



Constellations

Spring 2011

Inside this issue:

Annual STAR Awards! . . . 1
 STAR Spotlight . . . 2
 AT a Glance . . . 2
 Updates . . . 3
 Mark Your Calendar . . . 3
 Stay Informed! . . . 4

STAR and its partners are proud to offer free device demonstrations and device loans to Minnesotans statewide.



Announcing the 2011 Annual STAR Award Recipients!

Five Minnesotans were recognized on April 5 in a ceremony at the State Capitol Rotunda. The Minnesota STAR Program’s “Awards for Excellence in Assistive Technology” honored these individuals for their efforts in championing the removal of barriers to independence through the use of assistive technology (AT). AT is any device that maintains, improves or increases function at home, school, work and in the community.

This years recipients included pioneers in the field of assistive technology, educators, professionals, and consumers who promote the use of assistive technology. The five recipients by category are:

- Consumer – Tana Vogele, Cottage Grove
- Innovator – Auditory Sciences, Northfield
- Advocate – Richard Brown, Saint Louis Park
- Educator – Erika Kluge Frake, Delano
Debbie Bock, Bloomington



Award Ceremony, Capitol Rotunda



Debbie Bock accepting her award from Commissioner Cronk



STAR Spotlight

Discover what activities STAR and its partners are working on around the state.

Partner News

Ability Building Center, People Achieving Change through Technology 507.535.7101, 507.281.6262 (Rochester): PACTT recently added Invotek's Voice Switch (with throat microphone) to its device loan inventory. This switch is designed for use by people with limited speech and may be used to activate switch-enabled assistive technology.

PACER Center, Simon Technology Center 952.838.9000, 800.537.2237 (Bloomington): Switch adapted toys such as Robo Robbie and Push & Go Crab are available for short-term loan.

UCP of Central MN 320.253.0765, 888.616.3726 (Saint Cloud): UCP of Central Minnesota has a 6-foot portable Suitcase Ramp (Advantage Series) in its device loan program.

UCP of Minnesota/MATLN program 651.646.7588, 877.528.5678 (Saint Paul): Tango is a communication device with onboard camera, phrase-first language, and customizable tones (shout, wine, whisper) and is available for short-term loan from MATLN.

Center for Independent Living 218.262.6675, 800.390.3681, (Hibbing): AccessNorth has a variety of accessible recreational equipment available for short-term loan.

STAR Statistics

October 1, 2009 - September 30, 2010

Device loans: 600 individuals with disabilities borrowed 1,358 devices from the statewide device loan program. Of the devices loaned, 42% were related to learning, cognition and developmental development; 23% were speech communication devices; and, computers and related technology represented 16% of the devices borrowed.



AT a Glance

Here is a quick glance at two types of recreational assistive technology (AT) for people of all ages.

Eureka Freedom Tent is an accessible tent that is easy to assemble and has ample room for a wheelchair. This tent is available for short-term loan by contacting UCP of Minnesota/MATLN at 651.646.7588.

Access Controller by eDimensional Inc. is compatible with Playstation 2, PS3, XBOX 360 and PC platforms. The controller has swappable control modules (analog sticks, D-Pad, shoulder buttons, etc) providing one-handed game control. To learn more or borrow this controller contact UCP of Central Minnesota at 320.253.0765.

STARTE
Reusing Assistive Technology!
www.mnstarte.org

Recreational Resources

Courage Center Camps offers an accessible camping experience for children, teens, and adults. Learn more at www.couragecenter.org.

Let's Play! Projects – resources and information about young children with disabilities and play.
<http://letsplay.buffalo.edu/index.html>

Minnesota State Parks & Campgrounds - To learn more about accessible state parks, trails, and camp lodging visit http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/accessible_outdoors/index.html

Zot Artz – art tools designed for budding artists of all ages with limited mobility or limited fine motor skills.
<http://www.zotartz.com/>

State & Regional Updates

Statewide Training on Assistive Technology Kicks off with support from the Department of Human Services, Disability Services Division Grant

(Submitted by Carol Fury, Executive Director, EquipAlife)

EquipALife, Assistive Technology Professionals, (ATP), MRATC members and partner organizations are traveling across Minnesota delivering the first in a series of three workshops as part of the Invest in Independence Grant. "AT 101" is underway at 23 sites training county social workers, community / public health nurses, occupational / physical therapists, speech / language practitioners, tribes and managed care organizations. The second component focuses on the importance of "The Assessment Process". Delivered via audio conference to 26 locations professionals will learn why assessment is critical when selecting AT. The "Wrap Up" session delivered at seven different statewide sites includes opportunities to network, gather materials on AT resources, hear from AT Professionals on topics of interest, view equipment displays, learn about a variety of device types, services available in Minnesota, financial solutions, with special attention on new / emerging equipment.

Case-Consultation is available to Lead Agency staff providing individual assessment helping the consumer select the right AT. ATP's demonstrate first hand the importance of assessment.

For more information, contact EquipAlife at: 1.866.535.8239 or 763.479.8239, www.equipalife.org or info@atmn.org

** A partnership of EquipALife and the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Disability Services Division the Assistive Technology Grant Project 2010.



Mark Your Calendar

Events labeled with an [E] indicate STAR will be exhibiting at this event.

May

ARRM Annual Conference (Saint Paul, MN) May 18 & 19 <http://www.armm.org>

Minnesota Self-Advocacy Conference (Saint Paul, MN) May 20 & 21 <http://www.selfadvocacy.org>

June

2011 Minnesota Age & Disabilities Odyssey (Rochester, MN) June 20-22 <http://www.mnodyssey.org> [E]

July

Abilities Expo (Chicago, IL) July 8-10 <http://www.abilitiesexpo.com/chicago/>

Project Search 5th International Conference (Minneapolis, MN) July 11-15 <http://www.projectsearch.us/events/fifthannual.php>

August

45 year MN Community Action Reunion and Training Conference (Duluth, MN) August 3-5

<http://www.mncaa.org/Conference2011.html> [E]

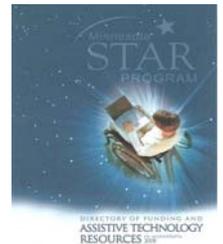


Department of Administration
STAR Program
358 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St Paul, MN 55155

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT 171
ST. PAUL, MN

Stay Informed!

- Check out the online edition of STAR's Funding and Assistive Technology Directory
- Subscribe to STAR Point and receive emails on assistive technology news and events
- Subscribe to Constellations, our quarterly newsletter
- Visit our Web site www.starprogram.state.mn.us
- Become a registered user of STAR Technology Exchange at www.mnstarte.org



For more information, contact STAR by calling 651.201.2640, 888.234.1267 (toll-free) or send an email to star.program@state.mn.us. Minnesotans with a hearing or speech disability may call us through the Minnesota Relay Service at 711 or 800.627.3529.

When you are done reading this newsletter, please share with others or recycle. Thank you!

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."

The System of Technology to Achieve Results (STAR) program is Minnesota's Assistive Technology Act Program, located within the Minnesota Department of Administration. STAR receives funds from the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended. The contents of this newsletter are educational in nature. It should not be assumed that the identification of any product, individual, or agency implies endorsement by the State of Minnesota, STAR, or the U.S. Department of Education. This newsletter was financed with federal money.