

ncATp North Carolina Assistive Technology Program

2009 Annual Report

North Carolina Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

In 2009, the North Carolina Assistive Technology Program (NCATP) impacted the lives of people with disabilities, their family members, and professionals all across the state. NCATP collaborated with the staff of the N.C. Division of Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to increase the types of communication devices and accessories available for distribution through the Telecommunications Program.

The catalog of devices was revised to include a detailed description of each communication device, types of telephones to use with each device and photos of the devices. With NCATP advocating for the expansion of Medicaid coverage for assistive technology, the N.C. Division of Medical Assistance added coverage for augmentative communication devices under the Medicaid policy covering durable medical equipment.

2009 Statistics — 6,717 people received equipment loans • 3,486 people received device demonstrations • 9,256 individuals received training in the use of assistive technology • 147,028 received information and referral • 1,200 people toured the exhibit hall at the 2009 AT Expo.



Deputy DHHS Secretary Maria Spaulding (foreground) visits the 17th annual Assistive Technology Expo.

2009 Highlights

- Twelve individuals obtained assistive technology devices for re-use on the N.C. Technology Exchange Post, with a savings to consumers of \$94,453.
- NCATP consultants in Greenville, Raleigh and Greensboro hosted nine interns working on their masters degrees in special education and rehabilitation counseling.
- NCATP provided technical assistance for the Asheville and Greenville Lifehouse programs providing computer access for residents with disabilities.
- NCATP participated in the Transitions for People with Developmental Disabilities Task Force. The work culminated with recommendations to the N.C. General Assembly.
- NCATP worked with other agencies to provide assistive technology information to active-duty service members, returning veterans and their family members

Assistive Technology Makes a Difference for Bryan Dooley

For Bryan Dooley of Winston-Salem, cerebral palsy posed difficulties in using a computer — a tool that could help him overcome his communication barriers.

Bryan had begun working with his local vocational rehabilitation office in high school. Now, as he prepared to enter Guilford College, he needed to be able — as independently as possible — to use a computer.

Through vocational rehabilitation and guidance from NCATP speech-language pathologist Page Norris-Mikol, Bryan was able to acquire a computer system with software to assist him in handling his classwork.

NCATP provided training to Bryan and his assistant on how to use the software. Guilford College provided the needed electronic textbooks. The result: Bryan now accesses his electronic textbooks, the internet and other resources routinely and completes reading assignments and classwork virtually unassisted.

As a result of his experience, Bryan is a big advocate for assistive technology — and his fellow students will readily attest to Bryan's "Yes, I can" attitude.



Bryan Dooley and companion, Duke

Assistive Technology Centers

Charlotte
Elizabeth City
Greensboro
Greenville
Morganton
Raleigh
Rocky Mount
Sanford
Sylva
Wilmington
Winston-Salem

704-566-2899 Voice 704-568-8573 TTY
252-830-8575 Voice/TTY
336-297-2180 Voice
252-830-8575 Voice/TTY
828-433-2431 Voice/TTY
919-850-2787 Voice/TTY
252-446-4330 Voice/TTY
919-775-3439 Voice/TTY
828-631-9461 Voice/TTY
910-251-7078 Voice
336-716-8030 Voice/TTY or
336-718-1660 Voice/TTY

Tammy Koger, NCATP Director

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