



Region 3 AT Center

A PROJECT OF THE LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE

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WELCOME BACK

Summer seems to pass so quickly! We hope that everyone enjoyed their time off and are well rested to start a new school year. We at the Region 3 AT Center are looking forward to providing free consultative services, training and technical assistance to district staff, educators, universities, parents/caregivers, advocacy groups and agencies.

Our mission is to help increase the knowledge and awareness of assistive technology so that students with disabilities have appropriate and universal access for classroom participation, academic achievement and social and vocational experiences. Our goals this year are to provide more on-site trainings, develop a plan for providing on-line training opportunities, provide training for universities, advocacy groups and parents, work with district AT teams to set up a model AT classroom in each district, assist districts in conducting their own AT assessments by loaning out LATI Assessment Kits and develop training modules that can be shared with districts so that they can redeliver the trainings in their districts.

We are so proud of all the hard work and progress that our districts have made over the past 4 years. Please continue to contact us and let us know how we can help you. Have a great school year!



CUSTOMIZE A TRAINING

Need a specific training for your school/parish/organization? We at the Region 3 AT Center can help you. We have many trainings designed that would be beneficial to our Region. However, the area of assistive technology is very broad and we can customize trainings specifically for your school's/parish's/organization's needs. We can offer trainings at our center or come to you. The trainings can be after school (1 1/2 hours), 1/2 day (3 hours) or a whole day (6 hours). These trainings are beneficial to all educators,

administrators and parents.

We offer a range of trainings on low tech solutions, specific software and hardware and integrating AT into the classroom. For some example trainings that we offer go to: www.lati3.com/training.htm.

To request a training for your school/parish/organization or have any questions, please contact us by email or phone.



Low Tech

PAGE UP



Clever copy holder holds up to 20 sheets of paper in an upright position. Use next to the computer or at the student's desk when a standing copy is needed. Small enough to throw in a backpack or purse or to fit between computers.

www.onionmountaintech.com

Mid Tech

CRAYOLA AUDIO RULER



Crayola Total Tools Audio Ruler measures out loud! This amazing tool measures in quarter inch increments up to one foot. It displays a thin line of disappearing ink to highlight the length, and then announces the result.

www.crayola.com

High Tech

M3



The M3 is designed for emergent communicators featuring concrete symbols and visual scenes which reduce the cognitive load placed on the user. The preprogrammed pages provide a means to begin developing literacy skills based on core words and phrases organized in distinct categories, helping emergent communicators interact in a range of classroom, home and social settings.

www.dynavotech.com



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As part of the membership, every member can download talking software that will read material in the DAISY digital talking book format. The Victor Reader Soft DAISY player is a software program for PCs that enables you to navigate easily by paragraph and pages through the digital books and bookmark locations to return to at a later time. It has built in text-to-speech that can read the text aloud. The Victor Reader Soft, Bookshare.org Edition, will only read DAISY material downloaded from Bookshare.org. Other compatible text-to-speech software include: Read:Outloud, Kurzweil 1000 or 3000, WYNN, OpenBook, Window-Eyes, JAWS, ZoomText and TextHelp.

The Bookshare.org library consists of a growing number of textbooks, teacher recommended reading, New York Times Bestsellers, Young Reader's Choice, Spanish books, NIMAS books for US K-12 public schools, chapter books from Scholastic, and 150 national and regional newspaper and magazines.

For more information or to join go to: www.bookshare.org

2008
Assistive Technology
Summer Institute



The Summer Institute was a huge success!!!! We were honored and

excited to have such knowledgeable presenters from national, state, regional and district levels. The Institute was kicked off by a keynote presentation given by Joy Zabala. She gave an excellent and entertaining presentation, “Ten Things to Spice Up the Gumbo of Accessible Instructional Materials”, which gave the participants an understanding on what accessible instructional materials are, how and where to access it, and available supports for our State.

Next was the networking activity which was designed to connect the participants with others across the State. The crew of the SS LATI did an excellent skit from Gilligan's Island to illustrate that the problems faced by the cast and crew of Gilligan's Island was a matter of sheer physical survival. However, as teachers of students with special needs, we are often faced with a similar issue, surviving a year of teaching when provided with few materials and supports. The challenge for the participants was to transform a common object (aka “trash”) into an assistive technology tool. There were many creative and excellent solutions!!! And the winner was the Sunburn Team, which consisted of Perry Anderson, Kathy D’Albor, Deborah Herrington-Parker and Tammy Mizell.

In an effort to showcase our teachers and students across the State using AT in the classroom, we had a photo and video contest. There was an overwhelming response, with 46 photos and 15 videos submitted. They all were spectacular! Thank you to all that submitted. The winners of the photo contest: 3rd place went to Lisa Kornegay (SLP) and Ethan Gravois (student) from St. Mary Parish, 2nd place went to Danna Thomas (special education teacher) and KenDarrius Morrisette (student) of Natchitoches Parish, and 1st place went to Brenda Simmons (paraprofessional) and John Clark Ford (student) of Jackson Parish. The winners of the video contest: 3rd place went to Patty Lagron (special education teacher), Russell Pillette and Alex Curette (students) from Lafayette Parish, 2nd place went to Brenda Simmons (paraprofessional) and Tyler Harvey (student) from Jackson Parish, and 1st place went to Gretchen Bell (OT) and Gabby Gaillot (student) from St. Bernard Parish.

Thanks to all who presented, participated and attended the Summer Institute—hope to see you next year.



Gabby giving her thank you speech using her communication device.

SI photo gallery go to: www.lati3.com/08s%20photo%20galleryi.htm

Contest photos and videos go to: www.lati3.com/08si.htm.

“AT on a Dime” photos coming soon!



Meet the crew of the S. S. LATI
The Professor (Tim Daniels), Mary Ann (Katherine Shea), Gilligan (Tammy Dupre), Ginger (Kristie Harvill), Thurston (Kristie Stapler), Mrs. Howell (Charlotte Ducote), Skipper (DeWayne LaCaze)



Even the national presenters had fun!



The Beach Chair Team hard at work during “AT on a Dime” Challenge!



Winners of the “AT on a Dime” Challenge: the Sunburn Team.



Gabby with Gretchen Bell (OT), Ms. Albers (teacher) and other teachers.

Free Software

PowerTalk

PowerTalk is a free program that automatically speaks any presentation or slide show running in Microsoft PowerPoint for Windows. You just download and install PowerTalk and while you open and run the presentation as usual it speaks the text on your slides. The advantage over other generic 'Text To Speech' programs is that PowerTalk is able to speak text as it appears and can also speak hidden text attached to images. Speech is provided by the standard synthesized computer voices that are provided with Windows.

Great for students with vision impairments, learning disabilities and speech impairments to have universal access to the curriculum.

To download program go to:
<http://fullmeasure.co.uk/powertalk/>

Microsoft Photo Story 3

Create slideshows using your digital photos. With a single click, you can touch-up, crop, or rotate pictures. Add stunning special effects, soundtracks, and your own voice narration to your photo stories. Then, personalize them with titles and captions. Small file sizes make it easy to send your photo stories in an e-mail. Watch them on your TV, a computer, or a Windows Mobile-based portable device.

Great program to create social stories and e-books for students who have trouble reading. Such a simple program that even your students can create their own books. For an example of Photo Story books go to:
www.lati3.com/E-books.htm.

To download program go to:
www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/using/digitalphotography/photostory/default.msp

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Check us out on the web!
www.lati3.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

August 20, 2008	Introduction to the SmartBoard, R3 AT Center
August 25, 2008	Writing IEPs for Students with Significant Disabilities, NSU www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcoursesbymonth.asp
September 8, 2008	LA AIMS Forward, R3 AT Center
September 9, 2008	Tools for Written Communication, R3 AT Center
September 10, 2008	Introduction to Classroom Suite 4.0, R3 AT Center
September 11, 2008	Tools for AAC, R3 AT Center
September 12, 2008	Supports for Struggling Students, R3 AT Center
September 12, 2008	Open Lab, R3 AT Center
October 2-3, 2008	SPALS, Lafayette www.spals.org
October 14-18, 2008	Closing the Gap, Minnesota www.closingthegap.com
October 21, 2008	Boardmaker Make & Take, R3 AT Center
October 23, 2008	Clicker, R3 AT Center
October 27-28, 2008	LA Reading Association Conference, Shreveport www.lareading.org

For more information call or email the R3 AT Center.

To register for trainings at the R3 AT Center go to: www.lati3.com/training.htm