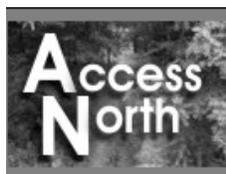




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STAR and its partners are proud to offer device demonstrations and device loans to Minnesotans statewide.



# Constellations

Spring 2010

## Honoring Excellence!

“Without assistive technology, I would largely be a spectator. With assistive technology, I am back in the game,” stated Peter Morton as he welcomed Minnesotans gathered in the State Capitol Rotunda on April 13. The occasion was STAR’s 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards for Excellence in Assistive Technology and the ceremony was our opportunity to thank Minnesotans for their efforts in removing barriers to independence through the use of assistive technology.

Friends, family, and colleagues joined us as we celebrated our recipients’ inspiring accomplishments: a nurse diagnosed with ALS who continues to teach and serve with the help of assistive technology; educators who help students use AT to succeed in school; legislators who fought for legislation to remove accessibility barriers to state electronic and information technology; a consumer who works to educate the public on the value of assistive technology and advocate for the needs of people with disabilities; dedicated professionals who go beyond the requirements of their job to ensure that people with disabilities receive the services and assistive technology they need to accomplish their goals; a civic group responding to the assistive technology needs of a member of their community; and, we honored a retired Minnesotan who volunteered for more than two-decades designing and fabricating customized assistive technology.

It gives us great pleasure to announce this year award recipients, by category:

**Consumer**

Gae Skager, Minneapolis  
Tom Reed, St Cloud

**Innovator**

Roger Upcraft, Maple Lake

**Service Provider**

Underwood Lions Club, Underwood

**Educator**

Carol Nelson, Caledonia  
Michael Piersak, Chaska

**Advocate**

Senator Ann Rest, New Hope  
Senator Ellen Anderson, St Paul  
Representative Bill Hilty, Finlayson  
Representative Phyllis Kahn, Minneapolis  
Representative Torrey Westrom, Elbow Lake

**Lifetime Achievement**

Steve Quinn, Brooklyn Park  
Marie Swanson, Moorhead  
Jerry Hagen, Minneapolis



## STAR Spotlight

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

STAR's statewide device loan partners have been busy loaning devices and adding new devices to their inventory, as well as, demonstrating devices to interested users.

### Partner News

**PACTT**, a program of Ability Building Center, is holding an open house on Thursday, June 24, 2010, from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m. PACTT is located at 310 Elton Hills Drive NW, Rochester, MN. For more information call 507-535-7101.

**United Cerebral Palsy of Minnesota/MATLN** has a new email addresses. To contact the Minnesota Assistive Technology Loan Network (MATLN) you may send an email message to [matln@ucpmn.org](mailto:matln@ucpmn.org).

### STAR Sightings

STAR continues to travel around the state exhibiting and presenting at conferences and meeting with consumers and service providers. From Fargo/Moorhead and Fergus Falls, to Duluth and Marshall, we have enjoyed meeting Minnesotans and discussing their assistive technology needs. If you plan to attend the ARRM conference at the Crowne Plaza in St. Paul in May, stop by our booth. Four of our partners--The Center for Independent Living of Northeastern Minnesota, MATLN, PACER and PACTT will be joining us and displaying some of the new devices that they've added to the statewide device loan program.

### STAR Statistics

Below is a breakdown (by type) of assistive technology borrowed from STAR's statewide device loan program during 2009:

- 51% Speech communication
- 5% Vision
- 2% Hearing
- 19% Computers and related peripherals
- 1% Daily Living
- 9% Learning, cognition & developmental
- 4% Environmental adaptations
- 3% Mobility, seating, and positioning
- 6% Recreation, sports, and leisure



## AT a Glance

Here is a quick glance at some assistive technology (AT) that increases access to information.

**Intel Reader** (Intel) - This mobile device captures printed words with the push of a button and then converts the text to audio. Use the Intel Reader to read menus, meeting materials, class assignments, books and more. Captured content can be stored and listened to when needed or convenient. For more information or to borrow this device contact PACER Simon Technology Center at 952-838-9000.

**IrisPen Executive 6** (I.R.I.S) - Scan text, numbers and images with this handheld scanner and it enters the data into your computer application(s). The IRIS pen also converts text to speech allowing it to read printed material. This device is Mac and Windows compatible. For more information or to borrow this device contact PACTT at 507-535-7101.

**Kindle** (Amazon) - A wireless eBook reader, the Kindle has features some readers may find helpful. First, the text can be enlarged for comfortable reading—choose from 6 font sizes. There is a built-in dictionary and this device can hold over 200 titles. No need to go to the store, the Kindle includes free wireless access to Amazon giving the reader access to over 480,000 books, newspapers and magazines. Weighing in at 10.3 ounces, the Kindle is simple to use and does not require a computer or syncing. For more information or to borrow this device contact PACTT at 507-535-7101 or PACER Simon Technology Center at 952-838-9000.

**iPAD** (Apple) – This mobile touch-screen device with Wi-Fi allows the user to read eBooks, check email or surf the Web. Users can also access entertainment, work and productivity apps. For more information or to borrow this device contact the Center for Independent Living of Northeastern Minnesota (Access North) at 218-262-6675.

## Regional Updates

**STARTE**  
Reusing Assistive Technology!  
[www.mnstarte.org](http://www.mnstarte.org)

### NFB of Minnesota 2010 Scholarships

The National Federation of the Blind of Minnesota announces its 2010 scholarship program. NFB of Minnesota will be awarding one scholarship for \$1,000 and one scholarship for \$500 to qualified applicants. Candidates must be students who are legally blind and attending a post-secondary school in Minnesota. Applications for the Minnesota scholarship must be received by June 30, 2010. For an application or more information send an email to Sheila Koenig, State Scholarship Chairperson at [shekoenig@comcast.net](mailto:shekoenig@comcast.net) or visit [www.nfb.org/scholarships](http://www.nfb.org/scholarships).

### Computers Go Round

Computers Go Round is a program of United Cerebral Palsy of Central Minnesota that distributes quality recycled computers to children and adults with a disability. These computers are used for school, work, fun, shopping or to keep in touch with family and friends. Since 2000, the Computer's Go Round program has distributed over 400 refurbished computers to persons with a disability and their families in Central Minnesota. To qualify for a computer you must:

- have a recognized disability or have a family member (living in your home) with an Americans with Disabilities Act recognized disability
- pay a nominal program fee for the specific configuration of your computer

For more information call (320) 253-0765 or (888) 616-3726 or fill out an application online at [www.ucpcentralmn.org](http://www.ucpcentralmn.org).

## Mark Your Calendar



### May

**Introduction to Augmentative and Alternative Communication** and AAC Lending Library Resources in Minnesota, May 12, 2010. This is an online event. For more information call PACER's Simon Technology Center at 952-838-9000 or visit [www.pacer.org/stc](http://www.pacer.org/stc)

**Association of Residential Resources in Minnesota (ARRM) Annual Conference**, May 12-14, 2010, St. Paul, Minnesota. To learn more visit [www.arrm.org](http://www.arrm.org) or call 651-291-1086.

### June

**UCP Golf Scramble**, June 21, 2010, Sauk Rapids, Minnesota. For more information call 320-253-0765.

**Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA) Annual Conference**, June 28-29, 2010, Las Vegas, Nevada. More information is available online at <http://resna.org/conference/2010-resna-conference>

### July

**Minnesota Assistive Technology Advisory Council meeting**, July 20, 2010, Lady Slipper Conference Room, Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul, Minnesota. Contact STAR at 651-201-2640 for more details.

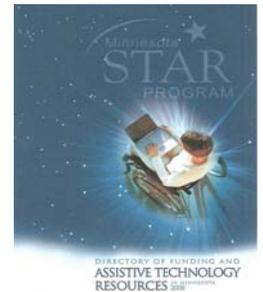


Department of Administration  
STAR Program  
358 Centennial Office Building  
658 Cedar Street  
St Paul, MN 55155

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## Stay Informed!

- Request a free copy of our 2008-2009 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](http://www.starprogram.state.mn.us)
- Become a registered user of STAR Technology Exchange at [www.mnstarte.org](http://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](mailto: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.

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

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## 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](mailto: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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