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
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.

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.

ONE- AND TWO AND HALF-HOUR SESSION PROPOSALS
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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.aacinstitute.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
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:               DEVICE TYPE ADDRESSED:
☐ 1 hour ☐ 2 ½ hours ☐ poster session ☐ 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 ☐ make-it, take-it
☐ make-it, take-it

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

PRIMARY FOCUS OF SESSION: (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
- special education
- speech / language disabilities
- adult skill level
- special education
- vision impaired / blind
- mobility, mounting, seating & positioning
- behavioral / emotional disorders
- transition, employment & vocational rehab
- 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.

- the visual system and vision loss
- individuals who are visually impaired with additional disabilities
- psychosocial aspects of visual impairment
- sensory motor functioning
- the auditory system and hearing loss
- human growth and development over the lifespan
- professionalism in vision rehabilitation and education
- assessment of persons with visual impairment and their environments
- professional information
- instructional methods
- aging and vision loss
- not applicable

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:
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CONFIRMATION DATE:
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