Technology and Disability Policy Highlights

September 2015

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# Overview

In September, there was a lot of activity to gear up for National Disability Employment Awareness Month. To kick off this year’s Disability Employment Awareness Month, on September 30, 2015, President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation marking October 2015 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The President called for the nation to promote inclusion in the workplace by tearing down barriers for Americans with disabilities to acquire the stable jobs they deserve. Other related activities include a North Carolina A&T State University and Baruch College (CUNY) study that explores veteran's experiences in civilian employment after a military career. The Disability Equality Index Survey, an initiative of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN), created to objectively rate businesses on their disability inclusion policies opened up registration for this year’s survey and assessment. Additionally, three companies, Chief People Officer, Linkages Work Together and AudioEye, entered an agreement to design a job board to accommodate people with disabilities in their search for jobs, and to help companies with Americans with Disabilities Act compliance.

In Wireless RERC news, ZyroMath, an app developed, in part, with support from the Wireless RERC’s App Factory and the National Institute for Disability and Independent Living Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR),

received the award for best mobile app for children and toddlers. This award was presented by the Best Mobile App Awards (BMAA), an organization that discovers and shares the best mobile apps on the market.

Finally, don’t forget to take and share our 2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies. The SUN is our cornerstone survey of wireless technology use and usability by people with all types of disabilities.

* **To** [**share**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-launches-new-survey-user-needs) **the SUN,** use the share buttons at this link: <http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-launches-new-survey-user-needs>.
* **To** [**take**](HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/SUN-2015) **the SUN online**, please go to this address: **[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==" \t "_blank)**

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# Administrative Activities

**President Obama Declares October National Disability Employment Month**

September 30, 2015 - To kick off this year’s Disability Employment Awareness Month, a Presidential Proclamation was issued by President Obama marking October 2015 as National Disability Employment Awareness Month. Unemployment amongst Americans with disabilities is twice that of non-disabled Americans. The President called for this nation to promote inclusion in the workplace by tearing down barriers for Americans with disabilities to acquire the stable jobs they deserve. The Administration is taking this initiative to heart by requiring agencies to hire more people with disabilities and providing more federal resources to organizations to facilitate their hiring of individuals with disabilities.

#### Additional Information

[Presidential Proclamation -- National Disability Employment Awareness Month, 2015](https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/01/presidential-proclamation-national-disability-employment-awareness-month)

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/10/01/presidential-proclamation-national-disability-employment-awareness-month>

**White House Announces Smart Cities Initiative to Combat City Challenges**

September 14, 2015 - The White House announced the “Smart Cities” research initiative, a $160 million dollars investment in federal research regarding new smart technologies to help communities overcome various problems. Societal issues like crime, economic growth, climate change, city services, and traffic congestion are just a few of the subjects that will be addressed by the initiative. These “Smart Cities” are focused on developing communities that continuously improve the life of residents by using new technologies associated with the Internet of things. The National Science Foundation is also getting involved by announcing over $35 million in grants related to Smart Cites with an emphasis on creating next generation internet applications. The strategies of the initiative include:

* Developing Internet of Things (IoT) test beds;
* Creating intercity collaborations;
* Leveraging current Federal research related to the IoT; and
* Engaging in international collaborations.

#### Additional Information

[FACT SHEET: Administration Announces New “Smart Cities” Initiative to Help Communities Tackle Local Challenges and Improve City Services](fact-sheet-administration-announces-new-smart-cities-initiative-help)

[<https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/09/14/fact-sheet-administration-announces-new-smart-cities-initiative-help>]

**Two New Members Appointed to the U.S. Access Board**

September 9, 2015 - President Barack Obama has appointed two new members and reappointed three others to the U.S. Access Board. New members include Karen Tamley of Chicago and Dr. Victor Santiago Pineda of Berkeley. Tamley is the Commissioner of the Chicago Mayor’s Office for People with Disabilities and leads several disability policy initiatives geared towards Chicago’s infrastructure, emergency preparedness, schools, and transportation. Dr. Pineda is president and founder of the Pineda Foundations and previously the Chancellor’s Post-Doctoral Fellow for Academic Diversity as an Adjunct Professor of City Planning at the University of California, Berkeley. These new members fill the seats of former members Nancy Starnes and Phillip D. Jenkins. Those reappointed to the U.S. Access Board are Regina Blye, Christopher S. Hart, and Mathew McCollough. These new and current members will be working toward providing leadership needed to bring accessible design to the forefront of city and policy planning.

#### Additional Information

[President Obama Appoints New Board Members](http://www.access-board.gov/news/1785-president-obama-appoints-new-board-members)

[<http://www.access-board.gov/news/1785-president-obama-appoints-new-board-members>]

# Regulatory Activities

**Summit on Telecommunication Needs of People with Cognitive Disabilities**

September 2015 - The FCC will convene a *Summit on Telecommunication Needs of People with Cognitive Disabilities*on October 28th, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (ET) at FCC headquarters, Room TW-C305 (Commission Meeting Room), 445 12th Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20554. The Disability Advisory Committee is facilitating the discussion and panels include:

* Communication Technologies for Independent Living;
* Emergency Preparedness; and
* Ensuring and Funding Access to Equipment and Training.

There will also be an Expo with vendors displaying assistive technologies. The event is free and open to the public. To watch online visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/live>.

#### Additional Information

[Event Page](https://www.fcc.gov/events/summit-telecommunication-needs-people-cognitive-disabilities)

[<https://www.fcc.gov/events/summit-telecommunication-needs-people-cognitive-disabilities>]

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# Other Items of Interest

**Survey to Improve Employers' Connections with Employees with Disabilities**

September 2015 - Academic researchers from North Carolina A&T State University and Baruch College (CUNY) are working with RecruitMilitary to understand how individuals label their disability. This brief (3-5 minute) survey is a small part of a larger study that explores veteran's experiences in civilian employment after a military career.

Your completion of this survey and subsequent surveys will assist in identifying areas of improvement for Veteran support organizations and employers.

#### Additional Information

[Brief Disability Survey](https://ncat.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_9SqO14ZBZCk8B7f)  
[[https://ncat.az1.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV\_9SqO14ZBZCk8B7f](http://www.linkedin.com/redir/redirect?url=https%3A%2F%2Fncat%2Eaz1%2Equaltrics%2Ecom%2FSE%2F%3FSID%3DSV_9SqO14ZBZCk8B7f&urlhash=HjRK&_t=tracking_anet" \t "blank)]

**Disability Equality Index Survey Registration Is Now Open**

September 2015 - The Disability Equality Index Survey, an initiative of the American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) and the US Business Leadership Network (USBLN), was created to objectively rate businesses on their disability inclusion policies. With the feedback from this survey, companies make lasting improvements to increase the inclusion of people with disabilities in the workplace. Companies can register to participate between September 17, 2015 and December 4, 2015. For more information please follow the link below.

#### Additional Information

[Register to Participate in the 2nd Annual Disability Equality Index](http://www.disabilityequalityindex.org/DEISurvey/Default.aspx)

[http://www.disabilityequalityindex.org/DEISurvey/Default.aspx]

**Request For IT or Computer Industry Survey Respondents**

September 2015 - A Ph.D. student from the Georgia Tech School of History and Sociology is researching diversity in the information technology (IT) workforce within the U.S. If you are, or know anyone working in a computer or IT career please respond and share the survey below. It consists of an initial 5 to 10 minute survey; however some respondents may be invited to participate in an hour long interview about their workplace.

#### Additional Information

[A Study of the Computer and IT Workforce](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WiTWorkforce)

[[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WiTWorkforce](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WiTWorkforce" \t "_blank)]

**Toolkit on Accessibility Indicators Released by GAATES**

September 28, 2015 - The Delta Centre of Norwegian Directorate for Children Youth and Family Affairs funded the Global Alliance on Accessible Technologies and Environments (GAATES) to examine accessibility and universal design principles reported on at the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Upon completion of the research, GAATES developed a toolkit to distribute to state parties to identify accessibility indicators to assist with their reporting requirements as signatories to the UNCRPD. GAATES launched the toolkit at the Accessibility and Education: Challenges and Solutions Forum and expects it to be used to increase the understanding of universal design.

#### Additional Information

[GAATES Releases Toolkit on Accessibility Indicators](http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2015/09/28/gaates-releases-toolkit-on-accessibility-indicators/)

<http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2015/09/28/gaates-releases-toolkit-on-accessibility-indicators/>

**Companies Collaborate to Create Accessible Job Board**

September 15, 2015 - Three companies, Chief People Officer, Linkages Work Together and AudioEye, entered an agreement to design a job board to accommodate people with disabilities in their search for jobs, and to help companies with Americans with Disabilities Act compliance. The job board can be used by, and is targeted towards people with disabilities, veterans, wounded warriors, and elderly people. The goal of this project is to ensure all qualified people with disabilities are able to find opportunities for employment. According to the press release, job boards have been hard to navigate, but with this new job board people with disabilities will be able to use several of their assistive technologies to make applying for jobs much easier.

#### Additional Information

[Organizations Partner to Make Digital Job Postings Accessible to Individuals With Disabilities](http://app.quotemedia.com/quotetools/newsStoryPopup.go?storyId=78108054&topic=AEYE&symbology=null&cp=off&webmasterId=101772)

<http://app.quotemedia.com/quotetools/newsStoryPopup.go?storyId=78108054&topic=AEYE&symbology=null&cp=off&webmasterId=101772>

**Geoscientists Release Statement Regarding Access and Inclusion**

September 10, 2015 - Geoscientist with disabilities came together on the issues of access and inclusion and released a consensus statement from The American Geosciences Institute (AGI). Christopher Atchison, Executive Director of the International Association for Geoscience Diversity (IAGD), brought stakeholders together at the AGI 2014 Leadership Forum to discuss the barriers geoscientists with disabilities are confronted with within their discipline. This open discussion included strategies employed to combat many of their challenges at home and in the workplace. The forum led to the development of a community consensus statement outlining four agreements to foster inclusion within their field. They are [verbatim]:

* Encourage the development of flexible learning environments and inclusive curricula, including in the classroom, laboratory, and field that are conducive to developing the skills of geoscientists of all physical, sensory, or cognitive abilities.
* Foster the participation and support the retention of geoscientists who live with disabilities in academic communities, our professional organizations, and the workforce.
* Promote accessible pathways for students with disabilities to transition into geoscience careers that maximize their unique perspectives, competencies, and abilities.
* As a representative society, ensure that career and professional development opportunities are made available to geoscientists with all abilities to support life-long growth, and by extension, promote inclusion and act as an example for other organizations.

The statement is now posted on AGI’s website at [AGI Consensus Statement](http://www.americangeosciences.org/community/disability-consensus-statement).

#### Additional Information

[Press Release](http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-09/agi-csr091015.php)

[<http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2015-09/agi-csr091015.php>]

[Consensus Statement Regarding Access and Inclusion of Individuals Living with Disabilities in the Geosciences](http://www.americangeosciences.org/community/disability-consensus-statement)

[<http://www.americangeosciences.org/community/disability-consensus-statement>]

**HTC Brings Back the Sidetone Feature**

September 9, 2015 - HTC has decided to restore the sidetone feature starting with the HTC One M9. In an email sent to the Wireless RERC, an HTC representative explained “HTC recently implemented a new accessibility feature in our phones, and we’re trying to get the word out…HTC was contacted by a customer with hearing impairments who said that she was trying to find an LTE smartphone that supports sidetone.”  During a phone call, sidetone is the low level feedback of your voice. The feature is key for some people with hearing disabilities because it allows them to modulate voices to the appropriate level. While sidetone is available on landline phones, unfortunately, most manufacturers have removed sidetone from their mobile phone designs. HTC implemented a sidetone option in version 7 of their Sense overlay to Android.  Sense 7 has been deployed on many of HTC’s currently-available phones and this feature should be available on upcoming phones, as well. The request to bring back the feature was championed by the FCC and since sidetone has returned, customer feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

#### Additional Information

[Re-Instating the Sidetone Option](http://blog.htc.com/2015/09/re-instating-the-sidetone-option/)

[<http://blog.htc.com/2015/09/re-instating-the-sidetone-option/>]

**Seeing Eye GPS App Version 2 Released**

September 2, 2015 - The Seeing Eye GPS App developed by Sendero for iOS recently had a second version released. This app acts as a seeing eye for people who are blind or visually impaired while they are walking along streets. In addition to all of the previous features, the app can now record points of interest and categorize them. Users are also able to share these locations with others along with a description. Seeing Eye GPS is a subscription based service available on the iTunes app store.

#### Additional Information

[Announcing the release of version 2.0 of Sendero's iPhone GPS apps:](http://senderogroup.com/products/shopseeingeyegps.htm)

[<http://senderogroup.com/products/shopseeingeyegps.htm>]

**The Orion TI-30SX is a Talking Scientific Calculator**

September 1, 2015 - Texas Instruments, Orbit Research, and the American Printing House for the Blind collaborated to unveil the first fully accessible scientific calculator. Now students with a vision disability can use the same technology as their peers in calculating subjects like statistics. Most importantly, the calculator has been approved to be used on important exams like the SAT and ACT. Many are saying that this calculator will open doors to students with vision loss’ ability to pursue their interests in STEM subjects.

#### Additional Information

[New Talking Scientific Calculator Breaks Down Barriers for Blind Students](http://www.orbitresearch.com/news_details.php?id=12)

<http://www.orbitresearch.com/news_details.php?id=12>

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# Wireless RERC Updates

**Zyrobotics Wins Platinum App Award**

September 23, 2015 - ZyroMath received the award for best mobile app for children and toddlers. This award was presented by the Best Mobile App Awards (BMAA), an organization that discovers and shares the best mobile apps on the market. Apps are rated by a panel of judges on their design, usability, functionality, and performance. This app teaches children age 3 to 8 common core math skills. The Zyrobotics founder, Ayanna Howard said, “We’re excited about the amazing responses we’ve received about ZyroMath addressing the needs of children of all abilities. ZyroMath is also our first app that can autonomously learn game settings based on the child’s own skill level. We are excited to announce this new feature in our future apps as well.”

ZyroMath was developed, in part, with support from the Wireless RERC’s App Factory and the National Institute for Disability and Independent Living Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR).

#### Additional Information

[Press](http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2015/09/29/math-app-for-children-with-disabilities-wins-platinum-app-award/) Release

[<http://www.pr.com/press-release/638404>]

[Download on iTunes](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/octoplus/id1020037455?ls=1&mt=8)

[<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/octoplus/id1020037455?ls=1&mt=8>]

[Download on Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.zyrobotics.citycount)

[<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.zyrobotics.citycount>]

**Share the Survey of User Needs (SUN)**

The Wireless RERC's 2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies is still open and we invite you to share the survey with your networks. It‘s available in both English and Spanish. The SUN is our cornerstone survey of wireless technology use and usability by people with all types of disabilities. First launched in 2002, the SUN is the only national source of comprehensive information and insight into the wireless technology needs of people with disabilities.

Please consider sharing the Survey of User Needs to ensure we capture any new data to reflect the changing nature of accessibility and wireless technology adoption by people with disabilities.

* **To** [**share**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-launches-new-survey-user-needs) **the SUN,** use the share buttons at this link: <http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-launches-new-survey-user-needs>.
* **To** [**take**](HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/SUN-2015) **the SUN online**, please go to this address: **[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==" \t "_blank)**

Individuals with disabilities may also participate on the phone, or we can send a paper copy with a postage paid return envelope.

To complete the survey over the phone or to request a paper copy, contact John Morris at:**[john\_morris@shepherd.org](mailto:john_morris@shepherd.org" \t "_blank)**or 404-367-1348

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==)

[**[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==" \t "_blank) ]**

[Encuesta sobre las Necesidades del Usuario respecto a las Tecnologías Inalámbricas](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-Esp_2015)

[<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-Esp_2015>]

**RERC lanza la Encuesta sobre las Necesidades del Usuario respecto a las Tecnologías Inalámbricas-2015**

El Centro de Investigación sobre la Ingeniería de la Rehabilitación con Tecnologías Inalámbricas (Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies, Wireless RERC) ha lanzado la Encuesta sobre las Necesidades del Usuario respecto a las Tecnologías Inalámbricas-2015 (Survey of User Needs for Wireless Technologies 2015, SUN-2015).

El fin de esta encuesta es descubrir cómo la gente con discapacidades usa tecnología inalámbrica para consumidores. Se enfoca principalmente en los teléfonos celulares, sin embargo, también incluye preguntas sobre otros tipos de dispositivos como las tabletas, por ejemplo el iPad de Apple y el Kindle Fire de Amazon, Surface de Microsoft, y otros dispositivos similares.

Los datos que se recopilen ayudarán a los diseñadores e ingenieros a elaborar nuevos dispositivos y servicios inalámbricos que satisfagan las necesidades de las personas con discapacidades. Desde el año 2001 más de 6000 personas han completado esta encuesta.

Invitamos a todas las personas con cualquier tipo de discapacidad o limitación física, cognitiva, o sensorial completar el questionario. Se puede completarlo en el Web: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-Esp_2015>. Si prefiere completar el questionario en papel o por telefono, por favor comuníquese con John Morris: 404-367-1348; [john\_morris@shepherd.org](mailto:john_morris@shepherd.org)

Sus respuestas son importantes para nosotros, incluso si usted no usa la tecnología inalámbrica. El questionario se puede completar con la ayuda de un asistente o una enfermera si no puede completarlo directamente usted mismo.

No venderemos ni utilizaremos su información personal de otra manera que no sea para realizar la investigación sobre el tema de esta encuesta. Sus datos personales permanecerán en estricta confidencialidad.

# Upcoming Events

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**Knowledge Translation Solutions for Overcoming Barriers to Research Use**

The Knowledge Translation Conference is an online conference for National Institute for Disability and Independent Living Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) grantees, designed to help identify barriers to use of developed technology solutions and rehabilitation research. Attendees of this conference will work together to develop strategies to overcome these barriers and further their research. The conference will be **held online over the course of three half-day sessions: October 26th, 28th, and 30th**.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conference Website](http://ktdrr.org/conference2015/)

<http://ktdrr.org/conference2015/>

**Tools for Expanding Closed Captioning of Public Access Programming**

The Federal Communications Commission is holding a forum to start a discussion about closed captioning of public access and governmental programming shown on television. The forum will be held on **November 10, 2015, 1:00 PM - 5:00 PM EST at 445 12th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20554.**  It will include conversations about the benefits of closed captioning. This event will engage policy makers, local politicians, engineers and more, in order to raise awareness of the issues surrounding captioning of public access and governmental programming.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[FCC Announces Roundtable Event to Discuss Closed Captioning of Public Access and Governmental Programming](https://www.fcc.gov/events/roundtable-discussion-closed-captioning-public-access-and-governmental-programming)

[<https://www.fcc.gov/events/roundtable-discussion-closed-captioning-public-access-and-governmental-programming>]

**Accessing Higher Ground (AHG) 2015 Conference**

AHG 2015 will convene in **Westminster (Denver), Colorado on November 16-20, 2015**. Conference sessions will focus on accessible media, universal design and assistive technology in the university, business and public setting; legal and policy issues, including ADA and 508 compliance; the creation of accessible media and information resources, including Web pages and library resources. The audience and speakers are expected to be comprised of web designers & project managers, assistive technologists, ADA coordinators, human resource personnel, persons with disabilities, disability specialists, faculty, course designers, media specialists and programmers, IT and communication managers. Join the crowd and register at <http://accessinghigherground.org/registration/>.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conference Website](http://accessinghigherground.org/)

[<http://accessinghigherground.org/>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** September 2015

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The Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) reports on national public policy events and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities, researchers, policymakers, industry, and advocacy professionals. The TDPH is published monthly by the Wireless RERC. The Wireless RERC is a research center that promotes universal access to wireless technologies and explores their innovative applications in addressing the needs of people with disabilities. For more information on the Wireless RERC, please visit our web site at [<http://www.wirelessrerc.org>].

For further information on items summarized in this report, or if you have items of interest that you would like included in future editions, please contact this edition’s editors Dalton Nechanicky [Dalton@cacp.gatech.edu] or Salimah LaForce [salimah@cacp.gatech.edu].

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