and abuse have been rampant. To prevent that, come ready to get clarity and to participate in this interactive discussion.

Barry Pollack, Therap Services-Southeast Region Director
Jennifer Yost, Therap Services-Self Advocate
Lori Schneider, Therap Services-Self Advocate
This session will provide an understanding of Therap Services’ national electronic health care record. Self Advocates with disabilities share their experience and how they utilize Therap’s software to live in the community of their choice and how it has impacted their lives. Participants will be able recognize the importance of considering Therap's software for all individuals in order to help them achieve their fullest potential. Therap's software has been used to help individuals transition to living in the community all over the country and do so with increased independence. Technology can help connect individuals providing support to those they serve and provide notifications if needed. The sessions will also provide a brief overview of Therap's software suite.
15. Chromebook Is Not a Dirty Word – Jeffrey Mega
The Google Chromebooks are becoming a low cost alternative to place computers in the hands of students for many school systems. However, don’t let the cost fool you. These devices are great and have access to some awesome features. Let’s figure out how to make that Chromebook work for your students using some of the easy to use tools available.

16. Assistive Technology for the High School Student - Kim Moates
Participants will gain knowledge of the various technologies that can be used to engage and support learners with disabilities in the high school setting. The presentation will include using Smartboards, QR Codes, on-line libraries, text to speech apps, and various other technologies to support learners with disabilities to meet their IEP goals. Currently educators who work with students with disabilities are focusing on supporting learners in the area of transition. Assistive technology can be used to effectively support learners with disabilities in the area of transition. The presenter will briefly discuss the use of AT in the area of transition as well.

17. Using iMovie to Create Social Stories - Elizabeth Stewart
Come explore this easy to use app and how it can be used to create social stories for your students. This is an interactive session so BYOD (bring your own device). All smart phones or tablets are welcomed. There will also be devices available for use during the session.

18. Get ON that phone and get to work! - Smartphones as Workplace AT – Jeffrey Mega
Smartphones have so many tools that they are becoming the office version of a Swiss Army Knife. I have my calendar, take notes, receive reminders, take pictures, send/receive emails, play games and I even occasionally use it to call people. These wonderful devices are becoming a portable equalizer for individuals with disabilities. In this session, we will review ways to make that smartphone work for you.

This presentation will focus on low cost and no cost AT devices used as accommodations for the blind and visually impaired in education, work, and personal settings. Topics will include low cost and no cost solutions for computers, tablets, and other devices that improve independence.

20. Disaster Preparedness for People with Disabilities - Kent Crenshaw
Disasters can strike quickly and without warning, forcing people to leave or be trapped in their home. People with disabilities and their family members should make plans to protect themselves in the event of an emergency. It is also important to notify first responders on how to evacuate in case of a disaster and preparedness plan regarding your assistive technology. This presentation will help participants learn how to get prepared for disasters.

Changing Lives through Independence, Productivity, and Inclusion