

**Minnesota STAR
Program**
A System of
Technology to
Achieve Results



*Minnesota's Assistive Technology
Act Program*

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STAR Staff

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Interim Executive Director
JoAnn Erbes
Program Manager
Joan Gillum,
Executive Assistant
Kim Moccia,
AT Resource Specialist



Constellations

Summer 2008

Assistive Technology (AT) Works!

Thinking about buying assistive technology?

If you are thinking about buying assistive technology, remember that trying one or more devices before you buy is an essential step in the decision-making process. Trying a device during a demonstration or borrowing a device for short term loan gives you a deeper understanding of the device—its features, capabilities, and limitations—and lets you decide if the device will meet your needs.

So where do you go to borrow assistive technology?

Minnesotans of all ages and disabilities can borrow a wide variety of assistive technology devices from anywhere in the state by contacting STAR's loan program partners. Borrowing a device is free; however, you will be responsible for return shipping costs if the device is returned via U.S. mail or courier service. For more information about device demonstration and short-term loans, visit www.starprogram.state.mn.us or contact our partners directly.

STAR Device Loan and Demonstration Partners

Ability Building Center (PACTT program)

Rochester, Minnesota, 507-535-7101, rachelw@abcinc.org,
www.abc-pactt.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Central Minnesota

St. Cloud, Minnesota, 320-253-0765,
888-616-3726 (toll free), tech@ucpcentralmn.org,
www.ucpcentralmn.org

United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota (MATLN program)

St. Paul, Minnesota, 651-646-7588, 877-528-5678 (toll free), ucpmn@cpinternet.com, www.ucpmn.org

Accessing E-Government Services

Since September 2007, STAR has been coordinating a multi-state agency work group to improve access to E-Government services including state Web sites, online documents, surveys, and forms. To learn more about accessible electronic and information technology visit STAR's Web site.

New Advisory Council Members Appointed

Governor Tim Pawlenty appointed the following persons to serve as public members of the Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council: Jeanne Anderegg (St. Paul), Jennifer Delisi (Mendota Heights), Mark Felling (Maple Grove), Cheire Frick (Remer), Rachel Garaghty (Cottage Grove), Heidi Hensel (Bemidji), JoAnn Leppink (Bloomington), Jon Kragness (Fergus Falls), David Quilleash (Plymouth), Tom Reed (St. Cloud), and Brian Wagner (Alexandria).

In addition, the following persons serve as designated agency representatives: Pam Parson (Centers for Independent Living), Joan Breslin Larson (Minnesota Department of Education), Ray Griffin (Department of Employment and Economic Development, Rehabilitation Services), Darlene Kratt (Department of Employment and Economic Development, Workforce Investment Board) and David B. Andrews (State Services for the Blind).

The council provides advisory support to the STAR program as required by the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. To learn more about the advisory council or upcoming council meetings visit STAR online at www.starprogram.state.mn.us.

STAR Hires New Program Manager

In March, the Department of Administration Commissioner, Dana Badgerow named Jo Ann Erbes program manager of the Minnesota STAR program. In her new position, Jo will provide direction for the development and implementation of the STAR assistive technology state plan. She will work with the STAR Advisory Council to develop and/or expand services related to device demonstration, device loan and device reuse. Jo has experience and knowledge about assistive technology from her work with the Minnesota Assistive Technology Loan Network (MATLN). Prior to joining STAR, she was the executive director of United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota. As an advocate for with people with disabilities, Jo will promote assistive technology to maintain or improve quality of life for those who can benefit from it.

STAR has moved

Earlier this year, STAR moved to its new office space in the Centennial Office Building. Our new mailing address is 358 Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, MN 55155. You can still reach us by calling 651-201-2640 or 888-234-1267 (toll free). Minnesotans with a hearing or speech disability may call us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529. STAR can also be reached via email at star.program@state.mn.us.

STARTE

**Reusing Assistive
Technology!**

**Visit STAR
Technology Exchange**

www.mnstarte.org

2008 STAR Awards for Excellence

On April 15, STAR recognized more than 40 Minnesotans with its 2008 Assistive Technology Award for Excellence. Family, friends, legislators, and colleagues gathered in the Capitol Rotunda as Lieutenant Governor Carol Molnau and Department of Administration Commissioner, Dana Badgerow congratulated this year's recipients. Members of Minnesota's Assistive Technology Advisory Council were on hand to present the awards. STAR would like to thank all those who helped make the day a success. We especially want to thank our 2008 award winners for their dedication and leadership efforts. Thanks to you, Minnesotans are successfully using assistive technology at home, school, work and in the community!

AT Advocate

Rebecca Susag, Cambridge

Educator

Frank Kurkowski, Saint Paul

Lois Beck, Minneapolis

Rebecca Tetlie, Saint Paul

Alyson Gullette, Anoka

Carol Earle, Maple Grove

Diane Dohnalik, Minneapolis

Karen Berger, Plymouth

Loralee Bailey, Saint Paul

Nancy Engel, Edina

Rich Gieschen, Saint Paul

Lifetime Achievement

Frank Kurkowski, Saint Paul

David Seyfried, Battle Lake

David Wilkie, Saint Paul

Accessible Web Site Design

Britta Beeck, Woodbury

AT Consumer

Matthew Schulke, Little Canada

Service Provider

Intermediate School District 287

AT Leadership Team

Brenda Ackerson, Warren

Bridget Ames, Lakeville

Patti Bahr, Saint Paul

Loralee Bailey, West Saint Paul

Mary Bettlach, Saint Paul

Jo Ann Erbes, Apple Valley

Beth Erickson, Albert Lea

Carol Fury, Maple Plain

Patti Glumack, Plymouth

Ray Griffin, Brainerd

Joni Jacobson, Alexandria

Susan Krueger, Sherburn

Frank Kurkowski, Saint Paul

Michelle Linnell, Pine City

Amy Marquez, Eagan

Mike Meyers, Saint Paul

Kim Moccia, Zumbrota

Risë Nybakke, Minneapolis

Janet Peters, Minneapolis

Kathy Pittelko, Minneapolis

Linda Potts, Inver Grove Heights

Shannon Proulx, Duluth

Phil Schreifels, Rogers

JoAnne Smith, Puposky

Dan Stores, Minneota

Greg Sumner, Northfield

Marie Swanson, Moorhead

Rebecca Tetlie, Saint Paul

Kris Vossler, Dilworth



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www.starprogram.state.mn.us

Reserve your copy of the 2008 Assistive Technology Directory

Be among the first to receive the 2008 Assistive Technology Directory of Funding Resources. This new edition of our popular directory includes information to help you connect with alternative financing, device loan, demonstration, and reuse resources in Minnesota. Need a directory now? Copies of the 2006 Assistive Technology Directory of Funding Resources are available for a limited time. Contact STAR to request or reserve your copy today. Call 651-201-2640, 888-234-1267 (toll-free) or send an email to star.program@state.mn.us.

All STAR materials are available in alternative formats

This document can be made available in alternative formats, such as large print, Braille, audio tape or disk by calling 651-201-2640 or 888-234-1267 (toll free). Consumers with a hearing or speech disability may call us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800-627-3529, or by sending an email to star.program@state.mn.us.

¡FOLLETOS EN ESPAÑOL! STAR ha empezado traducir folletos en Inglés a Español. Actualmente, STAR tiene dos folletos en Español: “Directorio de Recursos de Financiamiento para Tecnología Asistiva en Minnesota” y “El Programa STAR: Un Sistema de Tecnología para Lograr Resultados.

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