



Summer News 2023

Technology Solutions for Life's Limitations

Greetings!

Happy Summer! I hope you all had a fun and safe fourth of July holiday.

We've had a lot of activity with DakotaLink in the last few months.

The unfortunate news is that we are losing our technician in Aberdeen (Mark Cook) as he is to retire in the Fall. Congratulations! We will have an open position in Aberdeen if you know anyone that would be a good fit from that area. We also lost a technician in Sioux Falls; however, we are very happy to announce that Ted Carrell has come out of retirement and has filled that position as our Low Vision Specialist. We are very happy to have him back.

In addition, we had to close the MERR (Medical Equipment Reuse and Recycle) facility in Sioux Falls. DSS (Department of Social Services) determined that we were not able to cover our expenses for a few years now. We even had a fairly heavy media push that didn't make much of a difference and they decided to cancel the program at the end of June. We were able to donate the remaining equipment to a non-profit facility in Fargo called HERO.

DakotaLink Advisory Council

Richard Moeller is now the Chairperson of the council. He was voted in after nominations for him and Sarah Rush were made. This leaves the Vice Chair seat open. We have one nomination so far, but if you have any others, please let me know before our next meeting.

We also have some new members on the council. They are:

Amy Scepaniak - SD Deaf/Blind Program

Bill McEntaffer - DLR Department of Labor and Regulation

Gloria Pluimer - Director of Workforce Development for BHSSC

Please help me in welcoming them to the council.

Advertising

We have hired Midco for five months of advertisements. This is for roughly 60,000 “views” per month on websites and mobile devices and 14,000 views on streaming services (per month). This also includes some additional free Midco TV advertisements so be on the lookout for those.

Free Assistive Technology Webinars

This link will provide you with several Assistive Technology Webinars assembled by the Accessible Technology Coalition:

<https://www.atia.org/path-lms/?pathPage=%2Fatia%2Fcourses>

Social Networking

We continue our efforts in social networking getting a great deal of traffic on Facebook and share posts with ATAP, AT3, ILC, DHS, and DSS. More resource information on our website: <https://www.dakotalink.net/at-partners/>

Low-Interest Loans

We also want to remind everyone of our low-interest loan program. The loans are designed to fit your budget and we will work with you to create affordable payback payments. We will also help you fill out the application if you have any concerns with that process. The application is on our website, but here is the direct link:

<https://www.dakotalink.net/dakotalink-at-fund/>

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 employees 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 daily:
<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 individuals overcome limitations in daily activities.

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