



## Topics in Assistive Technology

November 13-14, 2008

Richmond Convention Center, Downtown Richmond

This conference is sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Centers and the Hospital Education Program at Children's Hospital, Richmond

### Thursday, November 13

#### *Keynote: What's in YOUR toolkit?*

**Penny Reed, Ph. D., National Consultant in Special Education and Assistive Technology, Roseburg, OR**

Do you wish people knew more about assistive technology? Are you frustrated by your attempts to have IEP teams appropriately consider the need for AT during IEP meetings? The new Virginia AT consideration form will be a powerful new addition to your toolkit. It will increase knowledge about AT Consideration and provide a resource to increase consistency and comprehensiveness of AT Consideration in your school division. Penny will talk about how this information has been used in other states and how it will benefit students with disabilities in Virginia. In addition, she will share online resources and talk about how they can be added to your personal toolkit to help you help others.

**Workshops:** Select from over 25 practitioner or vendor sessions on a broad range of AT topics. Presenters will share their experiences and insights about the effective use of assistive and instructional technology by individuals with disabilities (preschool through high school) and the professionals who work with them. Topics are useful for general and special educators, related services personnel, assistive technology teams, instructional technology specialists, administrators, family members and others interested in helping students with disabilities achieve success. Come learn, share ideas and network with others! Session descriptions can be found at <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>.

**Exhibits:** Explore the latest technology from leading assistive technology manufacturers and vendors.

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### Friday, November 14 Featuring half-day workshop sessions and exhibits

#### *Cool Computer Activities for Language Arts and Social Studies (Workshop 1)*

**Presenter: Tammy Worcester, Instructional Technology Specialist, Hutchinson, Kansas**

Are you looking for new and creative ways to use the computer in your language arts or social studies classroom? This session is packed full of clever ideas for quick and easy-to-create projects that are aligned with national standards. You'll be amazed at how these simple activities will excite your students while taking their learning and thinking to a new level.

**FAST-PACED, HALF DAY SESSION**

**Participant Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced**

#### *AT Assessment Made Easy (Workshop 2)*

**Presenter: Penny Reed, Ph. D., National Consultant in Special Education and Assistive Technology, Roseburg, OR**

This workshop will present a team based model for completing assistive technology consideration and assessment. It begins with a brief look at AT Consideration for IEP teams. Then an Assistive Technology Assessment process will be explained with examples. This assessment process includes three stages: Information Gathering, Decision Making, and Trial Implementation. Participants will practice the process during the workshop, which increases the likelihood that they will be able to implement it back in their own setting. All needed forms to implement the assessment process will be provided.

**HALF DAY SESSION**

**Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate**

### ***Autism, AAC and Literacy in Early Childhood Programs (Workshop 3)***

**Presenter: Pati King-DeBaun, M.S. CCC-SLP, Creative Communicating, Park City, UT**

There is considerable debate on how to develop communication and/or intervention strategies for young communicators with complex communication needs. For children with autism this debate is as multifaceted as the diagnosis itself. This session will demonstrate through case examples how natural teaching techniques, functional language teaching, social interaction, internal motivation and emotional regulation play a key role in the development of communication and literacy instruction for children with autism. In addition, there is significant research demonstrating that literacy learning significantly impacts language learning as well. This session will demonstrate strategies through light technology and high technology.

**HALF DAY SESSION**

***Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate***

### ***Literacy and Communication Instruction for Students with Significant Disabilities, Including Deaf-Blindness: Yes They Can! (Workshop 4)***

**Presenter: Gretchen Hanser, Ph.D., Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC**

Developing successful literacy and communication instruction for students with significant disabilities, including deaf-blindness is a challenging feat. The Center for Literacy & Disability Studies at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill, has worked with the NC Department of Public Instruction to develop model classrooms that provide exemplary instruction for this population. This session will provide an overview of the exciting classroom activities through student case studies, videos, assistive technology supports and writing samples.

**HALF DAY SESSION**

***Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate***

### ***Math + Science + Technology = Learning (Workshop 5)***

**Presenter: Tammy Worcester, Instructional Technology Specialist, Hutchinson, Kansas**

In this session, you will learn how to use common computer programs in clever ways for teaching and learning math and science. See how lessons and learning can be enlivened, enhanced, and updated through the integration of resources and tools found on the Internet and on the classroom computer. Explore some fascinating ideas and resources that will inspire both teachers and students. You're guaranteed to go away with many ideas you can implement tomorrow with your students!

**FAST-PACED, HALF DAY SESSION**

***Participant Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced***

### ***Creating an Environment for Effective Assistive Technology Implementation and Use (Workshop 6)***

**Presenter: Penny Reed, Ph. D., National Consultant in Special Education and Assistive Technology, Roseburg, OR**

One of the biggest problems in providing assistive technology for students with disabilities is ensuring that it is implemented in the child's daily environment as recommended. This workshop focuses on specific strategies that can be utilized to increase the likelihood that teachers and therapists will implement the assistive technology in meaningful activities in the child's customary environments. It includes specific steps to help increase the implementation of information gained in this workshop or other training.

**HALF DAY SESSION**

***Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate***

### ***Supported Reading: Building Language and Literacy Skills for Diverse Populations in Early Childhood Programs (Workshop 7)***

**Presenter: Pati King-DeBaun, M.S. CCC-SLP, Creative Communicating, Park City, UT**

Supported readings are used as a method to engage students, build early language and vocabulary skills, scaffold the reading participation process, build independent story retelling skills and provide success strategies that increase motivation to interact with books by children with severe disabilities. These strategies have worked with a range of children including children on the autism spectrum, children who have physical disabilities, children with severe speech and language delays, and children who have general developmental delays. Supported readings are suggested to support *not* replace the more traditional "shared readings" which exposes children to an array of literature.

**HALF DAY SESSION**

***Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate***

### ***The Power of the Pencil: Getting Writing on the Radar for Students with Significant Disabilities, Including Deaf-Blindness (Workshop 8)***

**Presenter: Gretchen Hanser, Ph.D., Center for Literacy and Disability Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC**

For students with significant disabilities, including deaf-blindness, writing poses numerous challenges and as a result may not be on the radar. To address the problem, the Center for Literacy and Disability Studies has developed a variety of "alternative pencils" for this population. During the session, each of the alternative pencils will be described and demonstrated using student videos and writing samples.

**HALF DAY SESSION**

***Participant Skill Level: Beginner to Intermediate***

**AGENDA****Thursday, November 13, 2008**

8:15 – 9:00 REGISTRATION

9:00 – 10:00 Keynote, Penny Reed, What's in *YOUR* toolkit?

10:15 – 3:30 Practitioner and Commercial Vendor Workshops, Exhibits and Box Lunches

**Friday, November 14, 2008**

7:45 – 8:30 REGISTRATION

8:30 – 11:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Workshop 1:**

Tammy Worcester - Cool Computer Activities for Language Arts and Social Studies

**Workshop 2:**

Penny Reed – AT Assessment Made Easy

**Workshop 3:**

Pati King-DeBaun – Autism, AAC and Literacy in Early Childhood Programs

**Workshop 4:**

Gretchen Hanser – Literacy and Communication Instruction for Students with Significant Disabilities, Including Deaf-Blindness: Yes They Can!

11:30 – 12:30 LUNCH

12:30 – 3:30 CONCURRENT SESSIONS

**Workshop 5:**

Tammy Worcester - Math + Science + Technology = Learning

**Workshop 6:** Penny Reed - Creating an Environment for Effective AT Implementation and Use**Workshop 7:**

Pati King-DeBaun – Supported Reading: Building Language and Literacy Skills for Diverse Populations in Early Childhood Programs

**Workshop 8:**

Gretchen Hanser – The Power of the Pencil: Getting Writing on the Radar for Students with Significant Disabilities, I Including Deaf-Blindness

**Conference Registration Fee:****\$100** (2 days), **\$50** (one day)

\*\*Family members may apply for tuition assistance by contacting Sarah Wright. We regret that child care is **not** available at the conference. **Parking is available at the Richmond Convention Center for a fee of \$6.00 per day.**

**Conference Registration Deadline:** November 2, 2008

No refunds. Substitutions are accepted.

**Off-Site Hotel Information:**Holiday Inn Express, 201 East Cary Street, Downtown Richmond  
Conference Rates until 10/12/08: \$109.00 (plus tax), \$7.00 per day parking, Breakfast is provided.(804) 788-1600, [www.hiexpress.com/richmonddtwn](http://www.hiexpress.com/richmonddtwn)

When making hotel reservations at the Holiday Inn, please identify yourself as attending the TechKnowledge 2008 Conference.

Shuttle service provided to the Greater Richmond Convention Center.

**Alternate Hotels at Non-conference Rates:**

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Downtown, (804) 788-0900

Doubletree Hotel, Downtown, (804) 644-9871

Recertification Points will be available.

**REGISTRATION FORM**

(PLEASE COMPLETE ONE FORM PER REGISTRANT)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Position: \_\_\_\_\_

School/Program: \_\_\_\_\_

School Division (City/County): \_\_\_\_\_

Ages Served: 0-2\_\_\_\_ 3-5\_\_\_\_ 6-11\_\_\_\_ 12-14\_\_\_\_ 15+\_\_\_\_\_

Home/School Address (Circle one): \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday, November 13**

\_\_\_\_ Yes, I plan to attend "OPEN" Practitioner and Commercial Exhibitor Workshops and Exhibits. Workshop descriptions are available at <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>.

**Friday, November 14**

**NOTE:** Please mark the workshops below according to your preference – 1 being first choice and 4 being last choice for AM and PM sessions. If for some reason your first choice is unavailable, you will automatically be placed in your second choice selection, and so on. Workshop selections will be noted on your conference name tag.

**AM SESSIONS**\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 1:** Cool Computer Activities for Language Arts...\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 2:** AT Assessment Made Easy\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 3:** Autism, AAC and Literacy\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 4:** Literacy and Communication Instruction for...**PM SESSIONS**\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 5:** Math + Science + Technology = Learning\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 6:** Creating an Environment for Effective AT...\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 7:** Supported Reading: Building Language...\_\_\_\_ **Workshop 8:** The Power of the Pencil: Getting Writing...

TOTAL ENCLOSED: 1 Day Total: \_\_\_\_\_ 2 Day Total: \_\_\_\_\_

PO #/SCHOOL DIVISION \_\_\_\_\_

**Please return by November 2, 2008****Checks payable to:** VCU T/TAC**Mail to:** Sarah Wright

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[sswright@vcu.edu](mailto:sswright@vcu.edu)**Toll Free:** 1-866-465-0412 **FAX:** 434-292-7486

If you require special conference or meal accommodations, please contact Sarah Wright by November 2, 2008.

**Confirmation & Directions will be e-mailed prior to conference.****NEW!!! ONLINE REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE**Please go to our website, <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac> and click on the TechKnowledge 2008 Conference Information link under "What's New".



!!!Have You Heard???!!!

Online Registration is now available. Please go to our website, <http://www.vcu.edu/ttac>, and click on the TechKnowledge 2008 Conference Information link under "What's New". You will also be able to access session descriptions as well.

**For General Information, please contact:**

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