

Michael Wehmeyer, University of Kansas

Title of Project: Technology to Promote Decision-Making Skills and Self-Determination for Students with Cognitive Disabilities

Abstract: Effective transition services are well-recognized as an important factor in achieving successful adult outcomes, like community inclusion and employment, for individuals with cognitive and developmental disabilities. If innovative technologies and approaches are to result in similar improved outcomes, they will have to be incorporated in best practice in transition and transition services. Therefore, the purpose of this project is to examine the impact of cognitively accessible technology (Decision Manager, Web Trek, AIMS Task Builder and Job Quest – AbleLink Technologies) used within the context of transition planning activities on student's self-determination and transition-related outcomes. Specifically, using a large-scale randomized trial design, we will examine the impact of Decision Manager and Job Quest on student's capacity to independently make decisions related to the transition areas of independent living, community inclusion, recreation and leisure, and employment.

This project is in its 3rd year of funding through the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for the Advancement of Cognitive Technologies. The current demographics associated with the project will be provided, including number of participants and the states/campuses involved. Descriptions of future outcomes will be discussed.