



Spring News 2025

Technology Solutions for Life's Limitations


Growing Awareness, Celebrating Technology, and Strengthening Community

Greetings!

Welcome to the Spring Edition of the Assistive Technology Newsletter!

As spring unfurls around us, so does the potential for growth — in our tech, our community, and our shared mission. This issue is bursting with updates, including national recognition for assistive tech, new tools for students, and exciting events that invite you to be part of something bigger, including National AT Awareness Day, free AI tools for students, and an upcoming ADA celebration you won't want to miss."

Let's dig in!

 **AT Awareness Day 2025:** Our Biggest Focus This Spring


 April 30th, 2025 – National Assistive Technology Awareness Day

We're proud to lead the charge in celebrating Assistive Technology Awareness Day — a moment to highlight how AT empowers people of all ages to live, learn, work, and play independently.

This year, we're launching a coordinated social media campaign all month long! Together with national partners, we'll shine a bright spotlight on the impact of AT through weekly themed posts, personal stories, and videos.

Social Media Schedule (Facebook and X):


- April 8 & 10, 15 & 17 – “Assistive Technology Is...” series
- April 22, 24 & 29 – “My Assistive Technology” videos
- April 30 – “Assistive Technology Is for Everyone”

 Hashtags to look out for:

#ATAwarenessDay | #AssistiveTechnologyIs | #MyAssistiveTechnology
Optional: #AssistiveTechnology #Disability #AgingInPlace
#AssistiveTechnologyAwarenessDay

ChatGPT Plus Now Free for Students — Until May 31!

Calling all college students! OpenAI is offering 2 months of ChatGPT Plus FREE for students at degree-granting schools in the U.S. and Canada. This includes faster response times, access to image generation, advanced research tools, writing, and more.

 With over 150 million weekly users, ChatGPT is becoming a vital tool in classrooms. But access isn't enough. As futurist Mark van Rijmenam put it:

“We need to teach students how to use these tools - and how to use them *well*.”

 Check eligibility and apply here:

 [ChatGPT Student Access Info](https://chatgpt.com/students) - <https://chatgpt.com/students>

Upcoming Presentation: Partners in Policymaking

April 26th, 2025 | Sioux Falls | 9–10:30 AM

We're honored to be part of the Partners in Policymaking Continuing Education weekend this April!






- Page Hudson will share the history of DakotaLink and the Assistive Technology Act.
- Adam Hust (Tech Specialist, Sioux Falls) will showcase the newest AT devices — complete with hands-on demos.

This session is all about *connection through experience* and educating changemakers about the power of assistive tech.

Save the Date: ADA Festival at the Levitt!

July 26th, 2025 | Levitt at the Falls, Downtown Sioux Falls



We're planning something truly special. In honor of 35 years of the Americans with Disabilities Act, we're embarking upon a festival that celebrates diversity, accessibility, and progress — and we want YOU there!

-  Live performances by artists with disabilities
-  Food trucks & vendors
-  Interactive booths & activities for all ages
-  A proclamation from Mayor Paul TenHaken
-  And — plenty of ways to get involved!

 Volunteer with us!

 [Sign up here](#)


Spring Resources & Opportunities

- AT Funding Support – Need new tech this season? Our low-interest loan program can help.
 [Apply Here](#)
 - Stay Connected – From ILC and DSS to Facebook and ATAP, our partners are ready to support you.
 [Explore Our AT Network](#)
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Closing Thoughts: Let Awareness Bloom

Whether you're advocating, experimenting with AI, or joining us at a festival — we see your growth. This spring, let's make AT visible, accessible, and vibrant in every corner of our community.

Certification Note:

 DakotaLink proudly upholds its RESNA ATP certification, with three certified staff members continuously growing through webinars and CEUs. Excellence is always in season here - we keep our skills current through biannual CEUs, often earned via webinars hosted by ATAP in partnership with ATIA, as well as national conferences.

Remember to follow us on Facebook for daily updates and insights on our work: <https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=dakotalink>

Let the sun warm your days — and let technology support your journey!
<https://www.dakotalink.net/>

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.