



Spring News 2020

Technology Solutions for Life's Limitations

Greetings!

DakotaLink hopes that you are making it through these extraordinary times with COVID-19!

We have hired a new Low Vision Specialist in Sioux Falls to replace Ted Carrell after his retirement. He started on February 24th and worked in Rapid City for training until he was able to make the move to Sioux Falls. His name is Josh Popelka and we are very happy to have him.

DakotaLink's Status Regarding COVID-19

All our staff are using PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) when visiting our clients. That includes masks, gloves and shoe covers. We are also asking before any visit, if there are any illnesses in the establishment we are going into.

Transition plans have been made in the Rapid City office. Everyone will be back to full time in the office by May 18th. Everyone is currently required to be in the office at least 3 days per week. Brookings and Aberdeen are planning the same if they are not there already.

Sioux Falls had a few rough weeks, but things are looking better! We hope the numbers continue to decrease. However, the Sioux Falls Staff will continue working from home at least until May 18th. We will evaluate the situation on the 15th, but it could end up being June 1st.

Ron Lien has continued to keep the MERR Program running through all this and we are on pace to meet our goal. We have been able to get our SF deliveries done there as well.

As you likely know, all conferences and in-person gatherings have been either cancelled or postponed until further notice.

We are continuing our ATAP Membership calls (Zoom Meetings) striving for reauthorization of the 21st Century Assistive Technology Act.

Social Networking

We are continuing our efforts in social networking getting a great deal of traffic on Facebook and share posts with ATAP, AT3, ILC, DHS, DSS and MERR. We have also added more resource information on our website: <https://www.dakotalink.net/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/AT-Resource-Directory-2017.pdf>

We also want to remind everyone of our low interest loan program. The application is on our website, but here is the direct link: <https://www.dakotalink.net/at-funding>

Resources:

<https://covid.sd.gov/>

<https://www.atia.org/covid19-resources/>

<https://www.ataporg.org/>

<https://www.at3center.net/>

DakotaLink strives to maintain its professionalism by earning a RESNA ATP certification. (ATP – Assistive Technology Professional). We currently have 5 staff with their ATP certification and will continue to help the newer employee's gain that status. To maintain these credentials, we must complete a specific amount of CEU's (Continuing Education Credits) on a biennial basis. We have been doing that mostly through webinars that ATAP provides through an agreement with ATIA.



Remember, we are on Facebook! So, be sure to “like” us to see what we are up to on a daily basis: <https://www.facebook.com/DakotaLinkAT/>

Be safe and healthy!

Best,

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DakotaLink is the South Dakota Assistive Technology Program.

Our mission is to assist individuals with functional limitations; due to a disability, illness, injury, or the effects of aging; maximize their potential whether at home or in the community, at school, at work, or at play through the use of Assistive Technology.

An assistive technology device is any equipment or tool that helps individual overcome limitations in daily activities.

Assistive technology services assist individuals to acquire, use, modify, or maintain an assistive technology device.