

30th Annual CONFERENCE

Closing The Gap

OCTOBER 17-19, 2012

Preconference Workshops

October 15-16, 2012

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

Assistive Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION



SUBMIT BY MAIL, FAX OR ONLINE:

WWW.CLOSINGTHEGAP.COM/CONFERENCE/CALL_FOR_PARTICIPATION



30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Assistive Technology in Special Education and Rehabilitation

 **WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,**
OCTOBER 17-19, 2012

Preconference Workshops

Monday and Tuesday, October 15-16, 2012

DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Bloomington
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

CLOSING THE GAP'S ANNUAL CONFERENCE HAS AN INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION AS A LEADING SOURCE FOR INFORMATION ON INNOVATIVE APPLICATIONS OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES.

The 2012 Conference builds on a tradition of providing a comprehensive examination of the most current uses of technology by persons with disabilities and the professionals who work with them.

Topics will cover a broad spectrum of technology as it is being applied to all disabilities and age groups in education, rehabilitation, vocation and independent living. People with disabilities, special educators, rehabilitation professionals, administrators, service/care providers, personnel managers,

government officials and hardware/software developers will share their experiences and insights at what has become known as the best educational AT conference in North America.

Groups or individuals who wish to participate in Closing The Gap's 2012 Conference should submit their proposals for one-hour and multiple-hour presentations as soon as possible. Directions and information are found within. Please fill out the proposal form completely; incomplete proposals will not be considered.

PRESENTATION PROPOSALS

Closing The Gap will consider proposals for one-hour or multiple-hour sessions that describe and/or demonstrate successful applications of assistive technology for persons with disabilities.

Proposals are invited that report results of current applications, research, development of hardware, software or adaptive devices, model programs or procedures used by and for persons with disabilities.

Proposals for sessions that demonstrate the use of software programs, adaptive devices or the innovative use of assistive technology are highly encouraged – especially specific how-tos, tips and tricks and product comparisons.

Proposals should focus on practical applications, implementation strategies and best practices rather than theoretical discourse.

Proposal content should be supported by evidence and should include quantitative performance data.

Proposals for open forums in which participants discuss, comment openly and share ideas and opinions relevant to a primary subject or focus are also encouraged.

Because the median assistive technology sophistication level of Closing The Gap Conference participants advances each year, Closing The Gap encourages proposals for sessions directed at persons who are actively using assistive technology in education, rehabilitation, vocation or independent living – typically intermediate to advanced level users.

Closing The Gap recognizes the continued need for introductory activities as well, and will select a range of proposals that meets needs across the assistive technology experience continuum and facilitates a balanced interchange between special educators and rehabilitation professionals.

NEW THIS YEAR, Closing The Gap is considering a special “app track” during the conference.

This proposed track will consist of short and focused demonstrations of apps.

A separate App Track Call will be emailed and available on Closing The Gap's Web site beginning **Thursday, May 17th, 2012. Deadline date will be noted in the Call.**

PROCEDURE

ABSTRACT: A 300- to 500-word abstract must accompany a copy of the proposal form found within this Call for Participation. This abstract will be reviewed by a conference panel and is critical in determining the quality and acceptance of the presentation.

SUMMARY: A separate, 100-word summary must also be submitted for inclusion in the Conference Directory. This summary should be written in the future tense, using person-first language, concisely stating presentation sequence and scope, and highlighting concrete examples and products. This summary must be congruent with the content of the actual presentation. It will be used by participants as the basis for attending and evaluating the presentation.

PROPOSAL FORM: The proposal form must be completely filled out and returned with the abstract and summary. If there will be more than one presenter, a lead presenter must be designated and complete contact information provided for each presenter.

Also, please only list those persons who will actually attend and present at the conference. You may note the appropriate author/creator of your presentation on your abstract, but do not list the author(s) or creator(s) as presenters unless he, she or they will be present at the conference.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

The proposal form, abstract and summary must be received by Closing The Gap on or before 2:00 pm Central Daylight Time on Thursday, May 3, 2012. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

NOTIFICATIONS

Confirmation of presentation proposal acceptance/declination, and confirmation of specific date and time of accepted presentation will be sent by the first week in August.

In offering to present a paper, it is expressly understood that the presentation may be scheduled at any time on any of the conference days at the discretion of the conference organizers.

Presenters will be expected to provide all handouts at the conference. In addition, handouts must be made available to Closing The Gap for posting on Closing The Gap's Web site. Failure to adequately supply handouts, both on-site and Web, will result in nonconsideration of future proposals.

Selected manuscripts submitted by conference presenters will be published in the Closing The Gap magazine, both in print and online. Guidelines for submitting materials for these proceedings will be sent upon confirmation of presentation acceptance.

CONTACT US:

Closing The Gap, 526 Main St., P.O. Box 68, Henderson, MN 56044
Phone: 507-248-3294; Fax: 507-248-3810
E-mail: <info@closingthegap.com>; Web site: <www.closingthegap.com>

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION SAVINGS

PRESENTER RATE

Presenters may register for the three-day (October 17-19, 2012) conference for \$325 (regular registration is \$455).

Presenters do not have to register for the conference to present; however, only those presenters who have registered may attend conference sessions/exhibits other than their own.

All-day preconference workshops are scheduled for October 15-16 and cost \$275 for one day or \$490 for two days.

"RETURN" DISCOUNT

A \$30 "return" discount is available to ANY past conference registrant and must be used by **June 30, 2012**.

This discount can be used for any preconference workshop OR conference registration and is IN ADDITION to any and all other applicable discounts.

If registering online, you will be required to enter and apply code **RETURN** at checkout.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE
APRIL 1, 2012
WWW.CLOSINGTHEGAP.COM



2012 PRESENTATION PROPOSAL FORM

CLOSING THE GAP 30th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17-19, 2012

Presentation title: _____

Presenter name(s): (If more than one presenter, designate lead presenter and provide complete contact information for each presenter. List only those persons who will actually attend and present at the conference.)

Professional experience: _____

Position / Title(s): _____

Institution / Company: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State / Country: _____ Zip / Postal code: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Mobile phone: _____ E-mail address: _____

Web site: _____

Have you or any co-presenter(s) presented this proposal before? yes no

If yes, please indicate when and where: _____

Will you or any co-presenter(s) submit this proposal to or present this proposal at any other national conference in 2012?

If yes, please indicate what conference, when and where: _____

The content of this session is supported by evidence and references are provided. yes no

This session includes quantitative performance data. yes no

LENGTH OF PRESENTATION:

1 hour 2 ½ hours

COMPUTER TYPE ADDRESSED:

Macintosh PC iPad

TYPE OF PRESENTATION:

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> demonstration | <input type="checkbox"/> networking session / discussion | <input type="checkbox"/> hands-on workshop (iPad Lab) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> lecture | <input type="checkbox"/> hands-on workshop (Macintosh Lab) | <input type="checkbox"/> hands-on workshop (participant-provided computers)* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> make-it, take-it | <input type="checkbox"/> hands-on workshop (PC Lab) | |

*If computer is participant provided, this information must be included in the session's description.

List software to preinstall (if any): _____

List computer platform: _____ List operating system requirements: _____

List Web browser requirements (if any): _____

COMPANY AFFILIATION / PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION:

Are you or any co-presenters affiliated in any manner with a company or organization whose commercial products you will be presenting or demonstrating? yes no If yes, please explain affiliation: _____

If this is a product demonstration, is the product available for purchase at this time? yes no

Please note, if representing or endorsing a product, please be very careful to share information, strategies and implementation ideas rather than to "sell the product." Participants have commented and requested this to be the case.

LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION:

Audience computer sophistication level: beginner intermediate advanced n/a

Presentation subject sophistication level: beginner intermediate advanced all

EQUIPMENT:

Standard equipment in each presentation room:

- projection system used for computer and / or video display
- one screen
- Internet connection
- two wireless microphones

If you need a computer, e-mail Tech Director Jeff Steinborn <jsteinborn@closingthegap.com>, with specifics.

If you supply your own laptop computer, it is necessary for you to list the make and model: _____

Additional equipment that you, the presenter, will supply: _____

PRIMARY SUBJECT OF PRESENTATION (please be specific; if more than one is applicable, rate 1, 2, 3):

- | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|--|
| ___ accessible instructional material | ___ functional living skills | ___ professional development |
| ___ assessment | ___ funding | ___ research |
| ___ augmentative communication | ___ geriatrics | ___ response to intervention |
| ___ autism | ___ IEP / IPP | ___ screen alternatives
(Braille / large print / speech output) |
| ___ cognitive development | ___ inclusion / cooperative learning | ___ seating / positioning / mobility |
| ___ curriculum development / modifications | ___ keyboard alternatives | ___ technology integration |
| ___ deaf communications | ___ language development | ___ transition |
| ___ differentiated instruction | ___ learning styles (LD) | ___ universal design for learning |
| ___ early childhood development | ___ legislation | ___ Web 2.0 |
| ___ employment / job accommodation /
job training | ___ literacy | ___ other (please state):
_____ |
| ___ environmental control | ___ mathematics | |

LEARNING OUTCOMES: As a result of this activity, participants will be able to: _____

(Check the CEU area of the AAC Institute Web site for appropriate verbs to be used for learning outcomes statements. <www.aac institute.org>)

PRIMARY FOCUS OF PRESENTATION (please be specific):

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ___ administration | ___ cognitive disabilities | ___ infant / toddler skill level |
| ___ rehabilitation | ___ hearing impaired / deaf | ___ preschool skill level |
| ___ service / care | ___ learning disabilities | ___ kindergarten-grade 6 skill level |
| ___ special education | ___ physical disabilities | ___ grades 7-12 skill level |
| | ___ speech / language disabilities | ___ adult skill level |
| | ___ vision impaired / blind | |
| | ___ behavioral / emotional disorders | |
| | ___ traumatic brain injured | |

SUBMIT PROPOSAL FORM:

Return proposal form, abstract and summary by mail or fax to, Presentations Manager, Closing The Gap, 526 Main St., P.O. Box 68, Henderson, MN 56044. Fax: 507-248-3810.

To submit a proposal form, abstract and summary online, visit <www.closingthegap.com/conf/call_for_participation.lasso>.

For additional information, call 507-248-3294, e-mail Closing The Gap at <info@closingthegap.com> or visit our Web site at <www.closingthegap.com>.

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2:00 pm Central Daylight Time on Thursday, May 3, 2012.

PRSRST STD
AUTO
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Permit No. 166

Closing The Gap • 526 Main Street, P.O. Box 68 • Henderson, MN 56044