



Fall News 2023

Technology Solutions for Life's Limitations

Greetings!

Welcome to the Fall 2023 edition of DakotaLink's newsletter! As the leaves change and the air turns crisper, we're excited to bring you the latest updates in the world of Assistive Technology. From how to connect with us to learning resources, this newsletter aims to keep you informed and empowered.

Staffing Update

We're excited to announce that all our offices across the state are now fully staffed. Here's a quick introduction to our dedicated team members:

- **Rapid City Office:**
 - Coordinator of Technical Services: Brett Burden
 - Assistive Technology Specialist: Jared Brown
 - Office Manager: Andrea Steele
 - Purchasing Agent/CCTV Program/Lending Library Staffer: Andreia Mraz
- **Aberdeen Office:**
 - Assistive Technology Specialist: Tim Weiland (filling the position for Mark Cook's retirement)
- **Brookings Office:**
 - Rehabilitation Technician: James Honomichl

- **Sioux Falls Office:**

- Assistive Technology Specialist: Ted Carrell
- Driver: Tim Goembel
- Assistive Technology Specialist: Brett Crosby
- Grant Program Manager: Page Hudson

We're thrilled to have such a talented and dedicated team on board, ready to operate at full capacity.

Below are pictures of our offices throughout the state.



Rapid City – 1-605-394-6742



Aberdeen – 1 605-380-9790



Sioux Falls – 1-605-334-9099



Brookings – 1-605-690-5348

Closing the Gap

The Closing the Gap Conference is an annual assistive technology conference that presents an opportunity to deepen your assistive technology (AT) knowledge and strengthen your implementation strategies. The conference week is designed to dig deeper into critical areas that have the power, when implemented strategically, to transform your classroom, your school, your district, your practice.

We have 2 technicians (Brett and Jared) attending Closing the Gap in Minneapolis this week. We are excited to hear about all of the new technologies they will have encountered when they return.

DakotaLink Advisory Council

The State Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Council is a requirement of the AT Act of 1998, as amended. The purpose of the council is "to provide consumer-responsive, consumer-driven advice to the State for, planning of, implementation of, and evaluation of the activities carried out through the grant, including setting measurable goals."

Richard Moeller is the Chairperson of the council. The newly elected Vice Chair is Kendra Gottsleben, and the Member at Large is Eric Weiss. We meet via Zoom every quarter with 1 quarter in Person in the Spring. We haven't been able to meet in person due to COVID for the last couple of years, but hopefully we will be able to in 2024. If you represent or know of a person with a disability that would like to join our advisory council, here is a link to the application: <https://www.dakotalink.net/advisory-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>

ACP: Affordable Connectivity Program

Affordable internet is here. Whether it's health care, education, or your career, make the most of your Affordable Connectivity Program discount. To see if you qualify go to:

www.getinternet.gov

SDAT4All

If you have used SDAT4all in the past, we have moved to a different platform. The process is the same but it is in a different format. To register for an account, go to <https://www.myatprogram.org/> and choose DakotaLink at the AT Program.

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/>

Joy Ranch of South Dakota (www.joyranchsd.org) posted about a lift we installed for them. Here is what they said: "We have very exciting news!

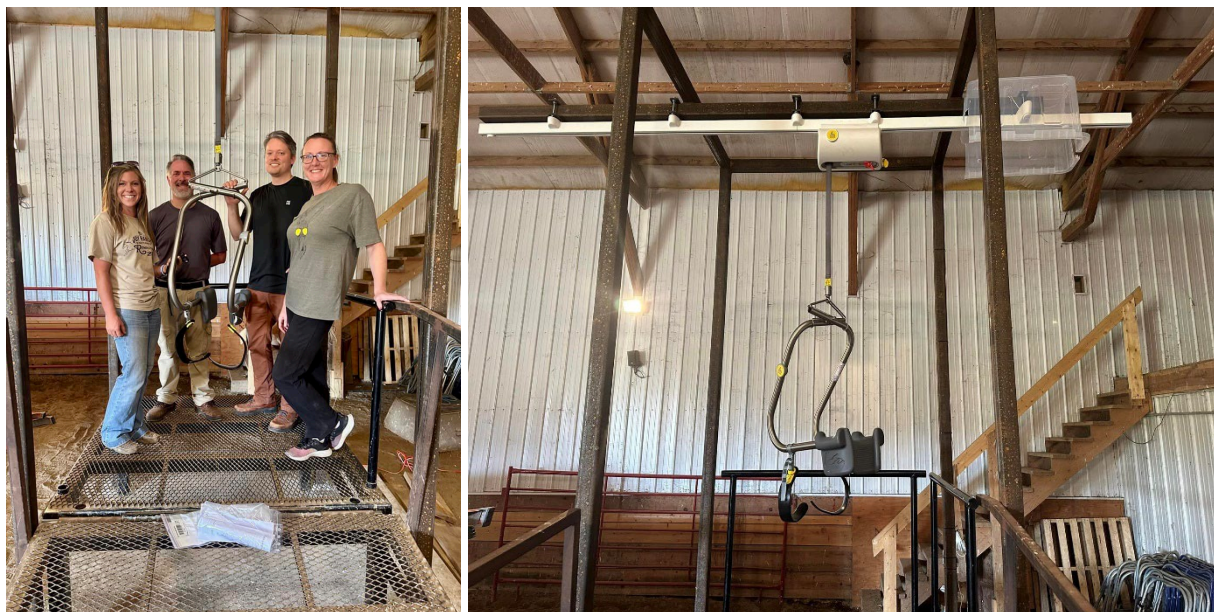
In 2022, with the help of some amazing and generous people attending a chef night, we were able to raise the money we needed to get a mechanical lift for our indoor arena.

It has been a long time coming, but it is finally HERE and INSTALLED!

This lift will do so much for our staff, our horses, and will allow us to serve so many more riders in a safer manner!

We need to say thank you to all of the generous folks who donated that chef night, as well as the LATC Welding Department, Kevin Theisen of LATC, Aason Engineering, Jason Walburg, Darwin Stromseth, and of course James Honomichl and his assistant Brett Crosby plus their amazing team from DakotaLink for making this vision come true!

We cannot wait to see this in use ❤️"



<https://www.facebook.com/JoyRanchSD>

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.