2016 Annual Report

AzTAP
ARIZONA Technology Access Program

NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY College of Social and Behavioral Sciences
Institute for Human Development
22 Years of Service

2016 was our 22nd year of providing access to assistive technology for Arizona residents. Here are some highlights from our activities in 2016.

62% of AzTAP’s 2016 funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services ($597,288); the balance was supported by leveraged funding from state agencies.

Our Accomplishments by the Numbers

**3,897 devices**

970 persons borrowed 3,897 AT devices from our short term device loan libraries.

**432 demonstrations**

AzTAP staff conducted 432 device demonstrations attended by 1,121 persons.

**52 events**

AzTAP conducted/hosted 52 educational events that were attended by 1,184 persons.

**39,015 individuals**

AzTAP reached 39,015 individuals through its website, newsletters, print materials, social media and community events.

**2,027 requests**

AzTAP staff responded to 2,027 requests for information and assistance.

**266 items posted**

266 items were posted on the ATEX website and 114 exchanges took place.

**226**

Spotlight on Success

Rebecca, a woman in her mid sixties, contacted AzTAP for help with assistive technology for her low vision. Prior to coming to AzTAP, she had tried a variety of low tech magnifying aids but these were no longer meeting her needs. During the demonstration at AzTAP, Rebecca had the opportunity to try several different video magnifiers including a small hand held model and a larger desktop magnifier. Rebecca decided that her best option was to get a compact video magnifier since she could use it for reading her mail and magazines at home; it is also small enough to take with her for shopping and reading labels. However, she was concerned about the cost. AzTAP’s AT Specialist helped Rebecca complete the application for a financial loan from AzLAT – our alternative financing program. Her loan application was approved and she was able to buy the device with affordable monthly payments.
AzTAP collaborated with the Rehabilitation Services Administration and the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to sponsor the Assistive Technology Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing workshop. The event reached capacity very quickly, with almost 100 people attending from every part of Arizona.

$346K Saved
AzTAP’s reuse activities and assistance with finding potential funding sources saved consumers who needed assistive technology over $346,000!

AzLAT - Alternative Finance Programs

14 Loans
AzLAT approved 14 low interest rate loans totaling over $76,000 to persons with disabilities, allowing them to buy their desired assistive technology.

100% of AzLAT’s borrowers reported that they were satisfied with their AzLAT experience. Over 93% gave AzLAT the highest rating, reporting they were “highly satisfied.”

“So much success!”
We are having so much success with the [device we borrowed from AzTAP’s Loan Library], it is ridiculous. Our little one has gone from needing constant help and supervision on the computer to being completely independent – P.K., AT Coordinator, local school district
Mary, an older woman with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), was living in a group home and receiving Hospice services. She had been using a baby monitor to summon assistance from the staff, but as her illness progressed, her voice weakened and this system was no longer sufficient to alert the caregivers that she needed help.

After being referred to AzTAP by the hospice nurse, AzTAP’s AT Specialist went to her home to assess her assistive technology needs. After trying different assistive technology products and exploring the pros and cons of each, Mary chose to borrow a switch that she controlled with a slight movement of her head. It was mounted so she could activate the call button. Now the staff could clearly hear her throughout the house. As a result of the successful device loan and setup, Mary’s family purchased the equipment for her. Both the family and group home were very pleased that Mary was able to independently summon assistance up to the end of her life.

“I wanted to express my appreciation to you for going after hours to meet with my client at her work setting. Not just your knowledge & skill, but your kindness is what makes you & AzTAP so valuable to our clients.”

– I.M., Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor