



# Assistive Technology Partners

BREAKING BARRIERS, CHANGING LIVES

## Mission

Assistive Technology Partners' mission is to assist persons with cognitive, sensory, and/or physical disabilities to reach their highest potential at home, school, work, and community through the use of appropriate Assistive Technologies (AT).

## What is Assistive Technology (AT)?

Assistive Technology is any item, piece of equipment, product or system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve the functional capabilities of persons with disabilities or limitations due to aging.

More specifically, AT can be any tool, device, or technology that assists someone perform everyday tasks such as getting dressed, moving from place to place, controlling the environment, accessing curriculum in school, reading print or text at work, or participating in recreational activities. AT can be as simple as a pencil grip or a zipper pull, and it can be as complex as a communication device for someone who cannot speak. There are AT devices for infants for play, and technologies that allow senior citizens to continue to live independently in their own homes, as well as AT for every situation and stage in life that lies in between.

**Assistive Technology Partners, a program within the University of Colorado Denver, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, is nationally recognized and has been serving people in Colorado since 1989.**



*"Assistive Technology supports independence"*

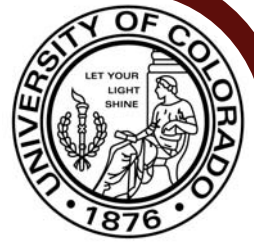
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**Assistive Technology Partners' CORE activities are: Clinical services, Outreach and Information Services, Research and Engineering, and Education.**

### **Clinical Services**

Since 1995, Assistive Technology Partners has provided one-on-one assessments and training on the use of technology to enhance the lives of individuals with disabilities. With the client and family or caregivers as essential members of the team, the first step is a comprehensive review of the client's needs in every environment in which they are engaged. Current faculty has the expertise in highly specialized areas to meet the AT needs of each individual, regardless of functional limitation or complexity.



- Clinical services include:
- Augmentative and Alternative Communication
  - Computer Access
  - Electronic Aids for Daily Living (EADL)
  - Learning/Cognition Aids
  - Nighttime Positioning
  - Wheelchair Seating and Mobility Worksite Accommodations and Ergonomics

### **Outreach and Information Services**

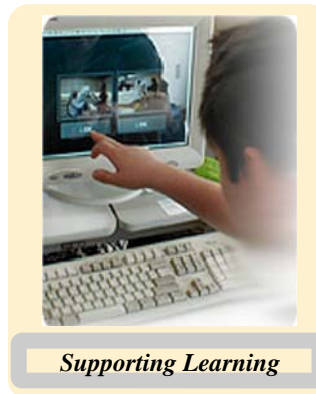
Over 500,000 individuals throughout Colorado and the world have been directly served through Assistive Technology Partners' efforts in creating awareness around the diversity of available technologies and services for persons with disabilities. Emphasis continues to be placed on reaching underrepresented populations, including Native Americans, the elderly and rural populations. Today, outreach efforts include recycling assistive technology and assisting people in finding funding for devices and equipment, as well as general awareness development.

### **Research and Engineering**

With the goal to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities, the research and engineering faculty designs, develops, and conducts projects to generate new scientific knowledge for the field of assistive technology. Research and engineering projects range from product/device development to therapeutic trial investigations. The National Institute of Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education sponsors the majority of this work. Assistive Technology Partners is the coordinator site for the Rehabilitative Engineering Research Center for the Advancement of Cognitive Technologies (RERC-ACT), and collaborates with numerous other research initiatives across the nation.

### **Education**

From raising individual and community awareness around Assistive Technology (AT), to skill development in specific areas or on specific devices, to graduate coursework for professionals, the faculty at Assistive Technology Partners not only has the depth of cross-discipline expertise, they are specialists in applying and integrating Assistive Technology (AT) in the full spectrum of settings.



*Supporting Learning*

Training opportunities include presentations on site and at conferences across the country and around the world. Distance education modules are offered through video-conferencing to rural areas, and graduate coursework is provided through the University of Colorado Denver.

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