

Spring, 2015

## From the Director's Chair



- Jill Pleasant, MA, OTR/L

**REGISTER NOW for the AzTAP Assistive Technology Summer Conference - July 12-14, 2015**

**Putting AT to Work**

Online registration is now open for this year's 17th Annual Assistive Technology Summer conference – **Putting Assistive Technology to Work**; July 12-14 at the luxurious Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort and Spa at Gainey Ranch. **Register by May 31<sup>st</sup>** to take advantage of the **\$199** early bird registration fee for the 2 day general conference. If you are planning to stay at the hotel, keep in mind that the special room block rate of **\$99 per night** including resort fees **expires on June 15<sup>th</sup>**. Don't miss out on the opportunity to affordably update your assistive technology knowledge and earn free continuing education hours in a premier resort environment. We are offering a choice of two pre-conference instructional workshops, more than 40 breakout sessions presented by experienced national and local speakers who will be sharing their AT expertise, successes and challenges. New for this year - a guided hands-on iPad exploration lab!

We expect approximately 50 assistive technology-vendors, disability organizations and state



agencies. The Exhibit Hall provides an opportunity for everyone to learn more about assistive technology products for vision,

hearing, communication, mobility, education, employment and daily living activities. Our Networking Reception on Monday afternoon provides a conducive, relaxed atmosphere for connecting with colleagues and exhibitors.

Speaking of the Exhibit Hall, if you work with or are a consumer/family member, AzTAP is again very excited about offering consumer access to the Exhibit Hall. The Exhibit Hall will be open to the community – at no charge – with our complimentary Exhibit Hall Pass on **Monday afternoon, July 13<sup>st</sup> from 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.** (The Exhibit Hall closes at 6:00). Please note that this **pass is valid on Monday, July 13, 2015 from 1:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. for the Exhibit Hall Only and does NOT provide access to conference sessions or meals.** To receive your FREE Exhibit Hall Pass, please register at <http://aztap.org/conference/exhibit-hall-coupon-registration/>.



If you plan to attend the full conference and want more information about the schedule, sessions, speakers, and the possibility of limited consumer scholarships, go to the AzTAP website at <http://aztap.org/conference/>.

If you have any questions or need assistance, contact Adi Kalika at 602.728.9532 or by email at [Adi.Kalika@nau.edu](mailto:Adi.Kalika@nau.edu).

## AIDD Commissioner Aaron Bishop Visits AzTAP

On February 26, 2015 AzTAP was honored to host a lunchtime visit by Aaron Bishop, Commissioner, Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD), US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) during his recent visit to Arizona. Within HHS, AIDD falls under the auspices of the

Administration for Community Living. AzTAP, along with the other 55 Assistive Technology Act Programs, will be moving from the US Department of Education to the Administration on Community Living at HHS. Although AzTAP will not be directly administered by Commissioner Bishop, there is a close connection because, as an IHD program, AzTAP is part of NAU's University Center on Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). Commissioner Bishop had been involved with the reauthorization of the AT Act



**Commissioner Bishop with AzTAP Consumers and Advisory Board Members**

in 2004 and therefore was interested in seeing our program.

Along with two of his staff members, Dr. Ophelia McLain and Ms. Allison Cruz, Commissioner Bishop toured the AzTAP office, met with staff and representatives from the Advisory board, and listened to three consumers who shared how they have benefitted from a variety of AzTAP services. Tony and Tina are a recently married couple and both of them are blind. Tina also has limited use of one hand. They met one of AzTAP's AT Specialists at the Arizona chapter conference for the National Federation for the Blind. As a result of the interaction at AzTAP's exhibit booth, they learned they could borrow devices from our lending library. Tony borrowed several different items, including a Braille note taker, a labeling system, a bar code reader, and several different Daisy players for accessing books. Tina has borrowed one-handed kitchen items, such as a jar opener and adapted cutting board.

Their device demonstrations also included more detailed consultations about their overall assistive technology needs. Tony and Tina were interested in buying some of the devices

that were demonstrated as well as loaned to them, but did not have the cash in hand to do so. The AT Specialist suggested that they learn more about AzTAP's financial loan program, Arizona Loan\$ for Assistive Technology (AzLAT). As a result, they submitted an application and were approved for a one year, low interest loan for \$600 that allowed them to purchase several different blindness-related products. While Tony initially hoped to borrow money for a computer, there was concern that a larger loan would overtax their budget. Instead, AzTAP was able to provide Tony with a free laptop computer through our partnership with AZStRUT computer reuse program.

**Use the ADE-AzTAP AT Loan Library to Support Your Students' Assistive Technology Needs**



If you provide services to students with disabilities in Pre-K through -12th grade, the lending library is a statewide, free resource for public and charter schools. As one school-based occupational therapist just shared with us..."I can't begin to tell you how grateful I am to have you helping us out with equipment loans. You have made my job so much easier and successful, and it has benefited the students in our district greatly! Many thanks..." For more information contact Janelle Bauerle at 928.523.6774 or go to <http://www.adeatloan.org/>

**The AzTAP Alphabet Soup**

Did you ever wonder what the initials after some of the AzTAP staff member names stand for such as ATP, CEAC, CRC, MSW, OTR/L and SLPA?



People working in education, health and rehabilitation professions have initials after

their names that may be unfamiliar to the general public. However, it is helpful to know what they stand for because assistive technology specialists come from a variety of professional disciplines:

- **ATP: Assistive Technology Professional** - The RESNA ATP certification program validates that professionals are competent in their ability to provide direct consumer related services in Assistive Technology. Recipients must meet educational criteria, document direct AT work experience and must pass a national certification exam.
- **CEAC: Certified Environmental Access Consultant** - This certification was created to reduce the disparity in training and practice found among professionals who evaluate the environmental access needs of the aging-in-place and physically challenged and to promote independence.
- **CRC: Certified Rehabilitation Counselor** – This national certification program ensures certificants are of good moral character, meet nationally accepted standards of quality in their practice, and have the requisite educational & professional background to provide rehabilitation services.
- **M.Ed.: Master of Education**
- **MSW: Master of Social Work**
- **OTR/L: Occupational Therapist, (Nationally) Registered and (State) Licensed**
- **PT: Physical Therapist State Licensed**
- **SLP: Speech-Language Pathologist (National certification/state license)**
- **SLPA: Speech-Language Pathologist Assistant State Licensed**

## How Does the AzTAP Staff Keep Up with New Technology?



Clayton, Laura and Mellowdee at CSUN

Our staff keeps their knowledge current by doing online research, participating in webinars, local training events and going to national

conferences. Clayton, Mellowdee and Laura just returned from the CSUN-Center on Disabilities' Annual AT Conference in San Diego. They attended lots of educational sessions and spent considerable time in the exhibit hall talking to vendors and exploring many of the new and updated AT devices currently on the market. This hands-on approach helps AzTAP decide which items to purchase to keep our loan and demonstration inventory up to date.

## Update on Mario

Two years ago we featured Mario Zapata in a newsletter article describing the services provided by AzTAP which



Clayton, Mario and Susan Wurth, Director of Educational Options, at NAEHS Induction Ceremony

supported Mario's ability to identify and obtain a range of assistive technologies that have resulted in improved function and quality of life for him. We are pleased to report that Mario is now working on obtaining his GED and was just inducted into the National Adult Education

Honor Society. Mario's assistive technology is certainly a significant factor contributing to his step by step success as he pursues his educational goals.



### Hope Fest: Need for Durable Medical Equipment Donations

CityServe AZ, a local non-profit is putting on their 4th annual Hope Fest April 18th from 9-2, at Chase Field in downtown Phoenix. This event connects the working poor in our community with local resources and provides immediate medical assistance to those who need it. As a part of the medical exams that will be provided by physicians and students at the University of Arizona School of Medicine, there will be recommendations for various types of durable medical equipment (DME) such as walkers, canes, ADL devices, etc. Hope Fest is looking for donations of DME that can be provided to those that need it. If you have items to donate, contact Ms. Charlotte Thrall by phone at 602.750.1486 or by email at [charthrall0183@msn.com](mailto:charthrall0183@msn.com). For more information about Hope Fest 2015, go to <http://www.cityserveaz.com/hopefest>.

CityServe AZ fosters transformative relationships of care across business, faith, government and nonprofit sectors to solve pressing human need in our communities by promoting loving service, connecting those who share common interests, and through collaborative partnerships.



### Upcoming AzTAP Trainings and Events:

- **AzTAP Open House for Charter Schools** - April 8, 4:00-6:00 pm
- **Creating Accessible Documents & Presentations WEBINAR** - April 21, 3:00-4:00 pm

- **Conference Early Bird Registration** – Now through June 1, 2015
- **AzTAP's 17th Annual Assistive Technology Conference** - July 12-14, 2015

Sign up for these, and other trainings and events at <http://aztap.org/at-education/register-online/>



### Contact Us

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*AzTAP is a Phoenix-based program of the Institute for Human Development at Northern Arizona University  
This document is available in alternative formats. Call 602.728.9534.*