TECHNOLOGY AND DISABILITY POLICY HIGHLIGHTS 10.6

June-August 2010

Overview

In this Summer 2010 issue of the *TDPH* covering the months of June, July, and August, we call attention to major developments in technology and disability policy. Arguably, the most important event of the summer was the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which was signed into law on July 26, 1990. To commemorate the passage of the ADA, Congress, the White House, and numerous federal agencies held celebrations in honor of the law. A number of agencies undertook regulatory and policy actions to coincide with the anniversary. The U.S. Senate adopted **Senate Resolution 591**, which reaffirms the nation's commitment to ensuring the full inclusion and participation of Americans with disabilities in all aspects of society, including electronic and information access. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) announced a yearlong celebration of the ADA, with the theme of "Empowering Americans with Disabilities through Technology." The Commission also adopted a number of *Public Notices* to coincide with its ADA events. The Department of Justice undertook a sweeping rulemaking process to ensure ongoing enforcement of Titles II and III of the ADA. Three of its *Advance Notices of Proposed Rulemaking* dealt with Next Generation 911 service, Web accessibility, and closed captioning and video description at movies.

In other developments, the Senate and House passed separate versions of the "**21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act**," which are designed to update the accessibility mandates of the nation's telecommunications and video laws. The two bills will now be reconciled for a final bill. Meanwhile, the FCC addressed hearing-aid compatibility with the adoption and release of a *Policy Statement and Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, which clarifies some of its rules and seeks to promote innovation for hearing aid-compatible handsets.

Legislative Activities

Access Approved – The House & Senate Pass Legislation to Improve Technology Access
08.05.2010 – The week following the 20th anniversary of the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, the "**21st Century Communications & Video Accessibility Act**" [**S. 3304**] was passed by unanimous consent. The House version, [**H.R. 3101**], was passed on the ADA's anniversary, July 26, 2010. The purpose of the legislation is to update technology access laws and amend the **Communications Act of 1934** to be inclusive of current and future advanced communications technologies, namely Internet protocol based technologies, equipment, and services. The legislation is broken into two parts: communications access and video programming access; both regulate devices and services used for two-way communications and receiving or playing video. A few highlights include, (1) televisions delivered over the Internet will require captions (even on small screens), (2) televised emergency information must be made accessible, (3) $10 million per annum has been allocated to subsidize communications equipment for people who are deaf-blind, (4) hearing aid compatibility is required for VoIP equipment, (5) messaging and e-mail services must be made accessible, (6) establishes an Emergency Access and Real Time Text Advisory Committee to address among other things access by the hearing impaired to 911 via messaging technologies, and many more technology access requirements and implementation procedures. **S. 3304** and **H.R. 3101** have to be reconciled for a final bill.
[Source: Library of Congress]

Additional Information:
S. 3304
[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.3304:]
H.R. 3101
[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:H.3101:]

U.S. Senate Resolution Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the ADA
07.22.2010 – U.S. Senate passed "**A Resolution Recognizing and Honoring the 20th Anniversary of the Enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990**" [**S. Res. 591**]. The Resolution reaffirms the goals of the Nation and the ADA to equal opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency and full participation in society for Americans with disabilities. Further stating that not only people with disabilities receive benefit from physical access and technical access accommodations, but that non-disabled people do as well, citing curb cuts and captions as examples. In honoring the accomplishments of the ADA over the past 20 years, **S. Res. 591**, also acknowledges that there remains work to be done in the areas of community integration, employment and electronic and information access. That same day, the Committee on the Judiciary held a hearing titled "*Americans with Disabilities Act at 20 – Celebrating Our Progress, Affirming Our Commitment*." Among the witnesses were the Honorable Steny H. Hoyer, U.S. House of Representatives; the

Honorable James R. Langevin, U.S. House of Representatives; The Honorable Thomas E. Perez, U.S. Department of Justice; the Honorable Richard Thornburgh, Former U.S. Attorney General; Cheryl Sensenbrenner, American Association of People with Disabilities; Adrian Villalobos, National Disability Rights network; and Cassandra Cox, Coalition of Institutionalized, Aged, and Disabled. All had compelling stories and testimonies regarding the progress initiated by ADA legislation, and the Honorable Thomas E. Perez, Assistant Attorney General, summed up the past and future of the ADA succinctly stating that it is revolutionary and transforming, "changing hearts and minds." Yet, like others, states the need to adapt to change, specifically with regard to new and emerging technologies. [Sources: Library of Congress & The Committee on the Judiciary]

Additional Information:
S. Res. 591
[http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c111:S.Res.591:]
Hearing: Americans with Disabilities Act at 20 – Celebrating Our Progress, Affirming Our Commitment
[http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/hear_100722.html]
Testimony of The Honorable Thomas E. Perez
[http://judiciary.house.gov/hearings/pdf/Perez100722.pdf]

Homeland Security Committee Hearing on Disaster Needs of Vulnerable Populations
06.15.2010 – The Homeland Security Committee, Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness and Response held a hearing titled "Caring for Special Needs during Disasters: What's being done for Vulnerable Populations?" Witnesses included Marcie Roth, FEMA; Jim Kish, FEMA; Jonathan M. Young, National Council on Disability, Carmen J. Spencer, United States Army, Jon Gundry, Los Angeles County Office of Education, and Diane Roth-Smith, National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters. Marcie Roth, Director of the Office of Disability and Coordination at FEMA, addressed gaps in the department's strategy for inclusive preparedness planning and response, including the integrated plans (National Response Framework and the National Plan Review). Ms. Roth insists that the language used in the plans to define "special populations/needs" is too vague to be effective across the board, and that local planning efforts need to integrate people with disabilities into the process to demystify the needs of the disability population and elevate their status within plans beyond identifying and labeling the population to designing appropriate response procedures. She also discussed partnerships with Gallaudet University, WGBH's National Center for Accessible Media and the National Council on Disability to facilitate enhanced emergency communications for people with disabilities and training for emergency managers. Jonathan M. Young, Chairman of NCD, echoed Ms. Roth's assertion regarding integrated planning, expanding on her testimony: "We cannot divide emergency planning into two distinct frameworks – one for "general" preparedness and one for "special needs" preparedness. This division is particularly problematic when, as now, it results in devoting a miniscule portion of overall resources to "special needs" that are too often disproportionately more costly and resource intensive. Being well-prepared for emergencies means

addressing ALL peoples' diverse needs, including the needs of people with disabilities, in a single, integrated, and unified approach to emergency preparedness."

[Source: Homeland Security Committee]

Additional Information:

Hearing: "Caring for Special Needs during Disasters: What's being done for Vulnerable Populations?"
[http://homeland.house.gov/Hearings/index.asp?ID=256]
Testimony of Marci Roth
[http://homeland.house.gov/SiteDocuments/20100615101354-11995.pdf]
Testimony of Jonathan M. Young
[http://homeland.house.gov/SiteDocuments/20100615101428-34995.pdf]

Regulatory Activities

Access Board Ends Draft ICT Rule Process, To Move Forward with Proposed Rule
06.21.2010 – The U.S. Access Board completed its draft rule process to update its Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Standards and Guidelines on June 21, 2010. This refresh by the Access Board will update standards for federal technologies covered by Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and guidelines for telecommunications products covered by Section 255 of the Telecommunications Act. These updates to the Section 508 standards and Section 255 guidelines are meant as a response to the rapidly evolving nature of ICT and to ensure its continued accessibility to people with disabilities.

In its last of two public hearings on the draft rule, held on May 12, 2010, the Access Board received testimony on a number of issues ranging from the role of assistive technologies to improving accessibility for people with cognitive disabilities. With all of the comments now collected on the draft rule, the Access Board will use the input to develop a proposed rule, which will then be open for public comment.
[Source: Access Board]

Additional Information:
Docket on ICT Standards and Guidelines refresh, with Hearing Transcripts and Reports
[http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=ATBCB-2010-0001]

FCC Announces Yearlong Celebration of ADA, Issues Two Public Notices
07.19.2010 – The FCC began a yearlong celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA on July 19, 2010, with a theme of "Empowering Americans with Disabilities through Technology." The day's events began with a Technology Showcase held at the Department of Commerce, in which over 50

exhibitors demonstrated their accessible technologies. Later that day, FCC Chairman Julius Genachowski opened an ADA Celebration Program that included his opening remarks, the launch of a new FCC Accessibility and Innovation Forum, a video presentation on the impact technology has made in the lives of people with disabilities, performances by Gallaudet University performers, and a reception.

On that same day, the FCC issued two *Public Notices* on the subject of disability access, one which address wireless phones and another on the topic of the accessibility of FCC proceedings. In the first *Public Notice* (DA 10-1324), issued jointly by the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, the Commission expressed concern that there appear to be few accessible and affordable wireless phone options for people who are blind or who have visual impairments. Furthermore, the FCC raised the issue that many wireless technologies appear to be incompatible with Braille displays needed by people who are deaf-blind. In response to these concerns, the Commission seeks comment on six topics: 1) wireless features that are inaccessible to people who are blind, have low vision, or are deaf-blind that render communications impossible, 2) cost and feasibility of technical solutions to accessibility problems, 3) reasons why there is a lack of accessible and affordable handsets, 4) technical obstacles to making wireless phones compatible with Braille displays, 5) recommendations for policy solutions to these problems, and 6) recommendations on actions the FCC or its Bureaus should take. Comments are due by September 13, 2010, and reply comments are due no later than September 30, 2010.

The second *Public Notice* (DA 10-1325) addresses the accessibility of the FCC's various proceedings. In order to ensure ongoing compliance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the Commission seeks comment on the accessibility of its various programs and activities. Of particular interest is the availability of sign language interpreters, physically accessible buildings and meeting spaces, Braille documents, assistive listening devices, Communication Access Realtime Translation (CART), captioning, and other reasonable accommodations. The deadline for comments is September 20, 2010.
[Source: FCC]

Additional Information:
FCC Announcement of Celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the ADA (MS Word and PDF available)
[http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0715/DOC-299788A1.txt]

FCC Public Notice on Blind, Low Vision, Deaf-Blind Access to Wireless Phones (MS Word and PDF available)
[http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2010/db0722/DA-10-1324A1.txt]

Hearing Aid Compatibility, Handset Innovation Addressed in FCC Rulemaking

08.05.2010 – The FCC adopted and issued a *Policy Statement and Second Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* (FCC 10-145) that addresses the issue of hearing aid compatibility for mobile phone users. Noting that 8 million Americans use hearing aids and that mobile networks and services are become more widespread throughout the nation, the Commission undertook this rulemaking to ensure that the latest wireless phones would continue to be compatible.

In its *Second Report and Order*, the FCC sought to clarify those handsets with a built-in speaker and is designed to be typically held to the ear. It also amended an earlier *de minimis* exception to require all large providers to offer at least one hearing aid-compatible phone within the next two years. In addition, manufacturers will now be required to deploy their hearing-aid compatible phones through all distribution channels, such as third-party retailers, and not just through service providers. In the *FNPRM*, the FCC seeks comment on whether its hearing aid-compatibility rules should be extended to cover new handsets and air interfaces. Comments will be due 45 days after publication in the Federal Register, and reply comments will be due 75 days after publication.

The Commission also adopted a three-pronged *Policy Statement* to encourage and support innovation in producing handsets that can be used by hearing aid and cochlear implant users. Noting that accessibility is more efficient when considered from the outset than when applied retroactively, the FCC intends for developers to consider hearing-aid compatibility at the beginning of the product design process. The Commission also stated that it would continue to account for technological feasibility and marketability in its rulemaking, in order to maximize the conditions for innovation and investment. Finally, the FCC announced that it will support the industry in this effort by providing flexibility where needed, as well as convening a roundtable of industry and disability leaders to enhance collaboration. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

Next Generation 911, Web Accessibility Focus of Department of Justice Rulemaking

07.26.2010 – The U.S. Department of Justice announced its intention to issue four *Advance Notices of Proposed Rulemaking* as part of its efforts to update the regulations that implementing Titles II and III of the ADA. Three of these *ANPRMs* deal specifically with technology issues. The first involves a

proposal to revise Title II requirements for direct, equal access to 911 emergency services by people with disabilities. With the coming of Next Generation 911 (NG911) service, and in light of the fact that telecommunications technology has changed drastically since the rules were first adopted in 1991, the Justice Department is considering updated requirements and guidance until and after NG911 service is implemented. In short, the *ANPRM* asks two questions. First, it seeks input on the devices and modes of communication (i.e. text, video, etc.) that people with disabilities use to make "calls," including for emergencies. Second, it asks for feedback on how new Internet Protocol 911 call centers could receive calls from people with disabilities using these devices.

In another *ANPRM*, the Justice Department is considering the issue of website accessibility for people with disabilities. In its last set of revisions to the ADA in 2008, the Department received numerous comments on mandating web accessibility, prompting the current rulemaking. In this *ANPRM*, the Justice Department asks what standards, if any, it should adopt for website accessibility. Furthermore, it seeks feedback on whether coverage limitations should be adopted for certain entities, such as small businesses. The *ANPRM* also seeks comment on other issues, such as resources and services to aid in accessibility, costs of implement accessibility, effective and reasonable alternatives, and when any regulations should take effect.

A third *ANPRM* takes up the matter of movie captioning and video description under Title III of the ADA. In this rulemaking, the Justice Department is considering requirements to make more accessible to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, or who are blind or have vision impairments, by mandating that movie theaters screen films with closed captioning or video description.

These *ANPRM*s were published in the Federal Register on July 26, 2010, and 180 days will be allowed for comments. Comments can be submitted online at http://www.regulations.gov or by mail, and are due no later than January 24, 2011. In addition, the Department of Justice plans to hold at least one public hearing in the future to address these rulemakings.
[Source: U.S. Department of Justice]

Additional Information:
Department of Justice information on ANPRMs (HTML, with links to HTML, PDF, and TXT versions) [http://www.ada.gov/anprm2010.htm]

Section 508 Compliance Taken Up by Federal Agencies
07.19.2010 – The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) issued a directive that outlines the agency's new initiatives and resources to improve accessibility of electronic and information technologies (EIT) under Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. This law mandates that such technologies used by the federal government be accessible to people with disabilities. Partnering with the OMB in this effort will be the General Services Administration (GSA), which will issue updated

guidance and training on Section 508 in six months. The GSA also maintains the federal website, http://www.Section508.gov. This new material will enhance the resources that already exist on the site. These new resources will be aimed at contracting and procurement officials, IT program managers, and other individuals vested with ensuring the accessibility of federal EIT.

The new initiatives undertaken by OMB will be led by the Chief Information Officers (CIO) Council of the federal government, which will partner with GSA and other agencies. The efforts include a survey of federal agencies regarding Section 508 implementation in order to discern best practices and lessons learned. There will also be listening sessions, to be led by the Access Board, to allow federal personnel and other interested individuals the opportunity to express concerns and put forth new ideas.

[Sources: Access Board, Office of Management and Budget, and General Services Administration]

Additional Information:

OMB Directive on Initiatives to Improve Section 508 Accessibility (PDF)

[http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/omb/assets/procurement_memo/improving_accessibility_gov_info_07192010.pdf]

Other Items of Interest

CEA Accessibility Working Group

08.09.2010 – The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA) Video Systems Committee established a working group, R4 WG19, to enhance accessibility features in video devices. R4 WG19 will develop accessibility standards and guidelines for consumer electronics manufacturers. CEA is currently seeking working group members, including engineers, designers, user with disabilities, manufacturers and accessibility design specialists. For more information and to join R4 WG19, contact Alayne Bell at ABell@ce.org.

[Source: CEA]

Additional Information:

CEA Press Release

[http://www.ce.org/Press/CurrentNews/press_release_detail.asp?id=11941]

2010 Survey of Americans with Disabilities

07.16.2010 – the National Organization on Disability in collaboration with Kessler Foundation and Harris Interactive released survey results of 1000 adults with disabilities responding to ten life indicators, such as employment, income, socializing and transportation. This is the sixth survey of its kind, however the 2010 survey was updated to include technology access as a "significant life

activity;" acknowledging the integral role technology plays in modern society. Results show that 54% of respondents with disabilities have home Internet access, compared to 85% of their non-disabled counterparts. This 31-percentage point gap is second only to the 38-percentage point employment gap between respondents with disabilities (21% employed) and their non-disabled counterparts (59% employed).

[Source: Kessler Foundation]

Additional Information:

2010 Kessler Foundation/NOD Survey of Americans with Disabilities

[http://www.2010disabilitysurveys.org/]

Wireless RERC Updates

Wireless RERC Organizes the Assistive Technology Pavilion at Abilities Expo 2010

This fall the Abilities Expo rolls into Atlanta for its second consecutive year at the Cobb Galleria Convention Center, October 15-17, 2010; and once again the Wireless RERC will head up the Assistive Technology Pavilion. The AT Pavilion will be a showcase for all the current research undertaken by the Wireless RERC, Shepherd Center's AT Department, the Wheeled Mobility RERC and the Workplace RERC. In addition, we're welcoming Nokia this year as a standalone exhibitor where they'll be featuring their wireless accessibility solutions. Free workshops are a great addition to the show and will focus on everything from tips for traveling with a disability and home modifications to the steps to getting the best accessible vehicle. Learn about the many new ways to exercise with a disability and improve your health and find out how standing is benefitting people with spinal cord injuries. Stop in and say hello if you're in the Atlanta area! Admission is free!

Additional Information:

Abilities Expo

http://www.abilitiesexpo.com/atlanta/index.html

Wireless Researchers Take the Stage - ICADI 2010

Paul M.A. Baker, PhD and Nathan Moon, PhD, will present three papers at ICADI 2010, September 7-10, 2010 in Newcastle, UK: (1) *Accommodating Workers Aging Into Disability: Findings From A Policy Delphi Study*; (2) *Telework, Aging, And The Socially Inclusive Workplace*; and (3) *The Aging of Participation: Community, Work, and Social Networks*. The above works are collaborative efforts that include researchers from the RERC on Workplace Accommodations and the University of Texas, Arlington. The ICADI organizers have introduced a focus on aging in the workplace, as many people are staying in the workplace well past the traditional retirement age and retirees are returning to work. There are many assistive, adaptive and universally designed technologies and workplace policies

that can enable and empower the aging population to sustain their careers and increase independence.

Helena Mitchell, PhD, will present *Strategies for Accessible Emergency Communications Adoption*, at ICADI 2010 in Newcastle, UK. Research and development activities can enhance adoption of accessible wireless devices capable of disseminating emergency communications. This presentation will focus on the findings from the Wireless RERC's Wireless Emergency Communications (WEC) research and development project, how the experiences were utilized to inform industry and stakeholders on accessible emergency information formats, how the results have contributed to improving Federal emergency alert policies on adoption of accessible emergency alerting techniques, and the effectiveness of accessible emergency communications across a broad spectrum of users.

Additional Information:
ICADI 2010
[http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/icadi/generalinfo/schedule.php]

Wireless RERC 2010 Hearing Aid Compatibility Survey
08.03.2010 - The Hearing Aid Compatibility Act of 1988 (HAC Act) requires that landline telephones manufactured or imported for use in the United States after August 1989 be hearing aid-compatible. In 2003, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted rules to make digital wireless telephones (cell phones) compatible with hearing aids and cochlear implants. The Wireless RERC monitors this regulation and is interested in how it impacts the usability of cell phones for people who use hearing aids and cochlear implants. We invite people who use hearing aids or cochlear implants to participate in the survey regarding use of your cell phone. We plan to conduct this survey annually to track any changes in cell phone and hearing aid compatibility. Take the HAC survey and enter our drawing - $250 Amazon gift certificate

Additional Information:
Take the Survey Online
[http://cansurvey.wirelessrerc.org/HAC2010/2010_hac_survey.htm]

Partners in Progress – Wireless RERC Researcher Attends ADA's 20th Anniversary Celebration

07.19.2010 – The Whitehouse, the FCC and the Department of Commerce celebrated the 20th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) with its launch of the Accessibility & Innovation Forum: Empowering Americans with Disabilities through Technology. Over three dozen information and technology companies dedicated to enabling independence and increasing

participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of society exhibited and demonstrated their products.   The Wireless RERC's, Wireless Emergency Communications (WEC) project team demonstrated the WEC prototype technology to broadcast local and targeted delivery of alerts and warnings to wireless devices in accessible formats. They also presented summary findings from their Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Commercial Mobile Alerting System (CMAS) accessibility testing.

The event closed with a program that included a short film produced by the FCC, remarks by Kareem Dale, Chairman Julius Genachowski, Commissioner Michael Copps and other disability advocates and federal policymakers. The audience was energized and the mood was high; which was aptly conveyed through the *The Wild Zappers* American Sign Language rendition of the song *I Believe I Can Fly*. A perfect finale for the day and a preamble for what the future holds.

Additional Information:
An ADA Celebration for the Broadband Age
[http://blog.broadband.gov/?entryId=595963]
Celebrating Progress: Lives at the 20th Anniversary of the ADA [video, opens in YouTube]
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jqPblEHgQiE]

Jim Mueller Featured on CTIA's WOW Webcast
07.01.2010 – John Wass, CTIA's Vice President of Public Affairs interviewed Wireless RERC researcher Jim Mueller for their Wonder of Wireless (WOW) Webcast. Jim spoke about the need to inform users with disabilities about what is currently available and accessible in mainstream wireless products and mentioned the Wireless RERC's Cell Phone Accessibility Guide, which was published 5 years ago when such information was hard to obtain. He is now pleased to see that industry (manufacturers and service providers) provide similar tools on their websites to assists users with choosing an appropriate device for their needs. When asked about the evolution of mobile technology to include larger screens and downloadable applications, Jim responded positively, stating that a larger screen permits graphics/icons to be better differentiated, allowing for improved accuracy when selecting functions. According to Jim, mobile applications also provide a means of customization of technology for end-user needs and preferences (text-to-speech, speech-to-text, magnifiers, etc.). Jim says the next challenge is getting industry to begin to consider people with cognitive limitations in their accessible design, because usually, when asked to envision a person with a disability, most people visualize a wheelchair user, a blind or deaf person. Now, however, with the aging population and veterans with traumatic brain injury increasing in numbers, it is vital that cognitive limitations be considered as part of the design process, especially in light of the fact that technologies such as GPS/wayfinding, notification/alert reminders currently exist. Jim's interview, Accessibility & Applications and other WOW Webcasts on accessibility can be viewed at
[http://www.ctia.org/consumer_info/wow/index.cfm/2010/7/].

Additional Information:

WOW Webcast - Accessibility & Applications

[http://www.ctia.org/consumer_info/wow/index.cfm/2010/7/]

Paul M.A. Baker Participates in the "National Summit on Disability Policy: ADA 1990–2010 Retrospective and Future Policy Directions"

07.25-27.2010 - Paul M.A. Baker participated in the "National Summit on Disability Policy: ADA 1990–2010 Retrospective and Future Policy Directions", hosted by the National Council on Disability, July 25-27, 2010, in Washington, DC. The Summit commemorated the 20th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and generated a comprehensive dialogue to shape the national disability policy and program agenda for the next decade.

Additional Information:

National Summit on Disability Policy 2010: Living, Learning & Earning

[http://www.neweditions.net/ncd2010/index.html]

NTID 2010 Update

06.21.2010 - Helena Mitchell, PhD presented a paper titled, "*Mobile Alerting for Persons Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing*", at the NTID International Symposium: Exploring Instructional and Access Technologies, Rochester, NY, June 21-23, 2010. Dr. Mitchell's presentation was selected as the one session to be video streamed on day one of the conference. Live streaming was distributed both domestically and internationally, including universities located in Japan, Hong Kong, Thailand, Viet Nam, Korea, the Philippines, Russia, Czech Republic. Dr. Mitchell also presented a poster to impart the Wireless Emergency Communications findings and demonstration of prototype technology.

Additional Information:

Online Proceedings NTID 2010

[http://www.rit.edu/ntid/vp/techsym/cgi-bin/sort/sessions.cgi?year=2010]

Upcoming Events

Call for Papers (CFP) – CSUN 2011

08.18.2010 - The 26th Annual International Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference will be held in San Diego, CA, March 14-19, 2011. The CFP will be open Wednesday, September 1, 2010 and will close on October 13, 2010.

[Source: CSUN]

Free Webinar: Updated ADA Regulations & Standards

The Department of Justice and the U.S. Access Board will conduct a free webinar on September 2, 2010, 1:30pm – 4:30 pm EST on the updated ADA standards and regulations, including Title II and Title III Regulations; and changes to the accessibility guidelines established by the Access Board. A large amount of time has been allotted for Q&A. A certificate of completion will be provided free of charge and continuing education recognition is available for a nominal fee.

Additional Information:
Register for the Webinar
[http://www.accessibilityonline.org/Schedule/#nextSession]

VIC 2010
10.14.2010 – 10.16.2010 - The inaugural event Visions of an Inclusive Community, will be held in **Tampa, Florida** on **October 14-16, 2010**. VIC2010 is designed to bring together members of the design/build community, the healthcare industry, the disabled community, aging in place advocates and governmental agencies to facilitate the transfer of knowledge that will build empathy and identify opportunities for more inclusive design of products and spaces. For more information about the conference, please visit [http://www.vic2010.com/].
[Source: VIC]

2010 NCTI Technology Innovators Conference
11.15-16.2010 - The 2010 NCTI Technology Innovators Conference will be held in **Washington, DC** on **November 15-16, 2010**. The theme is Breakthrough Learning – Transform the Future, focusing on emerging ideas, solutions, and public policy initiatives in inclusive technology to enable and empower all students to reach their potential. For more information about the conference, including details on how to register, please visit [http://www.nationaltechcenter.org/index.php/conf10-registration/].
[Source: NCTI]

International Conference on Ageing Disability & Independence 2011
The International Conference on Ageing, Disability and Independence (ICADI) will be held in Manchester, UK, September 7-10, 2010, and will focus on methods to support people as they age and preserving independence at home, at work, and in the community. Conference tracks include: transportation/transport, livable homes and communities, home and community safety, rehabilitation and assistive Robotics, intervention effectiveness, telehealth and telecare, assistive/smart technology, work and aging, and physician/clinician role in promoting independence. For more information about the conference, including details on how to register, please visit
[http://conferences.ncl.ac.uk/icadi/index.php]
[Source: ICADI]

Technology and Disability Policy Highlights reports on national and local public policy events and recent wireless technological advances and political activities; and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities. *Technology and Disability Policy Highlights* is published monthly by the Wireless RERC. The Wireless RERC is a research center 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, Salimah LaForce [salimah.laforce@cacp.gatech.edu], Nathan W. Moon, Ph.D. [nathan.moon@cacp.gatech.edu] or Paul M.A. Baker, Ph.D., CACP Director of Research [paul.baker@cacp.gatech.edu].
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