Self Advocacy with AAC Users and More!

Krista Howard
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My name is Krista Howard. I am an AAC user. I graduated from Estrella Mountain College in 2013 with a degree in Education.

I am an AT Technician at Gompers in Phoenix, AZ.

I have volunteered at Out and About a community group for AAC users with Caroline Musselwhite for 20+ years.

I have worked and volunteered in schools in the area of special education for 16 years.
Presentations

Presenter at:

- Closing the Gap (x4)
- ATIA (x2)
- ISAAC
- Keynote speaker at others
My AAC story

- Living with CP & learning AT
- What I wish would have happened as an AAC user.

Using AAC as a College Student
- Self-Advocacy
- Career Readiness

Reaching Career Goals
- Landing a job
- Networking & building relationships
- Using vocational rehabilitation services

My Mentors and Peer Models
I am a model and mentor at Gompers.

I believe that AAC users need other AAC users as peer models to increase our ability to talk with friends.

This is also a support and model for staff and teachers.
There is great research on how important modeling is for AAC users.

It is motivating for AAC users to have a role model in their life.

This presentation will support AAC users and those who work with them to set up groups and create a plan to be able to model for others.
I do awesome sessions with members at Gompers.

Model model model
AT for Education

- How I did college with AAC
- How did I Presentations on my AAC In college and grade school.
AT for Independent Living and Community Integration

- Self care
- Mobility
- Environmental Controls
- Recreation
AT Service Delivery Issues

- Best Practice
- Funding
- Legal Issues
- Advocacy
- Policies/Procedures
Modeling sessions

- Explain How Modeling is important.
- Support staff best I can
- Discuss how I impact few members
peer-to-peer mentoring and modeling can also help with self-advocacy and my own journey in becoming independent with AAC. As adult AAC users, it is harder to make friends. As an AAC user, I am able to provide aided language stimulation as a natural communication support. This has proved to be a valuable resource for the adults in our program in building friendships, increased independent communication and improved social skills. It is my belief that individuals should be able to independently express all aspects of their personality.