

Closing The Gap 2020

38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Assistive Technology in Special Education, Rehabilitation and Everyday Living

CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

Conference: October 28-30, 2020

Preconference Workshops: October 26-27, 2020

PRIOR LAKE, MINNESOTA



WWW.CLOSINGTHEGAP.COM



**WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY,
OCTOBER 28-30, 2020**

Mystic Lake Center
PRIOR LAKE, MINNESOTA

Preconference Workshops:
Monday and Tuesday, October 26-27, 2020

Preview of Exhibits:
Tuesday, October 27, 2020

Current Trends and Topics

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.

Share Your Expertise

Groups or individuals who wish to participate in Closing The Gap's 2020 Conference should submit their proposals for one-hour and multiple-hour sessions and poster sessions as soon as possible. Directions and information are found within. Please fill out the proposal form completely; incomplete proposals will not be considered.

ONE- AND TWO AND HALF-HOUR SESSION 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, mobile apps, 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.

POSTER SESSIONS

Closing The Gap will consider proposals for poster sessions. Poster Session 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. This engaging format allows viewers to study your information and discuss it with you one on one.

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 session.

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 session sequence and scope, and highlighting concrete examples and products. This summary must be congruent with the content of the actual session. It will be used by participants as the basis for attending and evaluating the session.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Presenters are required to submit CEU learning outcomes that conform to the guidelines set forth by the AAC Institute. "As a result of this activity, participants will be able to..." Check the CEU area of the AAC Institute website for appropriate verbs to be used for learning outcomes statements. <www.aac institute.org>

NOTIFICATIONS

Confirmation of session proposal acceptance/declination, and confirmation of specific date and time of accepted session will be sent by August 1, 2020.

In offering to present a paper, it is expressly understood that the session 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 website. 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 Closing The Gap Solutions. Guidelines for submitting materials for these proceedings will be sent upon confirmation of session acceptance.

CONTACT US:

Closing The Gap, 401 N. 7th St., P.O. Box 68, Henderson, MN 56044
Phone: 507-248-3294; Fax: 507-248-3810
Email: <info@closingthegap.com>; Website: <www.closingthegap.com>

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 session 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.

ONLINE SUBMISSION:

www.closingthegap.com/conference/call-for-participation

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

The proposal form, abstract and summary must be received by Closing The Gap on or before Monday, June 1, 2020. Incomplete submissions will not be considered.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

PRESENTER RATE

Presenters may register for the three-day (October 28-30, 2020) conference for \$430 on or before October 15; \$530 after October 16

All-day preconference workshops are scheduled for October 26-27, 2020 and cost \$295 for one day or \$510 for two days.

RETURN DISCOUNT

A \$25 "return" discount is available to ANY past conference registrant and must be used by **June 30, 2020**.

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.

ADMINISTRATORS

PARTICIPATE FREE

this year, when an additional staff member registers for the conference.

When any school district or hospital / clinic staff member registers for a preconference workshop or the three-day conference, one administrator (Special Education Director, Principal or Hospital / Clinic Administrator) from that organization can attend the conference, Wednesday through Friday, and the exhibition preview, Tuesday evening, for FREE! Limits apply.

ONLINE REGISTRATION AVAILABLE

APRIL 1, 2020

WWW.CLOSINGTHEGAP.COM

2020 SESSION PROPOSAL FORM

CLOSING THE GAP 38th ANNUAL CONFERENCE - WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28-30, 2020

Session 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: _____ Email address: _____

Website: _____ Twitter handle: _____

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 2020?

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 SESSION:

1 hour 2 ½ hours poster session

DEVICE TYPE ADDRESSED:

Macintosh PC iPad Chromebook Other: _____

Session participants require Internet connection. yes no

TYPE OF SESSION:

poster session

networking session / discussion

demonstration

hands-on workshop (participant-provided devices)

lecture

List software / app to preinstall, if any, and also include this information in the session's

make-it, take-it

description: _____

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: _____

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.

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

LEVEL OF SOPHISTICATION:

Audience device sophistication level: beginner intermediate advanced n/a

Session subject sophistication level: beginner intermediate advanced all

EQUIPMENT AND AUDIO / VISUAL: Standard equipment in each session room:

- audio / video projector and screen Internet connection two wireless microphones

Regarding video projection, please list the devices you would like to project (e.g., iPad, iPhone, laptop, etc.)

Devices: _____ Total number of devices: _____

Note, presenters are required to bring the appropriate video adapter(s) to connect to the video projection system.

Have equipment or technical questions? Email Tech Director Jeff Steinborn <jsteinborn@mac.com>.

PRIMARY SUBJECT OF SESSION: (select ONE only)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> accessibility & UDL | <input type="checkbox"/> instruction, literacy & inclusion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> assessment & IEPs | <input type="checkbox"/> leadership, policy & implementation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) | <input type="checkbox"/> mathematics |
| <input type="checkbox"/> autism spectrum disorder (ASD) | <input type="checkbox"/> mobility, mounting, seating & positioning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> blind / low vision | <input type="checkbox"/> research |
| <input type="checkbox"/> deaf and hard of hearing | <input type="checkbox"/> transition, employment & vocational rehab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> early childhood development | |

PRIMARY FOCUS OF SESSION: (please be specific)

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> administration | <input type="checkbox"/> cognitive disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> infant / toddler skill level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> hearing impaired / deaf | <input type="checkbox"/> preschool skill level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> service / care | <input type="checkbox"/> learning disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> kindergarten-grade 6 skill level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> special education | <input type="checkbox"/> physical disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> grades 7-12 skill level |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> speech / language disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> adult skill level |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> vision impaired / blind | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> behavioral / emotional disorders | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> traumatic brain injury | |

ACADEMY FOR CERTIFICATION OF VISION REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION PROFESSIONALS (ACVREP)

QUESTIONNAIRE / INSTRUCTIONS Check all that apply, if none of these apply, select Not Applicable.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> the visual system and vision loss | <input type="checkbox"/> individuals who are visually impaired with additional disabilities | <input type="checkbox"/> program development, administration, and supervision |
| <input type="checkbox"/> psychosocial aspects of visual impairment | <input type="checkbox"/> sensory motor functioning | <input type="checkbox"/> communication, team-building, consumerism, cultural diversity, and working with families. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> the auditory system and hearing loss | <input type="checkbox"/> human growth and development over the lifespan | <input type="checkbox"/> assistive technology for people with vision loss |
| <input type="checkbox"/> professionalism in vision rehabilitation and education | <input type="checkbox"/> assessment of persons with visual impairment and their environments | <input type="checkbox"/> not applicable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> professional information | <input type="checkbox"/> instructional methods | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> aging and vision loss | | |

SUBMIT PROPOSAL FORM:

Return proposal form, abstract, summary and learning outcomes by mail or fax to: Sessions Manager, Closing The Gap, 401 N. 7th 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/conference/call-for-participation>.

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

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

Proposal must be received by Closing The Gap on or before **Monday, June 1, 2020.**

CONFIRMATION DATE:

Confirmation of session proposal acceptance / declination and confirmation of specific date and time of accepted session will be sent by August 1, 2020.