

South Carolina **Assistive Technology Program**

CENTER FOR DISABILITY RESOURCES
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE



Improving Lives
Through Assistive Technology
Annual Report 2019

South Carolina Assistive Technology Program Annual Report 2019

South Carolina Assistive Technology Program Mission

Our mission is to enhance the independence, productivity and quality of life for all South Carolinians through the use of assistive technology.

Overview

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Program (SCATP) uses technology devices and services to help people with disabilities live, work and learn more independently. We are federally funded and part of a national network of technology-related assistance programs that provide the devices that increase, maintain or improve functional capabilities.

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Dear Friends,

This has been an exciting year! We finished up the Christopher and Dana Reeve Grant that allowed us to purchase eye gaze communication devices for the AT Resource Center. This grant continues to allow us to serve people with paralysis who benefit from eye gaze communication devices.

We have seen a steady increase of people interested in demonstrations for low-vision equipment, specifically from the senior population.

Beyond new equipment, we also expanded our reach by welcoming South Carolina students from different areas of study for hands-on labs at the resource center.

Assistive technology is evolving at a fast pace, and we are glad to help South Carolinians navigate all of the new and exciting options. We continue to provide technical assistance and collaborate with various agencies across the state to improve lives through assistive technology.

Deepest regards,

Carol Page

Carol Page, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, ATP, CBIS
Program Manager, South Carolina Assistive
Technology Program



2019 Key Activities

Device Demonstrations

Our Assistive Technology (AT) professionals guide individuals with disabilities and their support providers through demonstrations of various adaptive devices to help them make informed AT purchases. Support providers may include speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, vision itinerant specialists, teachers, service coordinators, parents, spouses or other family members.

We do not charge for demonstrations, and we do not write reports. Because we do not sell products, our demonstrations are impartial. To schedule a demonstration, call 803-935-5263.

238 SCATP provided 238 AT device demonstrations to 695 South Carolinians.

Device Loans

We believe it is important to try a device in the environment where it will be used before making the decision to buy. That is why we offer free AT device loans for up to four weeks with a signed agreement. To borrow a device, call 803-935-5337.

385 SCATP provided 385 short-term equipment loans to 242 individuals, allowing them to test AT devices as part of their decision-making process.

Laney's Story

“ My daughter, Katherine Laney Peebles, is in the eleventh grade at Sandhills School in Columbia. She was diagnosed with dyslexia, dysgraphia and ADHD many years ago. She has become very anxious and frustrated with note-taking in class. Currently she does not use any type of assisted technology. Could you provide guidance related to assisted technology that might benefit her as she moves forward in high school and hopefully college? – Lib Peebles

When SCATP program coordinator Tammy Wallace received this request, she scheduled a demonstration with Laney and Lib so they could check out various AT devices that might help Laney with note-taking. One of the devices that Laney tried was the Echo LiveScribe Pen, which allows users to record a lecture, take notes in a special notebook and then download the audio files to a computer for later listening.

Laney borrowed the pen through the SCATP loan program so she could use it in class before making a purchase. By using the pen during class, Laney was able to take fewer written notes and spend more time listening to the teacher. As a result, she and her mom decided to purchase it.

“ Having the pen has helped my daughter with her anxiety and ability to capture key information that she could not write fast enough on her own. After we borrowed the pen and saw the benefits it provided, we purchased one for ourselves. We appreciate the help we received from the S.C. Assistive Technology Program!

– Lib and Laney Peebles



Laney using her Echo Livescribe Pen

Sallie's Story

“ Our daughter Sallie Fallaw was born at 24 weeks. She weighed 1.4 ounces and was 11 inches long. She is definitely our miracle! She has mild cerebral palsy that mostly affects her legs and uses a wheelchair to get around. She loves the outdoors, but we couldn't find anything that she could ride.

A friend of mine told me about this wonderful place called the S.C. Assistive Technology Program. I checked every day to see if someone posted a bike on the assistive technology exchange website. Finally, after noticing that a bike was hard to come by, I decided to just call them. I spoke with a wonderful lady named Alli Upchurch. She sent me a form to request medical equipment.

This is how our daughter got her first bike! It's so awesome! The first day she got it she rode for two hours! The smile on her face was priceless. She now feels like any other 12-year-old with her bike. This bike will help her legs to get stronger and enjoy the outdoors. We already have plans to take it with us on our beach vacation. We can't thank you enough for helping us get this bike. We also would like to thank the family that donated it. We are truly blessed! You have a wonderful program that helps so many people.

Thanks for all you do.
– April and Toby Fallaw



Sallie on her very first bike



2019 Key Activities

Device Reuse

SCATP has two ways to help you get the assistive technology you need.

South Carolina Assistive Technology Exchange

The South Carolina Assistive Technology Exchange is a free online reuse database that helps individuals connect with each other to find, give away or sell used equipment. You can list items on the database that you need or would like to sell or give away. Any individual, agency representative or family member can participate in the exchange. If you need help using the site, call us at 803-935-5273.

\$16,842 The SCATP Equipment Exchange facilitated the exchange of 12 AT devices from individual to individual for a savings of \$16,842.

AT Reuse

The SCATP Reuse Service can help individuals acquire free used assistive technology items, including durable medical equipment. Call 803-935-5273 to learn if we have what you are looking for or to donate used equipment.

\$246,925 The SCATP Reuse provided 220 South Carolinians with 381 pieces of equipment for a savings of \$246,925.

Information and Referral

SCATP helped 201 South Carolinians with information and referral sources on needed AT devices and services, including how to obtain funding for AT.



2019 Key Activities

S.C. Assistive Technology Expo

This free event is the go-to source for people with disabilities, their families, seniors, veterans, healthcare professionals and educators. Each year, the event opens individuals' eyes to new technologies, new possibilities, new solutions and new opportunities to change their life. It is the only event of its kind in South Carolina where attendees can discover ability-enhancing products and services, learn about adaptive sports and attend informative workshops.

More than 70 exhibitors showcased the latest products and services for people with a wide range of disabilities. Attendees could see and test mobility products, devices for people with developmental disabilities, medical equipment, home accessories, daily living aids, products for seniors, equipment for people with sensory impairments and much more.

Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a series of compelling workshops that address pressing disability issues.

871 871 people attended the 26th annual S.C. Assistive Technology Expo hosted by SCATP.

Trainings and Workshops

Assistive technology professionals provided free or low-cost workshops and hands-on trainings about functional strategies and the latest devices, along with information on accessible web and information technology. SCATP partnered with the S.C. Department of Education AT staff to provide trainings for parents and school staff to increase knowledge of assistive technology. Trainings were held at the SCATP office and at other locations by request. Call us at 803-935-5276 to learn about upcoming training sessions or schedule training at your location.

2,520 SCATP trainings on assistive technology reached 2,520 individuals.

Expo 2020

The 2020 expo will be **Tuesday, March 3**, at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in downtown Columbia. The event is free and open to the public.

Success at Still Hopes

I cannot thank you enough for spending the time and providing the information for Mrs. Wyman, Mrs. Boyd and me. It was so helpful, and these ladies feel like they have won the lottery! They are so grateful to be able to try out these devices. We are also excited to have your team out to do trainings at our retirement community. I really appreciate you and your team (Carol, Tammy, Alli, Eric) at SCATP being such great partners for us!

– Tacey Gohean, LMSW, Director of Community Services, Still Hopes Episcopal Retirement Community



You Fuel Our Success

The S.C. Assistive Technology Program has a long history of providing hope and support to families and professionals.

Our Partners

Thank you to all of the agencies and organization that we partner with throughout South Carolina. The work we do is made possible and maximized by working with agencies and organizations that have a similar mission.

You Can Help

You can help us improve lives through assistive technology. It's easy!

Make a referral. Do you know an individual with a disability that could benefit from using assistive technology? If the answer is yes, refer them to 803-935-5276.

Share your personal story with a photograph of how the program has helped you!

Send an email to Carol.Page@uscmed.sc.edu.

2019 Key Activities

Information and Communication Accessibility Training

The S.C. Assistive Technology Program hosted a leading web-accessibility company, WebAIM, to provide an intensive two-day training program for webmasters and communicators from K-12 school districts, colleges and universities across South Carolina.

250 250 people attended the ICT training each day.

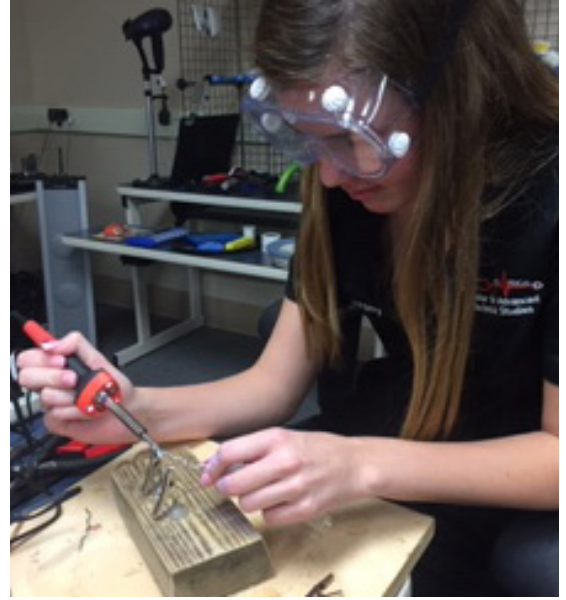
Transition Services

Transition services prepare students for future education, employment and independent living. Assistive technology helps every child with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) meet their transition goals. Our organization helps assess and provides loaner devices and training in the use of assistive technology.

SCATP collaborates with AbleSC's S.C. Youth Leadership Forum for young adults with disabilities in an annual career leadership program that can help them face the challenges that arise in becoming members of their communities. Participants take part in activities that enable them to network, learn from each other and build lasting friendships.

The Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC) helps young adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities make a successful transition from high school to adult life. SCATP serves as a partner agency and collaborates on transition activities.

242 SCATP participated in transition activities that reached 242 individuals.



New Project

Adapted Toy Project

Children with disabilities often have difficulty interacting with toys. To help them experience the joy of toys, the S.C. Assistive Technology Program offered its first adapted toy workshops before the holidays.

Families, professionals and school staff were invited to bring battery-operated toys to the S.C. Assistive Technology Resource Center where the toys were adapted for switch use. To be adaptable, the toys had to have an on/off switch and only one action. Two examples of such toys are Flappy the Elephant (which only flaps its ears when turned on) and Robo Alive T-Rex Robotic Pet (which only walks when turned on).

S.C. Assistive Technology Program staff and students from Lexington-Richland School District 5 helped create switches to operate the adapted toys. Everyone left the workshop with their toy adapted for switch use and a switch to operate it. Based on the event's success and the overwhelming need for these toys, SCATP will host the adapted toy workshop as an annual event.

SCATP has many switches and toys adapted for switch use available for demonstration and loan. For more information, call 803-935-5301.

38 38 people participated in the first Adapted Toy Workshop.



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**Center for
Disability Resources**
School of Medicine Columbia

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