

# Region 3 AT Center

A PROJECT OF THE LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE



## LATI SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Summer Institute: The Sky's the Limit with AT was a huge success!!!! We were honored and excited to have such knowledgeable presenters from national, state, regional and district levels. Our three day journey began with a keynote presentation given by Jane Korsten. She gave an excellent and entertaining presentation, "Every Move Counts and Decision-Making for Students with Significant Disabilities". She shared and demonstrated how teams can make better decisions about the needs of students with significant disabilities.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Photo Gallery 2

Spotlight on AT 3

Cool Stuff 3

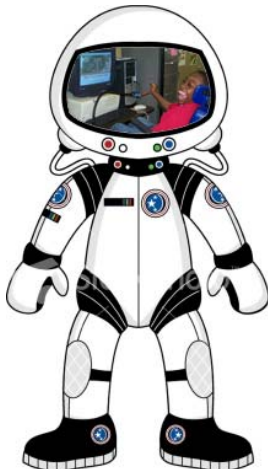
LATI Toolkits 4

Upcoming Events 4

The networking activity was designed to connect the participants with others across the state. Participants were divided into crews for their spaceships with a special mission to scavenge for answers to AT questions. As they explored unfamiliar territories, they were able to share their knowledge gained with fellow crew members, thus developing intergalactic connections.

In an effort to continue showcasing our teachers and students across the State we had a photo and video contest. These contests showed how students are using AT in the classroom. We had a great response with 23 photos and 12 videos which are posted on our website for all to see.

The winners of the photo contest were: 1st Place - Kathryn Labat and DeWayne from Benjamin Banneker School. 2nd Place - Kim Welsh and Jayneshia from Lutchter High School. There was a tie for 3rd Place - Kathryn Labat and Shyquion from Benjamin Banneker School and Patty Lagron and Daniel from Acadiana High School. The winners of the video contest were: 1st Place - Sherry Hill and Cade from Mandeville Middle. 2nd Place - Patty Lagron, Daniel and Jonathan from Acadiana High School. There was a tie for 3rd Place - Denise Faulk, Damian, Lacey, Alicia and Magen from Acadiana High School and Karen Beach and Brilliant from Northeast Supports and Services Center. Thanks to all who presented, participated and attended the Summer Institute—hope to see you next year!!!!



SI photo gallery go to: <http://www.lati3.com/09s%20photo%20galleryi.htm>

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

# Photo Gallery



1st place photo:  
Dwayne

2nd place photo:  
Jayneshia



3rd place photo:  
Daniel

3rd place photo:  
Shyquion



Renee and Katherine  
(RIAT Facilitators),  
Kathryn Labat (teacher)  
and Dwayne and his  
family.

"Great Job!!"  
"Keep up the great conference."  
"The keynote was great and so was  
all the presentations."  
"The LATI group is the most creative  
and congenial group of educators  
to grace the system."



Participants creating  
communication books during  
"Picture Exchange in Action"  
presentation.



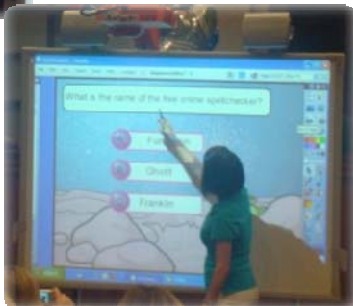
Following the AT  
Scavenger Hunt,  
Tammy created an  
interactive game for  
all "crews"  
using a Promethean  
and Active  
Expressions remotes.



Evelyn Johnson,  
Program Services  
Section Leader  
from the DOE,  
gave an uplifting  
speech to kick off  
the Institute.



Kristie and  
Sharon with  
the keynote  
speaker, Jane  
Korsten. We  
were honored  
to have Jane  
come to our  
State!!!



Participants  
connecting as part  
of the networking  
activity.



## Low Tech



### WORD WHEEL

Word Wheels are the newest tools for improving basic reading skills. Includes a CD with lessons on integrating these wheels into a full comprehensive reading system. Great for your kinesthetic and tactile learners!

[www.onionmountaintech.com](http://www.onionmountaintech.com)

## Mid Tech

### SWITCH ADAPTED DIGITAL CAMERA

A digital camera that allows switch users to activate one switch to turn the camera on / off and another switch to take pictures and videos. The camera is easy to operate and can be attached to table / wheelchair using a mount.



[www.rjcooper.com](http://www.rjcooper.com)

## High Tech

### LIVE SCRIBE PULSE SMARTPEN



This smartpen records and syncs audio with whatever you write, so you never miss a word. Users can tap directly on their notes to replay recorded audio from the time they were writing. Pulse connects to your computer so users can transfer, search and share their notes online with friends, classmates or colleagues.

<http://www.livescribe.com/>

# Cool Stuff

### Ginger Software -

Ginger Software is the leading contextual spell and grammar checker on the market today. Based on a full sentence context, Ginger can automatically correct severe spelling and grammatical mistakes at an unmatched success rate. It enables users to produce error-free texts, quickly and easily. The product operates as an online service and supports Microsoft text editors such as Word and Outlook, and will soon support Internet Explorer as well. Download for free from:

<http://www.gingersoftware.com/>

### iPrompts -

A portable, customizable, visual prompting tool available for the iPhone and iPod Touch! This app is designed especially for parents, special educators and therapists to use with developmentally challenged and language-impaired. iPrompts provides several easy-to-use, visual prompting tools (no audio prompts or voice output) to help individuals transition from one activity to the next, understand upcoming events, make choices, and focus on the task at hand.

Download for \$49.99 from iTunes. For more information go to:

<http://www.handholdadaptive.com/>.

### iConverse -

iConverse is an Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC) application for the iPhone and iPod Touch that replaces bulky and expensive communication devices used in the past. It gives users the ability to carry an AAC device in their pocket creating a means of communication that is appropriate, effective and discreet. The display has 6 different icons that represent a person's most basic needs. When activated by touch, the icons give both an auditory and visual representation of the specific need or want. Has ability to customize to create your own display. Download from iTunes for \$9.99. For more information go to: <http://www.converseapp.com/>.

### WordTalk -

Download the new version of WordTalk for FREE. WordTalk is a text-to-speech plugin developed for use with all versions of Microsoft Word (from Word 97 upwards). It features include: speak text, highlight text as it goes, adjust highlight color, change voice and speed, talking dictionary, convert text to speech and save as a .wav or .mp3, and can give auditory feedback during typing. Download the new version from: <http://www.wordtalk.org.uk/Home/>.



## LATI TOOLKITS

The Region 3 AT Center has developed 4 assessment toolkits: AAC, Math, Reading, and Writing and Spelling. The LATI Toolkits are comprised of a variety of AT tools that can be used to evaluate a student. Before a recommendation is made, tools can be explored by the student to determine if it increases access to the curriculum. The goal is to provide models of assessment kits that can be reproduced in the school districts. Having access to an organized collection of AT tools that support student access to the curriculum provide opportunities for the District AT Specialist to assess the benefits of these resources with students. These LATI Toolkits serve as a model and does not contain all AT tools. If you would like more information about the toolkits or to check them out, please contact the Region 3 AT Center.

### REGION III ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY CENTER

611 N. Burnside Ave.  
Gonzales, LA 70737

225-391-7278  
225-391-7279  
225-621-2525 (fax)

#### AT Facilitators:

Sharon Edwards  
sharon.edwards@apsb.org

Kristie Stapler  
kristie.stapler@apsb.org

Check us out on the web!

[www.lati3.com](http://www.lati3.com)



## UPCOMING EVENTS

September 7-12, 2009	Accessibility Awareness Week
September 8, 2009	Open House, R3ATC
September 9, 2009	LA AIMS Forward, R3ATC
September 10, 2009	Low Tech Tools for Inclusive Education, R3ATC
September 11, 2009	Integrating the Smartboard into the Classroom, R3ATC
September 29 - 30, 2009	Gulf Coast AAC Conference, Biloxi, MS
October 8 - 9, 2009	SPALS Conference, Shreveport, LA
October 8, 2009	Conducting an AT Assessment for Academics Module Day 1, R3ATC
October 13 - 16, 2009	Closing the Gap Conference, Minnesota, MN
October 21, 2009	AT Solutions for Writing Success Module Day 1, R3ATC
October 28, 2009	Conducting an AT Assessment for Academics Module Day 2, R3ATC
November 2 - 4, 2009	Science and Mathematics Conference, Shreveport, LA
November 4, 2009	AT Solutions for Writing Success Module Day 2, R3ATC
November 12, 2009	Conducting an AT Assessment for Academics Module Day 3, R3ATC
November 18, 2009	AT Solutions for Writing Success Module Day 3, R3ATC
November 19 - 21, 2009	ASHA Conference, New Orleans, LA
December 1 - 3, 2009	Low Incidence Institute, Baton Rouge, LA
December 3 - 4, 2009	LACUE, Baton Rouge, LA
December 16, 2009	Low Tech Tools Make n Take

To register for trainings at the R3 AT Center go to:

<http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/CourseByCateg.asp>