

South Carolina Assistive Technology Program

What South Carolinians are saying ...

My diagnosis of cerebral palsy has not prevented me from success in school and work. SCATP's network of consumers and professionals has helped me troubleshoot when I had technology challenges.

Their encouragement and connections have provided me with professional opportunities to advocate for people with disabilities who want the chance to prove themselves and their abilities. I have grown up with SCATP and in the future, hope to be a resource to many others through SCATP. *Kirk Garrett, Jr., Laurens*



Laurens

Students with the most significant cognitive disabilities are dependent on AT for access to the instruction and assessment linked to the South Carolina curriculum standards. We are very fortunate to have the SCATP as a resource in our state to provide information and training to facilitate the inclusion of students with significant cognitive disabilities in the state assessment. *Suzanne Swaffield, Office of Assessment, SC Department of Education*

SCATP has been a great help to our program and to the community. The frequent emails about services in the community have been beneficial to our speech therapists and case managers. The Expo has been attended by many of our staff and is highly praised.

Carey E. Garrett, MEd., CCC-SLP, Roger C. Peace Rehab Hospital, Greenville



Abbeville

SCATP has been so helpful in keeping us notified about the availability of trainings, loaner equipment, adapted vans and other AT resources. Thanks to SCATP we know what's happening and available across the state.

Paula Morris, Lead Physical Therapist, Inpatient Rehab, Roger C. Peace Rehab Hospital, Greenville

SCATP has made a difference in my life in several ways. I'm a Web developer, and spend most of my day on a computer. When I had trouble typing because of my psoriatic arthritis, I tried out various technologies in the AT Resource Center and borrowed equipment. I was able to find the oversized trackball that my employer purchased for me.

As a professional who works to increase the awareness of Web accessibility among other Web professionals, I've

found SCATP to be a valuable resource for seeing first-hand how AT works for people with disabilities in accessing Web sites.

Expo sessions have helped me make informed decisions on cost-effective modifications to my own home. At the Expo I also found suitable telephone equipment for my great-aunt with

hearing and vision impairments, so that she can communicate with her friends and family. SCATP really is "all things to all people." *Wendy Mullin, Swansea, USC Web Developer*

My staff and I have gained much from SCATP's programs and services. SCATP has provided us with tremendous technical support. The trainings on augmentative communication have been wonderful sources of new technology for our speech therapists. The listserv has provided me with more great information in all areas of technology

than I can list. The AT Resource Center has been a hub for inter-agency evaluation of sensory-impaired children and the technical assistance for our programs has been excellent. I cannot imagine this state without the services of SCATP. *Jim Little, Director of Health and Related Services, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind*

My daughter has severe Vocal Apraxia and Hypotonia. SCATP was extremely



Lexington

helpful while trying to determine and medically justify the type of augmentative communication device for Medicaid funding. During a four-month period we checked out at least four high and low tech devices. Thus our speech pathologist was able to evaluate her on a wide range of devices, enabling the SLP to justify funding for the high end, expensive augmentative communication device that my daughter is capable of using. My family would have had difficulty paying for it, as it was not covered by our medical insurance.

We continue to benefit from SCATP. The vendor for our daughter's speech device holds user training classes at SCATP free of charge. They help us support effective use of the device. Our

therapists and early interventionists wanted to know why I was so much better informed about events, trainings and other things I brought to their attention. The answer was the SCATP listserv.

As a parent I am grateful that my family has been blessed with such a program that I can utilize to help my daughter reach her potential. *Gill Gunderson, Columbia*

SCATP assisted me during the last four years with my special needs students. Services were fundamental

in training me for working with my autistic students from technology to parent training and visual schedules. SCATP staff willingly share an enormous amount of knowledge with others for the betterment of the special needs

population. Their ability to facilitate information and impart knowledge gave me the foundation for working with my specialized population.

Karen Senior, MA CCC-SLP, Richland School District One



Sumter

I serve people in Aiken, Lexington, Fairfield and York Counties. I provide training to people across the state and occasionally from Georgia and NC. Over the years I have utilized the SCATP in many ways. I have attended various trainings for my own professional development and to better serve the people with whom I work (persons with autism, children and adults, and those who live with, teach, and support them). I have also received technical assistance through the AT Resource Center and Expo, both of which have kept me as up-to-date as possible. I have used and referred numerous people to the AT Resource Center, the Equipment Loan Program and to post requests on the AT Listserv. SCATP has been invaluable to me.
Janet Spearman, Autism Consultant, Columbia



AT Expo

As a Speech-Language Pathologist in the public schools, I work with children who are non-verbal or have limited language. Some are autistic, have Down or other genetic syndromes, or are mentally disabled. SCATP trainings have provided immeasurable assistance to me, enhancing my ability to help these children improve communication skills, and to train their parents so they can help, too. SCATP is a wonderful benefit to everyone who works with children with special needs.
Donna Long, MSP CCC-SLP, Aiken Elementary

SCATP has supported the delivery, implementation, and success of AT services in our district. The equipment loan program has provided AT devices in a timely manner to students, allowing them to participate in and access school environments.



Dorchester

It supports the implementation of best practice by allowing sufficient time for true evaluation of student-technology match. These comprehensive evaluations then lead to evidence-based purchasing decisions. SCATP staff are invaluable AT consultants supporting the implementation and success of services. They provide critical contact information for resources and local agencies. Due to the ever-changing world of AT, SCATP trainings allow for necessary professional development to keep current with best practices in the AT field. The Expo provides an opportunity for meeting vendors and hands-on use of the latest technology that is not available elsewhere in South Carolina.
Stacy Springer, AT Facilitator, Charleston County School District



Orangeburg AT Team

I've worked in a small, non-profit clinic, public schools and home health for children under three. In all jobs I have counted on SCATP for critical help. My little clinic, with a caseload spectrum from non-verbal preschoolers to post CVA clients, would have been lost without the option to borrow and try devices. I continue to rely on SCATP for trainings and as a general "go to" resource. I enjoy my AT clients but like most jack-of-all-trades SLPs I don't have the expertise I wish I had. SCATP helps us provide the best service we can!
Carrie Vitko, MS CCC-SLP, Itinerant Speech Services, Horry County Schools



SC School for the Deaf and Blind

I attended the AT Expo in Greenville for the first time this spring. I was very impressed by the individual sessions, as well as the diversity of session topics. Being able to speak to so many vendors in one day was very helpful. As a school speech therapist, we don't always get the opportunity to see and try different AT resources.
Elaine Fromer, Spartanburg District #7



SC School for the Deaf and Blind

SCATP staff and equipment have been invaluable in assisting our families and students with visual impairments who have difficulty accessing the regular school curriculum. The Expo provides a wealth of information for our staff each year. SCATP is a wonderful resource for South Carolina.
Elizabeth McKown, Vision Services Director, SC School for the Deaf and the Blind

I have thoroughly enjoyed the SCATP training programs I have attended. I found them to be very informative and recommend them to anyone interested in augmentative communication.
Carol Saldana, Orangeburg School District #3



Greenville

I am a middle school teacher of students with orthopedic disabilities. My students and I have benefited from the technical assistance provided to us by SCATP staff. Therapists working with my students use borrowed equipment to help us determine the most appropriate device for our students. I appreciate the listserv that keeps me informed of assistive technology updates and trainings available in the state. SCATP is a valuable resource for me, my students and their families.

Vicki Hudson, Teacher of the Orthopedically Disabled, Florence School District One



SC School for the Deaf and Blind

I access the SCATP listserv on a weekly basis and share information around the state. I am continually impressed with the staff's knowledge about equipment and the trainers who can assist people with disabilities who need help choosing AT. The AT resource center is a valuable resource that more and more people should access.

Maris Burton, Executive Director, SC Independent Living Council

Protection and Advocacy for

People with Disabilities, Inc. (P&A) has regularly utilized SCATP services, accessing fact sheets and general information about AT resources on the SCATP Web Page, and participating in the Expo.

Many P&A advocates subscribe to their listserv, refreshing our knowledge and identifying barriers for people with disabilities. P&A uses this information for setting AT priority issues and developing our fact sheets for our citizens.

Because P&A's

philosophy encompasses self-advocacy as a primary source of assistance, P&A has referred clients directly to SCATP. Other P&A advocates utilize SCATP for guidance for themselves and their clients when their case representation requires AT assessments. Many advocates have toured the facility, where viewing the AT has provided them an opportunity to see the potential impact of AT to provide independence for people with disabilities both at home and at work. *Robin Wheeler, Esquire, Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc.*

I have worked collaboratively with SCATP for several years and have always found them to be attentive to the needs of students in the public schools. The equipment loan library is a wonderful concept because it allows districts to test current technology before committing resources to its purchase. The technology required by our low incidence



AT Expo



Spartanburg

SCATP provides a number of valuable services. Children with every sort of sensory or motor impairment can be assisted in functioning more effectively in school with the aid of AT devices. SCATP helps school districts and families understand and utilize what will work best. They help families network to obtain affordable and usable equipment for mobility and safety. They help consumers understand how to obtain funding for appropriate services. They assist people with disabilities achieve functional independence for tasks such as talking on the telephone or operating household cooking and cleaning equipment which might be impossible otherwise. They do much to improve the quality of life of South Carolinians with disabilities.

Lawrence K. Siegel, M.D., Professor of Pediatrics, USC School of Medicine



West Columbia

population is extremely expensive and assessment of its benefit for perspective users is of the utmost importance. SCATP, in conjunction with South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, has developed a quarterly system whereby students who have multiple disabilities and specific needs can be discussed in an open forum with professionals from many disciplines present so that everyone hears what the other profession has to offer. Parents, teachers from districts and other concerned personnel are invited to participate in this process. Several of these unique sessions have occurred thus far in our relationship with SCATP and the outcomes have been wonderful. *Marty McKenzie, Access Technology Coordinator, SC School for the Deaf and the Blind*



AT Expo

Thank you for including me on the SCATP listserv. I have participated in several AT workshops because of information I received and have shared and used the information with my students. I have also encouraged my special education director to look into AT software for all district special education classrooms. I would not have had access to this information from any other source. *Loretta Alexander, Special Education Teacher, Spartanburg School District 3*



Bluffton

The technical assistance component of the SCATP is a wonderful resource. We have received great advice and solutions to our inquiries. We are very thankful this program exists. *Trish Rhodes, Assistant Director, Individual and Family Support Services, The Charles Lea Center, Spartanburg*



Kershaw

As a member of the Assistive Technology Advisory Committee (ATAC) of the state of South Carolina, SCATP has provided invaluable leadership and direction to the Web Accessibility Workgroup. From the committee's inception, they helped us focus on the importance of web accessibility and provided critical resources and guidance. SCATP was instrumental in preparing South Carolina Standards for accessibility to state government Internet-based resources, as well as the Transition Plan for Web Accessibility Standard Compliance, approved by the Architecture Oversight Committee of the SC State CIO's Office. Our progress would not have been possible without the expertise, experience and leadership from SCATP. As we move into the future, their leadership is critically important to state agencies who want to serve all South Carolinians, regardless of limitations or disabilities. *Mark Hooper, IT Manager, SCDOT Interactive Media, SC Department of Transportation, Chair, ATAC SC Web Accessibility Workgroup*

I teach courses and chair the department that instructs current and future special educators. In the past we received a grant from SCATP to purchase equipment for persons with visual disabilities. This equipment is still being used in classes and at conferences to expose AT to people who may not know about it. My relationship with SCATP has been a two way street, sharing both ways. I hope they will continue providing this valuable service to the people of South Carolina. *Bob Perkins, Ed. D., Dept. Foundations Chair, Secondary and Special Education (EDFS), College of Charleston*



Greenville

Free courses benefit users and give continuing education credits needed to maintain professional licenses for health care and education professionals. Growing every year, the Expo is a benchmark for other such programs that could benefit from

such solid partnerships with public, private, non-profit and community organizations.

SCATP strives to connect to as many people as possible across the lifespan. The website, conferences, listserv, phone information line, staff and volunteers are always available to answer questions, make referrals, and receive information. I have enjoyed full participation of SCATP as a person with a disability who uses technology every day, as an occupational therapist, as an advocate, as a person who is always looking for new AT and funding and as a volunteer with SCATP. SCATP has been a key element of my successes that I hope many others will have the privilege of using for many years to come. *Sandy Hanebrink, OTR/L, Anderson*



Columbia

Thank you for the equipment loan program. It has been a big help to me in my class for the mentally and physically profound. Borrowing materials and equipment is easy, everyone is so helpful, and trying out devices shows how well they will work for a particular child. *Clarissa Hendrix, SP ED Teacher, Newberry County Schools*



Sumter