

## **Friends of ATIA Newsletter**

**Hello again from ATIA! We hope that your summer has been going well. As children head back to school, we all prepare for the changing seasons. Please read on for some of our latest news.**

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### **Early Bird Reminder: Friday, August 20**

**ATIA's Chicago conference (October 27-30, 2010) is fast approaching. Please note that tomorrow - Friday, August 20 - is the deadline for Early Bird and Past Attendee discounted registration. To register, you may download a form from our website or sign up using our new online system. Click [here](#) to get started.**

**For a session directory with the program content for the conference click [here](#). For general information about the conference, including exhibit hall and housing information, click [here](#).**

**Just announced, the ATIA Blind/Low Vision Special Interest Group will host a Town Hall meeting on October 28 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the conference. This meeting welcomes all stakeholders including educators, AT Specialists, rehab professionals, workplace specialists, OTs, researchers, vendors, consumers, families and caregivers to discuss:**

- **Obstacles facing individual users and support professionals**
- **Resources needed for individuals' success**
- **Feedback for vendors**

- **General discussion**

### **RSVP to attend**

#### **Review Online Educational Content for ATIA 2011 Orlando**

We've also been making steady preparations for ATIA 2011 Orlando (January 26-29, 2011). **The educational session directory** for that conference is now available online. For general information about the conference click **here**.

#### **Befriend us on Facebook**

You can now follow us on **Facebook** - a great way to join in the discussion on assistive technology or network with other AT professionals. We will also be adding a presence on Twitter and LinkedIn in the near future.

#### **Microsoft Windows 7 Was My Idea! - Video Conference Contest**

This year, Microsoft and ATIA are hosting a new video contest. You are invited to create a video telling us what features of Microsoft Windows 7 inspire you. Post your video submission on the video wall of ATIA's Facebook page by October 21, 2010 for a chance to win the Chicago Conference Attendee's Best Video Choice Award. For more information, please visit the **ATIA Facebook page**.

#### **Client Success Stories**

ATIA is charged by its members with raising public awareness about assistive technology and has commissioned a media relations consultant to inform the media about individuals whose lives have been changed by assistive technology. **Please share your triumph stories with us**. This submission form requires no more than five minutes to complete. ATIA is currently responding to a request from the local ABC news stations for

Illinois stories. You may also [submit your own Triumph Story online](#). Submit your stories today!

### Call for Papers

*Assistive Technology Outcomes and Benefits: Special Issue on Writing* is now accepting submissions for its upcoming issue. Deadline is October 15, 2010. Click [here](#) for more information.

*Mark the Date:* The Combined Call for Papers for ATIA 2011 Chicago and 2012 Orlando Conferences will take place February 28 - April 29, 2011. Please note this on your planning calendars.

### New Alliance Partner

Please welcome our newest Alliance Partner- [Spectrios Institute for Low Vision](#). They have joined a growing list of over 25 organizations aligned with ATIA in our ongoing commitment to providing enhanced benefits and opportunities to people with disabilities.

### CSUN Certification Training to Be Offered at ATIA Conferences!

The Center on Disabilities at Cal State Northridge is pleased to announce that, in collaboration with ATIA, the ATCAP 2-day FastTrax Training will be offered at both the ATIA 2010 Chicago and the 2011 Orlando conferences. Increase your knowledge from the top trainers in the field of AT. Build a long-lasting network with professionals, practitioners, and newcomers to the field at our two-day ATACP FastTrax (Assistive Technology Applications Certificate Program)

The trainings will take place on the Monday and Tuesday of the week of the conference:

- Monday, Oct. 25 - Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2010 at ATIA 2010 Chicago, held at the

Renaissance Schaumburg Hotel and Convention Center.

- Monday, Jan. 24 - Tuesday, Jan. 25, 2011 at ATIA 2011 Orlando, held at the Caribe Royale Orlando Hotel and Convention Center.

Attendees participating in the training and the ATIA conference will receive a combined discount on both events.

Visit [www.csun.edu/cod/training](http://www.csun.edu/cod/training) for more details.

#### **Discount to Accessing Higher Ground Conference**

As an ATIA member, alliance partner, affiliate or past conference attendee, you are eligible for a \$30 discount to the upcoming [13th Annual Accessing Higher Ground: Accessible Media, Web and Technology Conference](#), to take place November 15-19, 2010 in Westminster, CO. Accessing Higher Ground focuses on the implementation and benefits of Assistive Technology in the university, business and public setting. Use the code "atia4agh10" at registration to indicate your ATIA affiliation. In addition to the \$30 ATIA savings, there is also a 10% early registration discount valid through Oct. 1.

#### **Invitation to Participate in The Development of Uniform Standards for Cognitive Technologies Survey**

There is a project developing standards for Assistive Cognitive Technologies and we need your input! We will use input from key stakeholders (people with cognitive disabilities and people who work with this population) to develop standards for Assistive Cognitive Technologies, including household products, consumer electronics, and the Internet.

This survey is intended for people who represent or work with people with cognitive

disabilities (for example, researchers, educators, staff at disability organizations, caregivers, etc.). Note that we are working on another version of this survey and IRB approval to obtain input from those with cognitive disabilities.

Please help us identify the most important products to target and develop an "Ease-of-Use" Rating System for everyday products used by people of varying cognitive abilities by completing our survey. The survey is available on-line: (click on "Survey"). It will require approximately 20 minutes of your time to complete this survey. Your contribution to our research project would be greatly appreciated.

The survey is administered by Beneficial Designs, [www.beneficialdesigns.com](http://www.beneficialdesigns.com), for The Development of Uniform Standards for Cognitive Technologies project as part of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for the Advancement of Cognitive Technologies (RERC-ACT) based at the University of Colorado, Denver. For more information on the RERC-ACT, please visit [www.erc-act.org](http://www.erc-act.org). ATIA is a partner with the RERC-ACT on this project.

#### **Other News**

The Computer/Electronic Accommodations Programs (CAP) serves as the federal government's centrally funded program to provide assistive technology solutions for employees with disabilities and wounded service members. At the ATIA 2010 Chicago conference, CAP will have 2 sessions: "Accommodating our Wounded Warriors: A Direct Approach" and "Effective AT Reuse in School Systems". The first session will focus on the CAP's approach to assess and accommodate our wounded service members during their recovery and rehabilitation process and future employment opportunities.

**The second session covers CAP's Green Initiative and how to implement environmentally sustainable business practices, focusing on the Three R's of sustainability - Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. In our effort to reuse assistive technology, CAP works with the General Services Administration (GSA) and their property reutilization program, GSAXcess which allows CAP to transfer excess equipment to other federal agencies. Also via their Computers For Learning Program, CAP has donated excess assistive technology and computer equipment to various schools and educational nonprofit organizations.**

**Until Next Time**

**We hope you enjoy summer's last hurrah. Please watch your inbox in September for more news from ATIA. As always, we welcome your comments and questions. Send all your feedback to: [marketing@atia.org](mailto:marketing@atia.org).**