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## **DEVELOPING AN ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY (AT) PLAN FOR YOUR DISTRICT**

Fewer and fewer resources are available in the State of Wisconsin for assistance with AT projects due to severe budget constraints, shortages of special education aides, and more demands being placed on existing school personnel. As a result, implementing a successful AT plan in a district is becoming more challenging. ATR has assisted numerous schools in Wisconsin on a contractual basis with setting up and implementing AT as well as helping to establish long term Master Plans and Select Solutions for integrating AT district-wide.

### **MASTER PLAN**

When there isn't a formalized process for assessing where a district is in regard to its use of AT; where it needs to go in the future; and what it needs to put into place to get there; reaching successful outcomes can be challenging. Through a targeted planning process, ATR can help your district develop a process to:

- Create a vision by establishing a district wide AT Master Plan
- Provide consistent, on-going training for staff, students and parents
- Develop an on-going method for updating AT resources, conducting AT assessments and providing continuing evaluations of your project's success

### **SELECT SOLUTIONS**

School districts can partner with ATR to target selected objectives by choosing customized projects designed to enhance AT efforts in the following areas and avoid the expense of hiring additional staff:

- Professional Development
- IT Support
- Book Scanning
- Student Assessments

For more information, please refer to the following pages or contact me either by phone at 262-375-2020, extension 105, or email [Cindy@AdaptiveTR.com](mailto:Cindy@AdaptiveTR.com) to discuss how we can help.

Best Wishes,

*Cindy Dellegrazio*

Cindy Dellegrazio  
General Manager



## **COMPONENTS IN DEVELOPING A SUCCESSFUL DISTRICT-WIDE ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY IMPLEMENTATION**

ATR can assist in carrying out various components for a successful AT Implementation in a district.

### ***MASTER PLAN***

#### **DEVELOPING THE VISION**

- Identify the shared vision in the district. The following is a sample vision developed by one school district we work with:

*To integrate adaptive technology (AT) throughout the School District using concepts of Universal Design. This would include seeing that every school within the District would utilize AT to its fullest, and that general education teachers would use AT along side the special education staff in order to access the general student curriculum.*

Perhaps your district's vision is based on more immediate needs; in either case, ATR can assist you in defining the Vision for your district.

- Identify pioneering members of an implementation team.
- Assist in mentoring a district's AT Team.
- Develop a collaborative master plan.

#### **ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT-WIDE AT MASTER PLAN**

- Identify measurable goals of district, staff and students. Conduct an AT Needs Assessment for the district with administration and teaching staff, identifying areas of strengths and weaknesses. This tool is valuable in setting priorities for implementing an AT strategy for the district and for measuring its success at the end of the project.
- Create a budget. Make recommendations for AT purchases based on district's needs. This includes products, type of platform recommended (stand alone, network, USB, web-based, license-to-go options, etc.), quantities needed and ongoing professional development.
- Make recommendations for placement of AT throughout the district.
- Create and manage a universal library for AT related curriculum and support materials on the district's intranet system or other accessible location as determined by the IT department.
- Participate and consult with staff for the inclusion of AT in Individual Student Evaluations (IEPs).
- Provide regular communication in regards to feedback and progress with the project.
- Evaluate the success of the project.

## **SELECT SOLUTIONS**

### **Professional Development**

- Train staff and students on a variety of scan & read software (such as Kurzweil 3000, Read&Write Gold, ClaroRead, WYNN, Premier Assistive Technology Products), speech recognition software (Dragon NaturallySpeaking), IntelliTools products and remedial reading programs from MindPlay (My Reading Coach, RAPS 360 & FLRT).
- Offer training on the above mentioned products with staff receiving Graduate Level Credit. This is typically done in a 3 to 5 day session during the summer.
- Train staff on integrating adaptive technology into the curriculum, with an emphasis on existing reading and writing strategies.
- Integrate the use of complementing mid-tech/portable tools with scan & read software features to support student success.
- Provide training on other adaptive technology tools such as ClassMate Reader, Boardmaker, portable word processors, portable in-class solutions for note taking, and low tech AT devices.
- Work with Parent Groups in terms of education of available AT in the district and how to support their children.
- Provide Motivational Speech Presentations to staff, students and parents.
- Train on the use of digital formats, NIMAC, and sources such as Bookshare.org

### **IT SUPPORT**

- Explore alternative inexpensive methods of getting digital access to material in the classroom when computer access is limited.
- Implement software in cooperation with the IT department (loading software; recommending to IT techniques and best practices in installation).
- Conduct regular maintenance on district computers as it pertains to AT software; including upgrades and file-management. (This does not include general IT maintenance such as virus protection, OS issues, etc.).
- Assistance with troubleshooting IT issues as they relate to AT.
- Develop or recommend a structure for the Universal Library in which all electronic documents are stored for easy access by staff and/or students.
- Set up Kurzweil 3000 Web License Cloud-based Storage VPort User Accounts for all students and staff, providing appropriate rights.

### **BOOK SCANNING SERVICES**

- Scanning services to assist in converting textbooks and other printed text to electronic files.
- File conversion to a format compatible with Kurzweil 3000.
- Uploaded digital files to the district's Universal Library; either through remote access by ATR or by a district's IT department.

## **STUDENT ASSESSMENTS**

- Individual AT assessments conducted by our professional staff onsite at school or home for the following areas:
  - Autism
  - Learning Disabilities
  - Low Vision
  - Blindness
  - Reading Impairments
  - Cognitive & Motor Delays
  - Emotional Disorders
  - Developmental Delays
  - Spinal Cord Injury
  - Cerebral Palsy, Muscular Dystrophy
  - Traumatic Brain Injury
  - Mobility Impairments
  - Other Health Impairments
- Written reports submitted with recommendations which can be incorporated into student's IEP.

**NICK HANFORD, MBA  
MANAGER, EDUCATIONAL SALES & TRAINING**



Nick Hanford received his education from the University of Wisconsin, Oshkosh with a degree in Economics. From 2000 to 2003, Nick was a part of the Project Success initiative at the University of Wisconsin at Oshkosh; teaching classes of dyslexic students algebra and computing skills; coordinating special needs tests with professors and students; managing lab nights for any Project Success students who needed help; and training students in adaptive software such as Kurzweil 3000 and Dragon NaturallySpeaking. He recently completed a Master's of Business Administration program at UW Oshkosh.

Nick's expertise in adaptive technology solutions began when he started using software for his own reading and writing impairment due to dyslexia, which was diagnosed in the third grade. It was determined that his comprehension was excellent but he couldn't understand the printed word; a common problem for those individuals with dyslexia.

Since 2003, Nick has used his abilities to train clients in a variety of software including Microsoft's suite of productivity applications, text-to-speech and speech-to-text software, as well as screen magnification and screen reading software. Nick teaches groups of teachers and students in the use of adaptive technology in addition to giving motivational presentations on "Life with a Disability". His compassionate nature and sharp analytical problem solving abilities provide clients with excellent training and consultation services.

Nick holds certifications in Dragon NaturallySpeaking as well as scan and read software such as Kurzweil 3000, textHelp, ClaroRead, and more. He consults with school districts in Wisconsin helping them set up an adaptive technology team, establish universal libraries, install and configure software with IT departments, and provide training for students and staff.

## **CAROL HARPOLD, MS AdEd, OTR/L, ATP**



Carol Leynse-Harpold is a licensed Occupational Therapist who received a B.S. in Occupational Therapy, a Master's of Science in Adaptive Education & Assistive Technology from St. Norbert's College in De Pere, Wisconsin, Certified Ergonomic Assessment Specialist, and earned the ATP certification from RESNA (Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America). She is a valuable member of ATR's evaluation team. While working over 25 years as an occupational therapist and assisting adults and children of all ages, Carol has extensive experience in the following areas:

Conducting AT evaluations for individuals with high-level special needs.

- Certified IntelliTools Trainer
- Determining options in devices and services to suit clients' educational, mobility, self-care, accessibility, sensory, and environmental needs.
- Providing occupational, ergonomic, and self-care training.
- Referrals for a list of available solutions sources including outside agencies for DME or social service needs
- Energy conservation & work simplification training.
- Programming for clients both in the school, clinic, hospital and home based environment as well as working with multidisciplinary and transdisciplinary team approaches.
- Experience with multiple methods of service delivery including direct, consultative and monitoring to meet established IEP, IFSP goals as well as acute and rehabilitation services.
- Providing on call OT rehabilitation services to adult population in subacute and skilled nursing facilities.

Carol has a wide range of experience working with clients who have physical disabilities, low vision, and those clients with special needs, such as mobility impairments, cognitive and motor delays, emotional disorders, autism, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and other health impairments.

Additionally, Carol provides school districts in Wisconsin assistance in establishing an adaptive technology team. Carol offers Master's Level Credit classes in a variety of adaptive technology, develops needs assessments for district personnel, and helps to coordinate the integration of adaptive technology into general curriculum.

## **BONNIE MULARSKI, M.S., OTR/L**



Bonnie Mularski is a licensed Occupational Therapist who received a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy from Mount Mary College, and a Master of Science in Occupational Therapy with an adaptive technology focus from Mount Mary College. She is a certified trainer in remedial reading products from MindPlay. She has taught adaptive technology classes at the graduate level and has presented at several conferences throughout Wisconsin. Bonnie has over 19 years of experience as an occupational therapist and assisting adults and children of all ages. For the past eight years, Bonnie has been the Assistive Technology Coordinator for the Cedarburg School District as well as for Ozaukee County. She developed and directed a countywide AT team.

As a valuable member of ATR's evaluation team, Bonnie will provide the following services to clients:

- Conduct AT evaluations for individuals with high-level special needs
- Determine options for devices and services to accommodate and remediate clients' educational, mobility, self-care, accessibility, sensory and environmental needs
- Provide occupational, ergonomic and self-care training
- Provide referral and resources of available sources for solutions
- Provide information as needed for energy conservation & work simplification training

Bonnie has a wide range of experience working with clients who have physical disabilities, low vision issues, and those clients with other special needs, such as mobility impairments, cognitive and motor delays, traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, emotional disorders, autism, developmental delays, learning disabilities and other health impairments.

### **RICK ZILLER, MOTR/L**



Rick Ziller is a licensed Occupational Therapist who received a B.S. in Rehabilitative Science and a Master's in Occupational Therapy from Concordia University. He is a certified trainer in remedial reading products from MindPlay. Rick is a member of the American Occupational Therapy Association and board certified by NBCOT.

**Additional Information:** Rick is a valuable member of ATR's evaluation team. While working the last several years as an occupational therapist for individuals with disabilities, Rick has experience in the following areas:

- Conducting AT evaluations for individuals with high-level special needs.
- Determining options in devices and services to suit clients' educational, mobility, self-care, accessibility, sensory, and environmental needs.
- Providing occupational, ergonomic, and self-care training.
- Referrals for a list of available solutions sources.
- Energy conservation & work simplification training

Rick is proficient in both Macintosh and Windows computers, has done an ergonomic analysis for a major manufacturer, and has adapted equipment to better suit the needs of those using it. Rick has a wide range of experience working with clients who have physical disabilities, visual impairments, and those clients with special needs, such as mobility impairments, cognitive and motor delays, traumatic brain injury, emotional disorders, autism, developmental delays, learning disabilities, and other health impairments.

Rick trains clients in a variety of software including Microsoft's suite of productivity applications, Macintosh applications, text-to-speech and speech-to-text software. He teaches groups of teachers and students in the use of adaptive technology. Rick performs adaptive technology assessments, troubleshooting and support for adaptive software and equipment.

## **Betsy R. Gruba, MBA, PhD**



Betsy is a Product Specialist for ATR. She received both her MBA and PhD from Marquette University in business, finance and economics. Over the past nine years, Betsy has been the Director of Technology for the Wisconsin Council of the Blind & Visually Impaired in Madison, Wisconsin. There, she helped blind & visually impaired individuals use computers to enhance their lives and gain employment. Betsy also developed distance learning courses for blind users; created & presented classes on Web site accessibility to corporate clients; and designed the Council's online Sharper Vision Store. She also served as Chair for the Assistive Technology Review Committee for Microsoft Corporation at the request of Bill Gates from 1995 to 2007.

Betsy has provided adaptive technology training in both Windows and Mac environments. In addition, she has worked with blind and visually impaired individuals on basic daily living skills such as home organization, identification of home appliances, personal care, and recreational activities. She initiated and led more than nine low vision support groups in Wisconsin.

Betsy was diagnosed with juvenile onset diabetes when she was four years old. In February of 1993, she lost most of her useful vision to Diabetic Retinopathy. She has no vision in her left eye and a very small amount of residual vision in her right eye.

As a valuable member of ATR's team, Betsy will provide the following services to clients:

- Adaptive Technology (AT) assessments for individuals with low vision and blindness along with ATR's professional staff of Occupational Therapists
- AT training of both individuals and groups with a focus on low vision and blindness software and hardware
- A variety of distance learning classes for blind & low vision clients
- Courses on Web site accessibility for private corporations and non-profit agencies
- Referrals to available sources for low vision & blindness solutions

Betsy and her husband, John, live in Hartland, Wisconsin. They have two grown children, Jessica and Aaron. She is a Guide Dog user and likes to knit and make jewelry. To request services from Betsy, or for more information, please contact us at 800-770-8474. We are your resource for solutions.