ATK and the Big Check

It’s not every day that five Kansas organizations gather with the Kansas governor and other state and local community leaders to celebrate a grant award with a big check, but that’s what happened in September on Friday the 13th at the KU Edwards Campus. Sara Sack, Director, Assistive Technology for Kansans, accepted one of the five UnitedHealthcare Empower Kansans’ grants aimed at helping Kansans with disabilities find meaningful employment.

Dr. Sack described the new ATK initiative, “The $76,468 award to Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) will support staff in developing an accessible, digital technology curriculum and enable staff to work closely with 45 Kansans with disabilities to acquire computer literacy and advanced telecommunication skills. The 45 individuals will all have employment and health management goals which can be addressed through mastery of new technologies.

… continued on page 2
The premise is that increased computer skills and active management of personal care, health conditions, and monitoring of medication can help individuals be more viable candidates for employment. In 2012 assistive technology services provided by ATK staff resulted in 53 individuals getting a job, maintaining their current job, or learning new skills in order to get a different job. ATK staff look at this new initiative - Active Living, Better Health and Employment through Technology Project - as an exciting adventure and a chance to test their hypothesis that increased digital technology and advanced telecommunications skills can lead to better employment and health management for persons with disabilities.”

Timothy M. Spilker, president of UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of Kansas, concluded, “The Empower Kansans initiative will help people identify skills, passion and talents that support their overall wellness as healthy individuals and contributors to society – and we will all benefit from those contributions in Kansas.”

Other grant recipients include:
• Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF)
• Community Health Center (CHC) of Southeast Kansas
• Cottonwood, Inc.
• Sedgwick County Community Developmental Disability Organization

For more of this story go to http://www.cnbc.com/id/101033439

BUSINESS OFFICE NEWS

The Staff Tuition Assistance application deadline for the 2014 Spring semester is Friday, November 1, 2013. The Tuition Assistance application may be submitted online at https://kuoirp.wufoo.com/forms/tuition-assistance/. This program is available to University Support Staff and Unclassified Professional Staff appointed to a regular, 50% or greater appointment with six months of service by the start of classes. For more information regarding program guidelines go to: https://documents.ku.edu/policies/Human_Resources/TuitionAssistance.htm.

The Biometric Health Screening Dates for the Parsons area are:
• November 5, 2013, Parsons State Hospital, KSU SE Agricultural Research Center
• February 18, 2014, Parsons State Hospital, KSU SE Agricultural Research Center
• February 19, 2014, Labette Community College, Student Union, Parsons
• May 21, 2014, Parsons State Hospital, KSU SE Agricultural Research Center
• June 17, 2014, Parsons State Hospital, KSU SE Agricultural Research Center
Note: you must earn 30 credits by July 31, 2014 for a $480 premium discount in 2015. Make an appointment or find more information online at https://kansashealthquest.alerehealth.com.
**JUST THE “Stats”**

* 762 educators, speech pathologists, audiologists, and AT specialists registered for the 2013 Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) - Kansas Speech-Language-Hearing Association (KSHA) Conference held in Topeka, September 12-14.
* 24 sessions highlighted AT including targeted topics for veterans, first-time/beginner farmers and entrepreneurs
* More than 1,000 toured the AT Expo Hall featuring 80 exhibitors with the latest in high-tech AT as well as service organizations and Kansas agencies

**PROJECT SPOTLIGHT**

**Designing an Early Childhood Data Management System**

David Lindeman, Ph.D., Director, received an award funded by the Kansas State Department of Education.

**ABSTRACT**

The Designing an Early Childhood Data Management System project will support the Kansas Department of Education in the development of a vision in Kansas for the management of early childhood data within and across state agencies. This project will solidify relationships and partnerships among participating agencies, programs, and organizations in the effort to meet the needs of the state of Kansas for a data management system that will provide consolidated data and inform agency personnel and other state level decision makers regarding early childhood services in the state. These achievements will be realized through a systemic process that will produce an initial design for the management of early childhood program data. This will be accomplished through:

1. Strategic consultation by the Goffin Strategy Group, LLC, a nationally recognized consulting firm, with KSDE and KU staff in the design, facilitation, and implementation of strategic planning and stakeholder data management initiatives for early childhood services in Kansas.

2. Management and leadership of two meetings of key early childhood professionals in the state of Kansas. One meeting will be of a steering committee composed of state agency personnel and organizations, and one meeting will be of stakeholders from across the states.

3. Management of the agenda for each meeting designed to support the identification of meeting participants, identification of meeting content, preparation in collaboration KSDE Agency staff and Goffin Strategy Group staff for development of the meeting’s agenda, and designing and preparing content of meeting to achieve identified and desired outcomes for each meeting.
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Sara Sack


NEW PUBLICATION


PROJECT NEWS

Sharon Morton. Assistive Technology for Kansans’ KEE coordinator, reports a successful Durable Medical Equipment Donation Drive was held in Emporia, August 16.

Co-sponsors Emporia Senior Center and Newman Medical Equipment staff helped advertise the event, accepted donations, assisted with sorting and loading donated wheelchairs, scooters, walkers and various other items. Sharon, along with Sara Sack, ATK director; Steve Hoover, AT specialist, Southeast AT Access Site; Brian Morton (pictured left, enthusiastic veteran of many ATK donation drives) and others loaded the items to the tippy top of the 24 foot U-Haul truck! Donated assistive technology is cleaned, refurbished as needed to nearly new condition and given to a Kansan who needs it. For more information, call 800-KAN DO IT (800-526-3648).
PRESENTATIONS


Kemp, P. (2013, August). Evidence-based practices and team meetings training. Workshop presented to Johnson County Infant-Toddler Services, Overland Park, KS.

Kemp, P. (2013, August). Routines-based interview training. Workshop presented to the Flint Hills tiny-k Services, Emporia, KS.


Rinkel, P. (2013, August). Using the assessment, evaluation and programming system to improve practices. Workshop presentation to Wamego Special Education Cooperative, Wamego, KS.


Sack, S. (2013, May). Texas – Enhancing the services offered by the Dallas DME project. Invited presentation at DME Dallas Project and Dallas Free Medical Clinic, Dallas, TX.
PRESENTATIONS


Sack, S. (2013, June). *Utah – Working with Utah Medicaid to provide access to durable medial equipment*. Invited presentation at Utah AT Program and Utah Medicaid, Logan, UT.


STAFF NEWS

**Yusuke Hayashi, Ph.D.** has taken a position as Assistant Professor of Psychology at the Division of Social Sciences and Education at Penn State Hazleton in Hazleton, PA.

**M. Reneé, Patrick, Ph.D.** has taken a position with Southeast Missouri State University in the Autism Center for Diagnosis and Treatment in Cape Girardeau, MO.


Visit the KU Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at [http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu](http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu)

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