Assistive Technology (AT) Forward

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Hello!

I am Cassie Frost

I am an Assistive Technology Professional (ATP) with a specialty in Special Education and Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities. I began my career in the classroom 16 years ago, teaching a residential treatment facility for five years and then an alternative middle/high school before moving to the public school system working with students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities. Five years ago, I transitioned into the field of assistive technology and used my background to work with students who require assistive technology to find success in the educational environment. I am a member of the WI Assistive Technology Advisory Council, the President-Elect of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC), an International Society for Technology in Education (ISTE) certified educator, and enjoy presenting at state and national conferences on assistive technology, emotional and behavioral disabilities, and executive functioning.

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Hello!

I am Jennifer Schubring

I am a Speech/Language Pathologist with an expertise in Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology (AT). I began learning about AAC 20 years ago. I attended UW-Madison and Penn State. I have worked in many settings including: Birth-to-Three, Hospital, Home Health, Outpatient Clinic, and for the past 13 years I've worked in the Wisconsin public schools. Three years ago I opened my private practice, Building AAC, to help build better communication for individuals with complex communication needs in the State of Wisconsin. I've presented at national conferences and throughout the state of Wisconsin to help build knowledge about best practices in AAC. I live with my family in the Green Bay area.

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Learning Objectives

#1: The learner will be able to identify the legal considerations of assistive technology for students who have an IEP.

#2: The learner will be able to identify one resource for learning more about specific assistive technology topics.

#3: The learner will be able to find the AT Forward Community of Practice (COP) webpage, join the CoP, locate the current year's meeting topics and registration information.

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Session Description

This workshop will share information about what assistive technology is and the legal requirements for students with IEPs. Additionally, we will share information about the Assistive Technology (AT) Forward statewide project including the monthly community of practice (CoP) meetings and how you can participate. Finally, resources will be shared for learning more about assistive technology.

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Assistive Technology- IDEA

Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA):
The term "assistive technology device" means any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of a child with a disability.

The term "assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition, or use of an assistive technology device

Wisconsin State Statute:
"Assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device, including all of the following: (see web page)

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Assistive Technology- WI State Statute

Wisconsin State Statute:

"Assistive technology service" means any service that directly assists a child with a disability in the selection, acquisition or use of an assistive technology device, including all of the following: (see web page)

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What is AT?

- Examples of AT
- WATI Continuum

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AT & School

Universal Supports vs. Assistive Technology

When does a helpful tool become Assistive Technology?

- When a support is necessary for a student to interact with and be successful in their environment, it becomes AT.

Many AT tools eventually become universal supports.

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Words from AT Users

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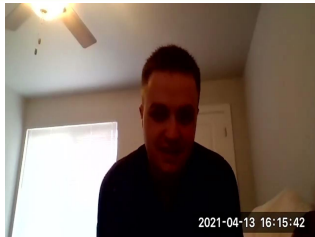
Who Can Participate?

- The AT Forward Project Community of Practice meetings are open to anyone with an interest in assistive technology.

- Participants have included regular education teachers, special education teachers, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, administrators, assistive technology specialists and more!

- Any educational professional can learn about assistive technology and help provide support to students who use assistive technology.

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Community of Practice Focus Areas

1. Providing support to those who are supporting our most marginalized students
2. Providing support to families so that they are able to assist their children
3. Helping to build the capacity of educators
4. Building the capacity of all Community of Practice members so they can build sustainable systems for assistive technology

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Assistive Technology (AT) Forward Community of Practice

As a Community of Practice our Purpose is to:

1. Provide information, guidance, and share the most up to date information from AT experts including those with lived experiences.
2. Share ideas, resources, and collaborate with other CoP members.
3. Use the information and resources from CoP meetings to support students, families, educators, and professionals.

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Community of Practice Membership

- Community of Practice
  - Free virtual learning and networking
  - If you haven't signed up or know someone who would benefit from joining the conversation, they can join using this link!

- Email and Newsletter Updates
  - Monthly connections with tips and updates

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Technical Assistance

To request technical assistance you can complete our TA Request Form

1. To follow up on or learn more information about things heard at CoP meetings
2. To get connected with resources related to Assistive Technology
3. Provide assistance with device options for students
4. Provide family members or caregivers support using devices at home
5. Support district leaders with getting services and systems for assistive technology in place

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CoP meetings- Clip 1

Oct. 27- What and why of Assistive Technology

- Questions for Discussion:
  - What types of assistive technology do you have experience with and why is it important to consider assistive technology use?
  - How can simple steps such as using Alt Text help provide accessible content?

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CoP meetings- Clip 2

April 27 DVR   Questions for Discussion:

1. Do you work with DVR to support AT tools for students post graduation?
2. What benefits do you see with the shared cost of AT tools?

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CoP meetings- Upcoming Meetings

1 Hour Virtual Meetings

Upcoming Topics

- Behavior as Communication- Dec 1st
- Universal Design for Learning: Using Technology that Promotes Student Engagement for All- Dec 16th
- Low and No Cost Resources to Support Assistive Technology- March 7th
- Non-Academic Activities: Engaging Students in Social and Leisure Activities- May 11th

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AT Internet Modules

FREE Resource:

AT Internet Modules

- Professional Development for learning more about Assistive Technology
- Provide certificates for completion of the pre/post assessments for each of the modules
- Topics include: AT for school age, AT problem solving across the lifespan, AT for early childhood, AT for Adult Life, and Using the WATI Assessment Process

https://atinternetmodules.org/
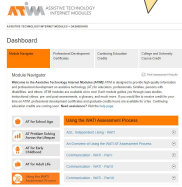
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DPI support for AT

DPI AT Website

- Here you will find:
  - Links to AT Learning Modules
  - Links to the AT Forward Project
  - Wisconsin Assistive Technology Initiative (WATI)
  - Wisconsin AT Lending Libraries

DPI Goal- The Assistive Technology (AT) Forward Project is a project that is part of CARES Act ESSER funding designed to support educators, practitioners, caregivers and families to increase student autonomy in utilizing Assistive Technology tools to support access, engagement, and progress in virtual and distance learning

DPI sends weekly emails with updates and will be sending out bulletins regarding legal requirements regarding assistive technology as they are completed this school year.

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Partners in Assistive Technology

- Wisconsin Assistive Technology Network (WATRN)
- State Leaders in Assistive Technology Education (SLATE)
- Assistive Technology Council
- Wisconsin AT4All
- UDL Forward
- Assistive Technology (AT) Forward!

For more information about Assistive Technology Forward you can visit our website on the DPI page!

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