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Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for the Advancement of Cognitive Technologies (RERC-ACT)

Individuals with cognitive disabilities have long been marginalized by society's unwillingness to include them – within their local communities, educational systems and workplaces – in short, into the very fabric of society. While technology undoubtedly can play a vital role in decreasing this marginalization, there have been very few attempts to date to produce a coherent and sustained approach to identifying and ameliorating barriers for persons with significant cognitive disabilities through the use of technology.

The goal of the *Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center of Excellence for the Advancement of Cognitive Technologies* (RERC-ACT) is to research, develop, evaluate, implement and disseminate innovative technologies and approaches that will have a positive impact on the way in which individuals with significant cognitive disabilities function within their communities and workplace.

The RERC-ACT has been designed to produce outcomes that will directly impact the quality of life of persons with significant cognitive disabilities and their families through twelve individual research and development projects focused on existing, new and emerging cognitive technologies.

The RERC-ACT creates a platform that fosters -- in collaboration with consumers, relevant industry, professional associations and institutions of higher education -- innovative approaches to expand research and development capacity and promote the implementation of effective technologies in the field of cognitive disability. Our focused approach allows us to monitor trends and evolving product concepts that represent future directions for this area of technology development