



Assistive Technology & Aging: Linkages for Engagement and Independence

Jill S. Pleasant, MA, OTR/L

Director, Arizona Technology Access Program

Jill.pleasant@nau.edu

602-728-9532



Session Objectives

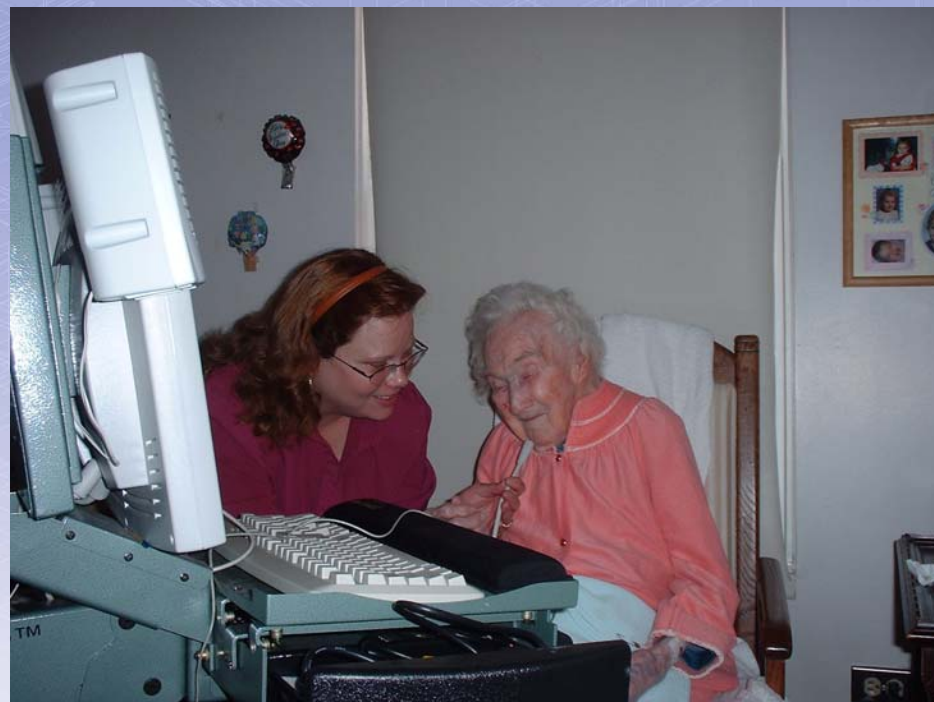
The audience will have “aha” moments about assistive technology:

- 👉 What it is.
- 👉 How it can enhance independence for older adults.
- 👉 Why AzTAP’s services (& similar programs in all states) are valuable resources.



Assistive Technology and Aging

Technology has the power to change and improve the lives of older adults who experience functional limitations associated with aging or illness.





Aging & Disability

Medical Conditions



- Arthritis
- Cancer
- Dementia
- Depression
- Diabetes
- Emphysema/COPD
- Fractures
- Hearing loss
- Heart disease
- Macular degeneration
- Stroke

Functional Limitations

- Managing personal care
- Manipulating and controlling objects
- Getting around home and community
- Communicating
- Socializing
- Remembering, planning and carrying out tasks
- Safety across environments



Assistive Technology (AT)

AT includes thousands of devices and products ranging from inexpensive and simple to costly and complex.



AT enhances productivity and independence in daily activities:

- communication
- self-care
- mobility
- recreation
- learning
- work



What AT Does...

- **Enhances** an individual's existing abilities
- or...
- **Compensates** for absent or diminished skills.



CCTV



TTY



In summary, assistive technology can...

- Improve functional abilities
- Enhance & support independence
- Promote aging in familiar environments

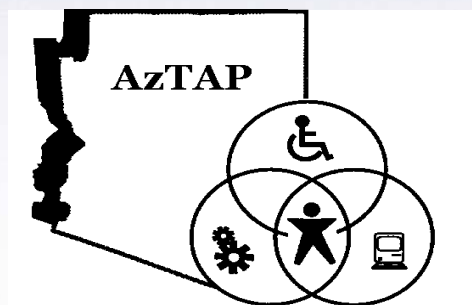




The Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

Our Mission:

To promote awareness of, access to and acquisition of assistive technology for persons with disabilities and functional limitations associated with aging.





AzTAP Services

- AT Demonstrations
- Short Term Equipment Loans
- Device Reutilization
- Alternative Financing
- Public Awareness
- Training
- Collaboration
- Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program
- Online Equipment Exchange
www.azATEXchange.org
- Microsoft Accessibility Resource Center (MARC)
- Arizona Loan\$ for Assistive Technology (AzLAT)



To learn more about AT...

1. Arizona Technology Access Program (AzTAP)

www.nau.edu/ihd/aztap

Jill.pleasant@nau.edu

800.477.9921

2. National Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Partnership (NATTAP)

www.resna.org/taproject/at/statecontacts

703.524.6686 x 305 – Nell Bailey, Director

3. Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP) <http://www.ataporg.org/>

518.439.1263(Voice/TTY) Deb Buck, Executive Director