



Region 3 AT Center

A PROJECT OF THE LOUISIANA ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE



2006 LATI SUMMER INSTITUTE

The Louisiana Department of Education hosted the 2nd annual Assistive Technology Summer Institute that took place on June 27-29, 2006 at the Louisiana Center for Education Technology (LCET) in Baton Rouge.

The institute was divided into three strands: AT for Reading, AT for Writing, and AT for Math and Study/Organizational Skills. Each strand consisted of an intensive 3-day training that provided us with tons of information, hands-on activities, and lesson plans that correlated to LA content standards. The three modules were developed and presented by the Georgia Project for Assistive Technology (GPAT), who did an outstanding job to educate the participants with low to high tech solutions that could benefit our students. The participants walked away with a binder full of lesson plans, software tutorials, software quick tips and a list of AT tools and resources for each strand.



Director of GPAT (Kim Hartsel) giving an uplifting speech.

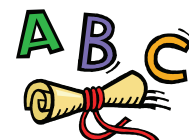


Participants working hard in the reading stand.



We even had time for a little fun doing the second line!!!!

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NEW WEBSITE

Region III is proud to announce that we will have a new and easy to remember website: www.lati3.com. However, please be patient with us as it will take some time to transfer all of the information from the old website (www.apsb.org/schools/lss/AsstTech/home.htm).

The new website will feature mini "how to" training modules for teachers and a database of e-books to use with their students and much, much more. So come a visit us on the web!!!

PREMIER ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY GRANT

"Breaking Down Barriers to Assistive Technology" Grant, from Premier Assistive Technology, was designed to help bridge the gap between education budgets and the need for educational organizations to deploy sufficient resources to serve the needs and requirements of special education programs. This program is meant to promote literacy everywhere. It is truly a grant. There are no current or future obligations for your organization/school to pay any money to Premier Assistive Technology to use

Products include:

Scan & Read Pro[®], Text-to-Audio[®], Talking Word Processor[®], Text Cloner Pro[®], Talking Calculator[®], Scan and View[®], Complete Reading System[®], Universal Reader[®], Universal Reader PLUS[®], Universal Reader IGT[®], OFF Limits[®] The Talking Web Browser, PDF Magic Pro[®], The Ultimate Talking Dictionary[®], Predictor Pro[®] Word Prediction, The Talking Checkbook[®], E-Library[®], E-Text Reader[®], E-Text Reader IGT[®], Premier CD/DVD Creator[®] and Key to Access[™]

the programs for the versions being granted. After the grant period has expired, there will be an optional, but very nominal maintenance fee that you can pay to entitle you to future product releases, technical support, company communications, etc. Again, the maintenance fee is optional and only needed if you want to qualify for those services for future school years. You will receive an unlimited Site License to install the software on EVERY PC in your organization/school.

To apply for the grant visit:
www.premier-programming.com

CREATIVE SCHOLARS CAMP

This summer the Region 3 AT center had the honor of participating in the "Creative Scholars Camp" at the Louisiana Center for Dyslexia and Related Learning Disorders at Nicholls State University. The camp was a great success, where students were taught valuable strategies to help in their education, while at the same time participating in fun activities. We provided the students with hands-on activities

with various software such as a talking word processor and word prediction programs. The students were then able to make their own colored filters to help them with tracking and attending to what they read. A presentation was then given to the student's families to promote awareness of the LATI Regional Centers and Assistive Technology Tools that their children could use in the classroom.



NEW ZOOMTEXT LARGE-PRINT KEYBOARD

The new ZoomText Large-Print Keyboard features easy-to-read keycaps and fast "one-touch" access to ZoomText 9.0 features. It is designed for the ZoomText user that will make typing and using ZoomText faster and easier than ever before. With the ZoomText Large-Print Keyboard, each key and button label is easy to see, even in low light, thanks to its 36-point text and high-contrast black on yellow color scheme.



\$99 from Ai Squared
www.aisquared.com

Sixteen dedicated buttons will allow you to instantly start ZoomText, change magnification levels, toggle screen enhancements, launch AppReader and DocReader, and more, all without having to memorize hotkeys. You can even reassign each feature key to your choice of ZoomText commands, Internet and multimedia commands, or to open an application, document or web page.

SUMMER TRAININGS

The summer was very busy for us at the Region 3 AT Center. In June we packed our bags and traveled "down the Bayou" to do some trainings for Lafourche Parish. We conducted trainings on Alphasmart, Accessibility Tips with MS Word, Boardmaker, Low Tech Tool for Inclusive Education and Software Solutions for Students with Disabilities. We had a great group of professionals which included regular and special education teachers, speech therapists, paraprofessionals and coordinators.

On June 14-15, we brought in Missy Tatum to our center to provide a training on "The Fundamentals of An AT Assessment Addressing Written Communication Skills." This comprehensive two day training provided participants with instruction and training on the process of conducting an AT assessment addressing written communication skills. Topics covered included legal issues, theoretical frameworks for AT service delivery,



team composition and roles, motor concerns and positioning issues, and the assessment process. The participants had the opportunity to have hands-on training with various hardware and software tools.

On July 17-21, our center hosted the Assistive Technology Assessment Training Project which was coordinated by Sherion Hollingsworth. We were excited to have two national speakers, Gayle Bowser and Penny Reed, come in to take the participants through developing a framework for considering and screening students with disabilities. The participants were then given training on conducting an AT assessment for written communication by Region 3 AT Facilitators and verbal communication by Region 2 AT Facilitators. Finally they were brought through report writing and making recommendations by Region 1 AT Facilitator. It was a great success!!!

"SCOPE-ON-A-ROPE" SOAR PROGRAM

Free
Stuff

Scope-On-A-Rope (SOAR) is a hand-held, miniature, self-lighted video camera with interchangeable magnifying lenses that can function both as a compound and as a dissecting microscope. It provides instant, excellent, in-focus images magnified up to 200X on a regular classroom TV and has a "real time" video camera for viewing living, moving specimens.



The lending program is sponsored by the Department of Biological Sciences at LSU and is available at no charge to any Louisiana teacher involved with science curriculum in a public, private, or parochial K-12 school within the state, or an administrator wishing to promote science education within his/her school, is eligible to request use of the instrument. The Scope-On-A-Rope is an excellent tool for all students especially our special education students who are unable to look through a traditional microscope. For more information go to: www.scopeonarope.lsu.edu.

AT Tips

Tips in MS Word

Create lined paper:

+ "Enter"

*** + "Enter"

_ + "Enter"

--- + "Enter"

=== + "Enter"

~~~ + "Enter"

**Line Spacing:** You can change the spacing between the lines or the spacing before or after each paragraph. This helps students that have difficulty separating one line from another.

1. Click on the Format Menu then Paragraph.
2. Set the desired line spacing either before or after and click OK.

**Word Spacing:** When multiple spaces are placed between words, students can distinguish between the end of one word and the beginning of another.

1. Click on the Edit Menu then Find.
2. In the Find What box, hit the spacebar one time.
3. Click on the Replace tab. In the Replace With box, hit the spacebar 4 times.
4. Click on Replace All.

**REGION III  
ASSISTIVE  
TECHNOLOGY  
CENTER**

611 N. Burnside Ave.  
Gonzales, LA 70737

225-621-2538  
225-621-2525 fax

**AT Facilitators**  
Sharon Edwards  
edwardss@apsb.org

Kristie Stapler  
staplerk@apsb.org

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



**UPCOMING TRAININGS**

|                   |                                                                      |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| October 3, 2006   | Accessibility Features with MS Word, Region 3 AT Center              |
| October 5, 2006   | Visual Supports, Region 3 AT Center                                  |
| October 17, 2006  | Integration of AT into the Elementary Classroom, Region 3 AT Center  |
| October 19, 2006  | Integration of AT into the High School Classroom, Region 3 AT Center |
| October 25, 2006  | Text Help, Region 2 AT Center, Port Allen                            |
| November 2, 2006  | Making Books Accessible to All, Region 3 AT Center                   |
| November 14, 2006 | Boardmaker Make & Take, Region 3 AT Center                           |
| November 16, 2006 | Switches: 1 to 2 Step Scanning, Region 3 AT Center                   |
| December 5, 2006  | Make & Take, Region 3 AT Center                                      |
| December 7, 2006  | Universal Design for Learning, Region 3 AT Center                    |

To register for upcoming trainings , to request a specific training or to schedule an AT @ a Glance please:  
call us at 225-621-2538  
or email us at edwardss@apsb.org / staplerk@apsb.org