



# **Discovering Personal Genius through Assistive Technology**

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[www.gatfl.gatech.edu](http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu)

**“Genius? Nothing!  
Sticking to it is the genius!  
I've failed my way to success.”  
--Thomas Edison**



Welcome to the Assistive Technology revolution! The world around us is evolving at an astounding rate. This session will explore the collective role each of us play in promoting student success beyond the educational environment and the powerful role of assistive technology in this process. We will examine outcomes that can occur when self-advocacy, inclusion, universal design for learning and appropriate assistive technology solutions are integrated into the lives of individuals with learning disAbilities. This session will provide participants with helpful tips, opportunities to explore emerging trends and identify specific AT strategies and solutions to promote success in the school setting and that can ultimately assist with smooth transitions into the workplace and community.

For Handouts: <http://www.gatfl.gatech.edu/tflwiki>



# AMAC

AMAC Accessibility is a social change organization on a mission to create affordable services for governmental, private and non-profits organization working with individuals with disabilities. Services include e-text, braille, captioning, assistive technology, office management software and consulting.





# Accessibility Made Smart

AMAC creates practical solutions that work, with a focus on utility, ease of use, and high quality.

- **Accessibility Consulting** focuses on organizational accessibility needs with evaluation, technical assistance, customer support, and website accessibility solutions.
- **Braille Services** produces customized projects from both print materials and electronic text including partial books and chapters or graphics only using cutting-edge technology.
- **Captioning Services** makes classrooms, meetings, labs and other audio environments fully accessible for deaf or hard-of-hearing.
- **Professional E-Text Producers** provide high-quality e-text in many formats such as PDF, DOC, DAISY, and HTML.
- **Certified Assistive Technology team** provides on-site and remote assessments, demonstrations, training and technical assistance for education, work, and daily living environments.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.amacusg.org](http://www.amacusg.org)

# Tools for Life Mission

We're here to help Georgians with disabilities gain access to and acquisition of assistive technology devices and assistive technology services so they can live, learn, work, and play independently in the communities of their choice.

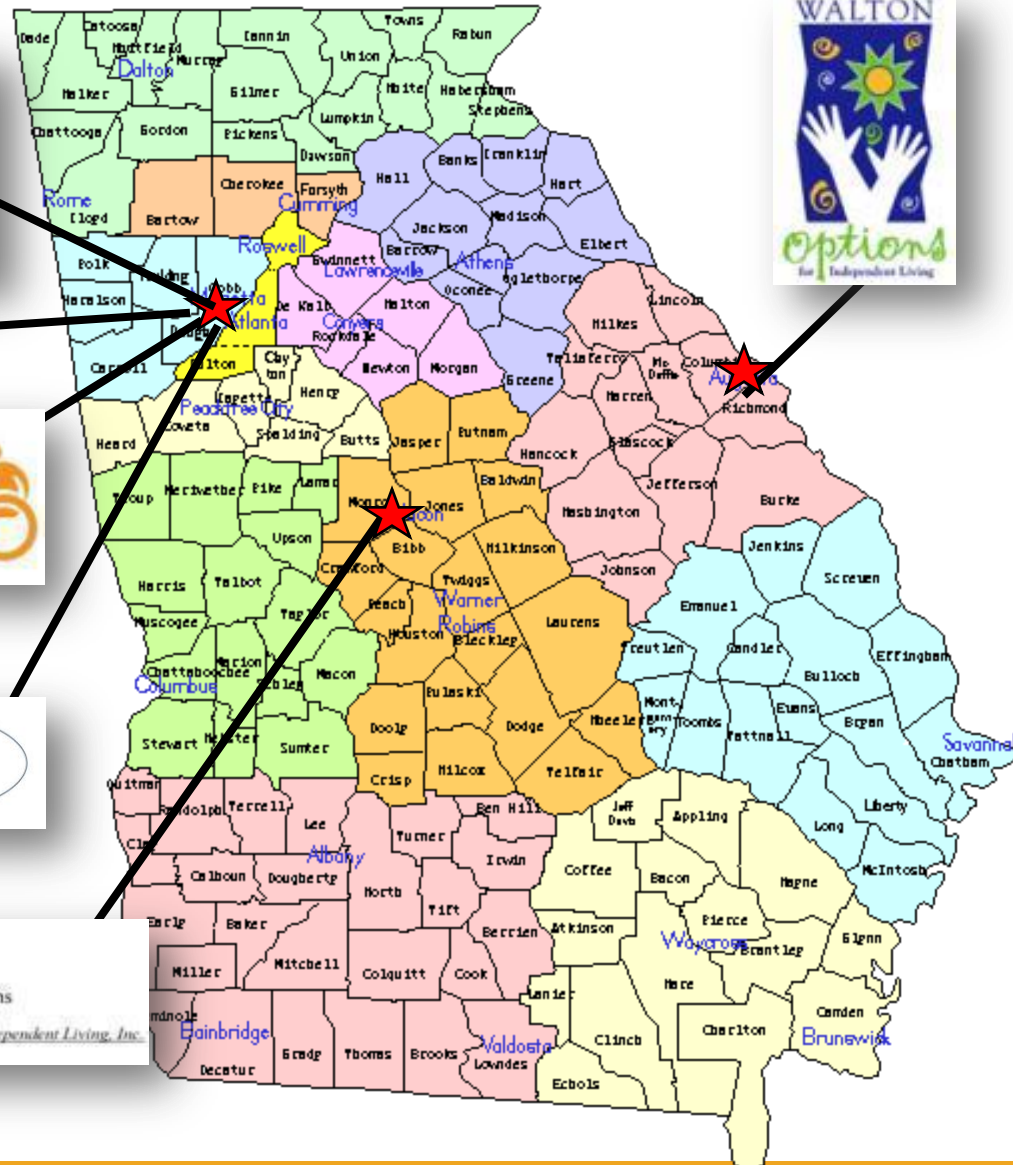




# Tools for Life Network



AT Lending Library  
AT Evaluations & Training  
AT Demos  
Resource and Assistance  
AT Funding Assistance  
DME Reuse



# Come Visit Us!

- TRAINING
- FUNDING
- PUBLICATIONS
- TFL WIKI
- MEET THE TFL TEAM
- MEET THE ADVISORY COUNCIL
- DIRECTIONS/MAP
- JOIN OUR MAILING LIST
- SCHEDULE A TOUR**

Welcome AT Services Try AT Get AT AT Guides Research



## Welcome to Tools for Life

Tools for Life, Georgia's Assistive Technology Act Program, is dedicated to increasing access to and acquisition of assistive technology (AT) devices and services for Georgians of all ages and disabilities so they can live, learn, work and play independently and with greater freedom in communities of their choice.

## ATLANTA ABILITIES EXPO

**Abilities EXPO**

MAR  
14

Georgia World Congress  
Center  
Hall C4  
Atlanta, GA

## WEBINARS

FEB  
6

[Choosing Core AT Inventory for the Classroom](#)

FEB  
18

[Two Peas in a Pod: IEP Objectives & Standards Based Instruction](#)

MAR  
6

[TFL & Center for AT Excellence TBD](#)

[Current Webinar Schedule](#)

[Webinar Archives](#)

## TOOLS FOR LIFE APPFINDER



...for Living, Learning, Working, and Playing.



# Guiding Principles

- We – Collectively – are Brilliant & Can find an Innovative Path and Create Brighter Futures
- We must Think, Live and Act from a place of Abundance – We have enough time, money, resources...
- We Must Focus on Abilities!
- YOU have the Power to make the Difference!
  - Change vs. Progress (Bob Phillips)



# Guiding Principle

- Disability is a natural part of the human experience and in no way diminishes the right of individuals to—
  - (A) live independently;
  - (B) enjoy self-determination and make choices;
  - (C) benefit from an education;
  - (D) pursue meaningful careers; and
  - (E) enjoy full inclusion and integration in the economic, political, social, cultural, and educational mainstream of society in the United States.

# Guiding Principles

TIP: To be Successful –

- We need to move from Transactional Relationships to developing **Transformational** Relationships.
- We need to moved from Independent to **Intrdependent**.



# Discovering Personal Genius:

- A plan-full approach that reveals life themes;
- That presents a path of Discovery;
- That begs Investigation;
- That creates Options;
- That breeds Innovation & Success in personal, educational and career development

– Griffin - Hammis

# Kevin



- Has Cerebral Palsy
- In 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade
- Dysgraphia
- Used a laptop
- Used a Communication Device
- Heavy!
- Lots to carry !



L. J.  
VS.  
Frances V. Phillips



## Two

### *Numbers and Letters, Stand Still!*

#### Up and Over

Up and Over  
And in-between,  
The Letters,  
Words,  
Paragraphs  
Wash Over Me,  
Like a thunderstorm  
In Georgia on a summer afternoon Fall  
of Sound  
and  
Fury  
I am drenched  
and overwhelmed  
I search the puddles  
(now muddy)  
I sift and sort  
and wash clean the concepts,  
I then send these thoughts  
to You.  
I struggle to be understood  
by you  
Do you understand?  
I am now Clear as Mud.

—Carolyn Phillips

# Why Am I Here Today?

- Master Our Skills!
- Expand Our Knowledge and
- Build Stronger Schools to Create





Begin  
with the  
End in Mind!





# **Discovering Personal Genius:**

Self-advocacy



# Consider this -



- My Success relies on
  - Knowing Myself
    - Self-Exploration
      - Who Are You?
    - Learning Style
      - What is Your Learning Style?
    - Honestly Exploring –
      - What do I want to Do When I Grow Up?
      - What Assistive Technology do I need to accomplish my Goals?

# Consider this -



- My Success relied on
  - Communication about My disAbilities
    - Understanding My disAbility
      - Language is Powerful
      - Talking with Housemates, Partners, Professors and Employers about my specific disAbilities
      - And Listening
    - Understanding My Weaknesses
    - Understanding My Strengths





# Critical Conversations: Questions to Consider

- How did You see yourself?
  - Strengths
  - Areas of weakness
- Talk with me about your disability.
- Where are You Headed?
  - Got a Map?
- What do You Consider to be Success?
- What is Your Vision for Your Future?
- What is Our Collective Vision for the Future?
- Who is in/needs to be in Your Circle of Support?



# You are Among Greatness!

- Business executives who pay great sums for consultants to teach them to “think out of the box” would do well to observe the habitually creative thinkers in their midst – people with disAbilities.

- *Excerpted from: “The Inclusive Corporation” by Griff Hogan*



# You are Among Greatness!

- The necessity of addressing mundane problems with creative solutions has prepared many people with disAbilities to be innovative in more complex areas, including the challenges faced by business.

- *Excerpted from: "The Inclusive Corporation" by Griff Hogan*



# Innovations - “Curb-Cuts”

Technological innovations and modifications originally intended for people with disabilities, but that end up benefiting many more, are often called “electronic curb-cuts”. Examples of these are almost endless:

- One of the most famous is the **telephone**. Alexander Graham Bell, as many know, was a teacher of deaf students (his wife also had a severe hearing impairment), and the research that led to the invention of the telephone was directly related to his concern for them.

# Innovations - “Curb-Cuts”

- The development of early computer protocols led to what is now called the **Internet**. Dr. Vinton Cerf, who was hearing impaired, was married to a woman who was deaf, and frequently corresponded with her using text messaging. His familiarity with this format was key to his work with ARPANET, the precursor of the World Wide Web.

• *Excerpted from: “The Inclusive Corporation” by Griff Hogan*

# Innovations - “Curb-Cuts”

- Inventor Dean Kamen, known for a series of disability related inventions, was working on a wheelchair capable of climbing stairs and putting its occupant in a standing position.
- In the process, he and his team realized that they could build a device using very similar technology that could impact how *everybody* gets around. The **Segway HT** (for human transporter), a high- tech scooter-like device was born!

• *Excerpted from: “The Inclusive Corporation” by Griff Hogan*

# **Discovering Personal Genius:**

**Assistive Technology,  
Universal Design for  
Learning  
and related areas...**



# Why Assistive Technology?

- For a person without a disability, technology makes things easier....
- For a person with a disability, technology makes things possible.
- **TIP: USE AT. I have yet to meet a successful student who doesn't use Any AT.**



# Consider this -



- My Success relied on
  - Assistive Technology!!
    - Try before you buy – Explore!
    - Training
    - Think across environments –
      - Laptop – Still Need!
      - iPhone – I used 13 apps yesterday and today!
      - iPad – use everyday
  - Organization – Learn Your Style
    - efficiency brings peace
  - Evaluations – Hot Button
    - Working from No/Old/Incorrect info
    - Don't trust everything you read & hear
  - Advocate for an AT Evaluation/Assessment



# Discovering Personal Genius through...

**Differentiated instruction** (also known as **differentiated learning** or, in education, simply, **differentiation**) involves providing students with different avenues to acquiring content; to processing, constructing, or making sense of ideas; and to developing teaching materials so that all students within a classroom can learn effectively, regardless of differences in ability.



# Discovering Personal Genius through...

"Research indicates that many of the emotional or social difficulties gifted students experience disappear when their educational climates are adapted to their level and pace of learning."

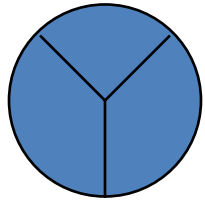
**TIP: Differentiation in education can also include how a student shows that they have mastery of a concept. This could be through a research paper, role play, podcast, diagram, poster, etc.**



**TIP: The key to differentiation is finding how your students learn and displays their learning that meets their specific needs.**



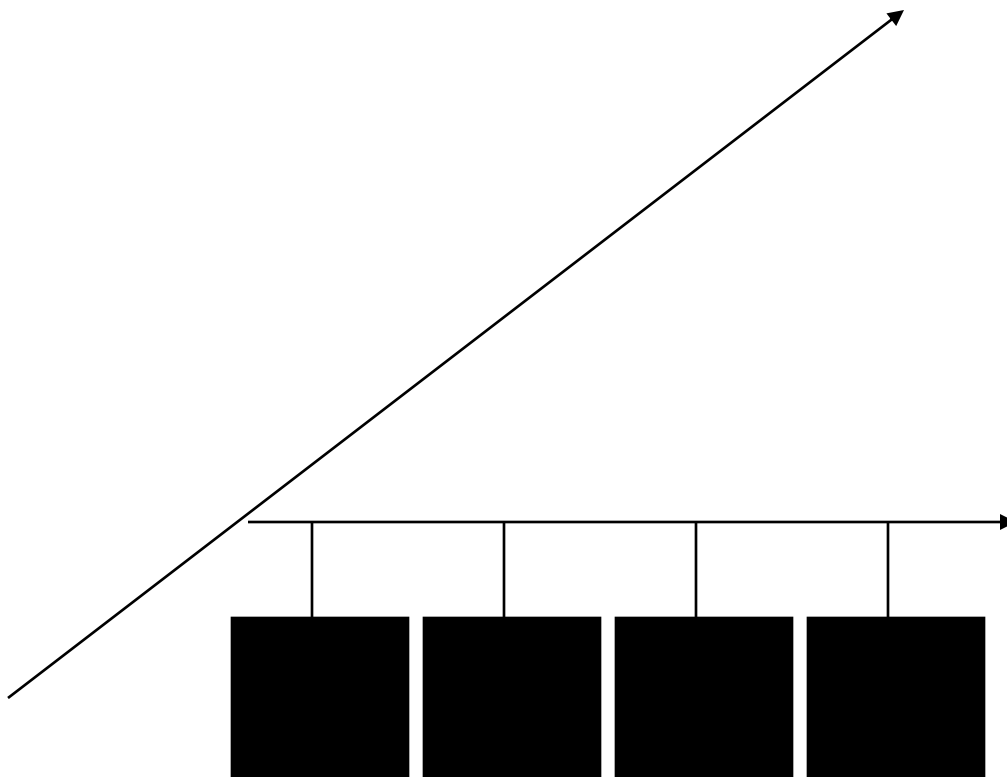
# SETT & Human Activity Technology (HAAT) Model



- Human: represents the skills and abilities of the person with a disability
- Activity: a set of tasks to be performed by the person with a disability
- Context: the setting or social, cultural and physical contexts that surround the environment in which the activity must be completed
- Assistive Technology: devices or strategies used to bridge the gap between the person's abilities and the demands of the environment

- Developed by Cook & Hussey
  - SETT – Joy Zabala

# Promoting Strengths & Managing Weaknesses & Stress!



# TIP: Use Multi-modal Input Supports

- Communication breakdowns
- Reduce anxiety and behavioral meltdowns
- Teach functional skills
- Help with transitions
- Teach instruction, organization & expression
- Teach independence

# Consider this -



- My Success relies on
  - Actively Participating in all aspects of my Life Journey
    - AT helps make this possible!
    - Discovery Process
    - Create a Map
    - Plan for Progress!



# Consider this -



- My Success relies on
  - Building win-win relationships
    - Establishing a solid circle of support
      - Receiving and providing support
    - Diversify your Circle of Friends and Acquaintances
    - It sometimes is “Who you know”
    - BALANCE - Social Life and Studies

# Consider this -



- My Success relies on:
  - Developing a Vision for My Future
    - Created a “Map” and “Vision Board”
      - Personal Goals
        - » Strong Relationship with my Family
        - » Build a Habitat House (12)
        - » Climb the Great Wall of China (2004)
        - » Adopt a Child (2! Tucker and Meera)
      - Educational Goals
        - » BA from UGA (Took 10 years...)
        - » Masters Degree (2005 – M. Ed. UK!)
      - Career Goals
        - » Help people through technology (Director of Tools for Life @ Georgia Tech)

# Consider this -



- My Success relies on
  - Failing
  - Dignity of Failure
    - I learned More from My “Failures” sometimes than my “successes”
    - Give yourself room to fail – and Grow from the experience
    - Learn to Laugh...a lot!
    - Be Optimistic...
    - Evaluate & Evolve!



# **Discovering Personal Genius**

## **Creating a Successful Life Journey**

Tell & Help Students to:

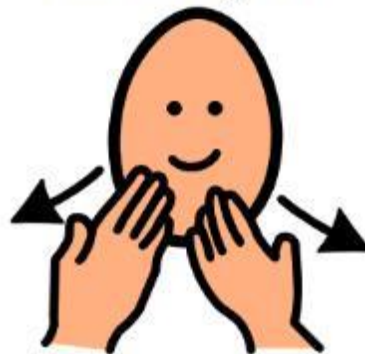
- Get to Know Yourself
- Plan for Your Success – in school, work, Life!
- Begin with the End in Mind
- Be able to tell Your Story
- Listen & Learn
- Try – Fail & Try again...
- When things get off track - Evaluate and Evolve
- Explore & USE Assistive Technology
- Laugh Much!
- Celebrate your Successes!
- Continue to Grow and Discover your Personal Genius!



**Our Question to You:  
What have You Learned today?**

# Thank You!

thank you





# Contact

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### *Disclaimer*

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