**LOCATION:** Interlocken Ballroom A/B

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this presentation is to share a multi-case analysis of an ongoing collaboration between 130 engineers and 76 individuals with disabilities who evaluated and developed accessible technology. Focus will be placed upon individuals with cognitive disabilities and the accessible technology that they helped to develop.

Scott Kupferman, PhD, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Colorado Colorado Springs (UCCS). He also directs the Access Collaborative, which is a network of 200+ engineers and individuals with disabilities who evaluate and develop accessible technology. Kupferman’s research interests revolve around assistive technology, accessibility and universal design, and transition from secondary education to postsecondary education and employment. He has served as principal investigator, co-principal investigator, or grant writer for approximately $4.2 million in grant funding. Kupferman is an ongoing reviewer/advisor for the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. His scholarly efforts have led to several honors and awards, including selection as a National Council on Disability delegate and recipient of the U.S. Department of Education’s Commissioner’s Award for Excellence.

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**Fulfilling the Promise of Technology: Bridging the Gap Between Policy and Practice**

**LOCATION:** Interlocken Ballroom D

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

Technology for people with disabilities has advanced exponentially in recent decades. Ideas that once seemed fantastic have become fact, sometimes even mundane. More technologies are being developed daily that have the potential to completely transform people’s lives. But often policy, politics, and priorities do not keep pace with technological advances, preventing solutions from being available to those who could benefit from them the most. How do we bridge the gap between policy and practice?

Join ANCOR, the national trade association for community providers of services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), to discuss how federal policy intersects with technology in our field. This session will provide the latest on current federal public policy topics that relate to technology for people with IDD, and discuss trends for moving more technology solutions to the mainstream in the future.
**Creating Choices and Possibilities!**

**LOCATION:** Private Dining Room

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

Self-determination, Person Centered Planning, and decreasing the cost of Long-Term services and supports are important issues in the world of those with disabilities and those who assist them.

Alice and Kara will discuss how they have been able to meet these issues head on with the use of technology!

**Alice Brouhard** is a champion of the use of technology, especially tablet technology, to support people with memory and cognitive challenges. She has worked tirelessly to set up a system that allows her daughter who sustained a serious traumatic brain injury (TBI) to live independently despite significant disabilities.

She sits on the Colorado Assistive Technology Coalition through the University School of Medicine. She speaks statewide and nationally at conferences on the use of high tech and low tech options to promote self-sufficiency. Brouhard is a founding member of Colorado based Families at the Forefront of Technology and serves on the steering committee for their annual conference.

She has developed and teaches classes at Colorado Mountain College on the use of iPads and iPhones. Brouhard, her husband, and daughter live in Glenwood Springs, Colorado. They are recent recipients of the 2016 Garfield County Humanitarian Service award - "Inspiring Hope".
Kara Brouhard sustained a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) at age 5 when she was stuck by an out of control skier.

As she says…"I have overcome many obstacles in my life…. Now, I lead a fine life in my own house. I am active in my community. I do lots of volunteer work so that I may give to others. I am very successful in my own life. I am successful because I listen to Paddy (my iPad) and follow what my prompts tell me to do. And I am very successful in taking care of my dog Phoebe Ann.”

Her motto in life is “I don’t have disabilities, I have abilities!”

Brouhard leads a self-determined life in her own house despite many challenges from her TBI. Mainstream technology supports her independence and self-sufficiency. She likes to speak to others and share her success. She is a member of Families at the Forefront of Technology and presents at their annual conference. And she loves to show off her “smart home” to others!

LOCATION: Centennial Ballroom E

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Today, technology is the primary tool for potential employees applying for jobs. However, the job search, application and pre-employment process is often not accessible to applicants with disabilities. In this session, PEAT will present accessibility findings and present its new resource, TalentWorks, to help participants understand common pitfalls and how to ensure better accessibility in the talent acquisition process, with implications for the entire employment lifecycle.

Corinne Weible is the Deputy Project Director for the Partnership on Employment and Accessible Technology (PEAT), an initiative funded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP) to help employers, IT companies, and others to understand why it pays to build and buy accessible technology, and how to go about doing so. She has over a decade of experience in directing programmatic development, grants management, and communications strategies at nonprofit institutions nationwide. Prior to her work with PEAT, Weible served as outreach manager for the Finger Lakes Library System, where she led advocacy campaigns, professional development programs, and community outreach efforts to help diverse populations access library services. As director of programs for the National Council for History Education, she oversaw professional development events for teachers nationwide.
Q: Where Does Technology Fit into Social-Ecological Conceptualizations of Disability?
A: Everywhere!

LOCATION: Centennial Ballroom F

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

The most recent editions of the World Health Organization’s International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health, the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities’ Intellectual Disability: Definitions, Classification, and Systems of Support, and the American Psychological Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders all confirm the emergence of social-ecological models of disability that emphasize the interactions between impairments in functioning and the demands of the context. Increasingly, disability is understood as a need for extraordinary supports, above and beyond that needed by the general population, to meet the demands of typical environments. The introduction of the construct of support needs to the disability field has led to a focus developing valid instruments to quantify support needs, and the most popular of these instruments has been the Supports Intensity Scales (Children’s and Adult versions). In this session principles underlying social-ecological conceptualizations of disability will be reviewed, and examples of assessment results from the Supports Intensity Scales will be considered in relation to a variety of technological solutions.

James R. Thompson, PhD, has over 30 years of experience in the field of intellectual and developmental disabilities as a direct support professional, special education teacher, transition counselor, teacher educator, and researcher. During his career he has authored over 40 articles in professional journals and has served as editor or contributing author to over 30 books. He currently serves as a Professor in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas and a Senior Scientist at the Beach Center on Disability.

Lower Level — Breakout Sessions

Including Students with Disabilities in K-12 Computer Science for All Initiative

LOCATION: Spruce

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

This presentation will provide information about national initiatives related to K-12 computer science education (CS for All) and implications for students with disabilities. We will share national trends, research findings, and strategies for including students with disabilities in K-12 CS instruction as well as policy recommendations that ensure full participation of all learners.
**Engagement, Smart Living, and Independence #TechTips**

**LOCATION:** Spruce

**Maya Israel, PhD**, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign. Her primary areas of specialization include supporting struggling learners’ meaningful engagement in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) with emphases on computational thinking and computer programming. She researches instructional strategies and technologies that promote student engagement, collaborative problem solving, and persistence. She has published in top-ranking journals such as *Exceptional Children, Journal of Research on Technology in Education, Journal of Research in Science Teaching*, and *Computers & Education*. She also supports school district initiatives focused on issues related to supporting STEM learning for students at risk for academic failure due to disability or poverty.

**LOCATION:** Fir

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

A dynamic team from Ability Beyond will share what they’ve been learning during the past two years of intensive, innovative technology pilots in Connecticut and New York. Come see our best practices at work, and get some great #TechTips for integrating technology into your programs.

Guided by the vision of Laurie Dale, Ability Beyond has replaced traditional “assistive technology” with a more mainstream approach – searching the tech marketplace (including start-ups) for unlimited solutions to folks’ everyday challenges, at home, at work or in the community. The result has been greater independence, improved safety, more social connections, and substantial efficiencies for the organization.

In 2015, the agency created a program called the TIP (Technology Innovations for People) Squad: teams of young adults with disabilities who are actively developing technology solutions for other men and women served by our agency. Members of the TIP Squad will also discuss the challenges and rewards of their work.

**Emily Haley** lives in Danbury Connecticut. She loves how the TIP Squad can help technology to enhance other people who have disabilities connect to things that they never thought they could even do. She is honored to be part of the TIP Squad. It makes her happy to see people succeed in life.
**LOCATION:** Fir

**Philip McMullen** lives in Yonkers, NY. His hobbies are spending time with his nephew, sports, and video games. He loves being part of the TIP Squad because he gets to help others, as well as work towards achieving his goal of independence.

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**Exploring Web Simplification for People with Cognitive Disabilities**

**LOCATION:** Cedar

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

In the last decade the web has evolved from a supplementary information resource to a valuable and pervasive tool for nearly all aspects of daily life including social and community participation, health promotion, creative pursuits, education, and employment opportunities. In this session, we will take a look at the myths surrounding web use by people with cognitive disabilities and the ways in which their web experience can be improved.

**Jeffery Hoehl, PhD**, is a former Coleman Institute graduate research fellow. Hoehl currently works as a software engineer at Google working on improving user-facing products in Google Docs Accessibility. His graduate research focused on inclusive design for the web and understanding how combining technologies from existing online communities into novel applications can improve access for people with cognitive disabilities. Previously, he developed web-based solutions for the Department of Defense, federal government, and hospitality industry; and client-based solutions for the biotechnology industry. Hoehl received his PhD from the University of Colorado Boulder, Department of Computer Science, a MS and BS in computer science, and a BA in psychology from the University of Colorado Boulder.
A Multimedia Advocacy Approach to Self-Determination and Person Centered Support for People with IDD in the UK and the USA

LOCATION:  Alder

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

London’s RIX Centre is transforming education, health and community care for people with IDD using multimedia authoring and Web for self-advocacy and effective person-centered support. Minnion shares implementations in the US and Europe to demonstrate the impact of the ‘Multimedia Advocacy’ approach and invites delegates to explore the simple but life-changing technologies and techniques that families, professionals and service-users are applying to striking effect.

Andy Minnion, MBE, is Professor of Media Advocacy and Director of RIX Research and Media at the University of East London, United Kingdom, a center that takes an inclusive and participatory approach to researching applications of digital media for people with intellectual disabilities. His research is centered on the co-development of software, training and implementation strategies with individuals and their families and the networks of professionals that make up local services. He has led the development of the pioneering ‘Multimedia Advocacy’ approach to education, care, and support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. With the RIX team he develops and pilots technologies and delivery methods for the use of the Web and multimedia to promote choice and control for individuals and their families. Minnion’s research and field studies have led to the development of highly accessible software and training for Web media authoring and the development of secure approaches to digital self-advocacy and the selective sharing of online person centered plans. Work on the sustainable application of these tools is now underway with families, commissioners and professional service providers across three continents.

Minnion works in partnership with the Westchester Institute for Human Development, applying a ‘living lab’ approach to the trialing of media advocacy in the USA, with pilots already running in New York state, and further ‘earlyadopter’ implementations under development in Colorado, alongside other states across the country. RIX Research and Media is an affiliated center with the Association of University Centers on Disabilities which presented him with an International Service Award in 2015. In Great Britain he was awarded an MBE for ‘Services to the Education of People with Special Needs’ in the UK Queen’s Birthday Honors of 2012.
Izel Obermeyer has been practicing Occupational Therapy for more than 27 years in both pediatrics and physical dysfunction. She graduated from the University of Pretoria in South Africa and has worked in South Africa, Namibia, Brazil, Kenya and the USA. She finished her advanced Masters degree in 2008. Obermeyer started working at the Westchester Institute for Human Development (WIHD) in 2007, and currently she is the director of the Assistive Technology Program. In this capacity, she is responsible for the training of school district assistive technology teams and coordinates occupational therapy services in school districts too. She runs executive function groups in schools and recently implemented a Yoga program for Kindergarten students. She is also the coordinator of all graduate level assistive technology courses, which are being taught for masters programs in special education, for a number of colleges in the area. She oversees all of the operations of the program and has been instrumental in acquiring additional contracts to expand the reach of the program. Currently the program provides services to clients across the life-span related to evaluation for, acquisition of and training for assistive technology devices. The program also runs technology loan libraries for a wide age range of clients, including birth to 5 through a contract with the department of health, the New York State Commission for the blind, as well for seniors to promote independent living and self-care. The program is also a TRAID center, of which she is the program coordinator, and has contracts with Access-VR for both evaluation and training for young adults to attend college or enter the work force. She is involved in the development of smart technology initiatives within WIHD and is an active advocate for assistive technology inclusion in schools. She often presents papers at conferences, colleges and schools. She was always actively involved in the professional associations for OT in all the countries she worked and lived in. She is the Past-President of the New York State Occupational Therapy Association (NYSOTA), and the 2006 NYSOTA conference at the United Nations was her brain-child. She is currently the Chairperson of state association presidents at the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA).

**Communication Bill of Rights — Reboot!**

**LOCATION:** Birch

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

This session will present the 2015 version of Communication Bill of Rights of the National Joint Committee on the Communication Needs of Individuals with Severe Disabilities (2015) and discuss the differences between the original and revised forms of this foundational document.
Amy S. Goldman is the Co-Executive Director of the Institute on Disabilities, University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities, at Temple University. She directs Pennsylvania’s Initiative on Assistive Technology, the Commonwealth’s Assistive Technology (AT) Act Program and other statewide assistive technology-related programs and services. As a licensed speech-language pathologist, Goldman has focused on the area of augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) and especially, access to AAC for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She is a member of the National Joint Committee on the Communication Needs of Persons with Severe Disabilities representing the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association.

David Ervin is CEO of The Resource Exchange, a Colorado-based nonprofit serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). He has extensive professional experience in the IDD industry, having worked in and/or consulted to organizations in the US and abroad. He is a published author and speaks internationally on healthcare for people with IDD and on other areas of expertise. He is a contributing author to the Rubin, et al. (eds.) seminal book, Health Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities across the Lifespan (2016). Ervin is currently co-principal investigator for the POWERSforID: A Telehealth Weight Management System for Adults with Intellectual Disability project in the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center on Developmental Disabilities and Health (RRTCDD).
**LOCATION:** Aspen

**David Ervin**’s current research interests includes health promotion and disease prevention for people with IDD. He is co-pi on a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC) on Developmental Disabilities and Health project, in partnership with University of Illinois at Chicago, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research that examines the use of technology to support diet, nutrition and physical activity interventions for obese adults.

Ervin is associate editor for the journal *Frontiers in Public Health*, a member of the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities National Advisory Council, and a governor’s appointee to and elected chair of the Colorado State Board of Human Services. He is also an appointed member of the International Professional Committee of Beit Issie Shapiro in Israel, and is a member of the International Advisory Committee for the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development in Israel.

**Justin D. Gentry** became the first Research Coordinator for the Developmental Disabilities Health Center, a multidisciplinary clinic dedicated to providing exceptional healthcare that is customized to the needs and experiences of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families, in May 2014. He holds a BA in psychology from the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, with a minor in anthropology, and has worked with both adults and adolescent with cognitive and developmental disabilities both clinically and in research. Gentry is interested in leveraging and adapting technology to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for people with cognitive disability. He is pursuing a PhD in clinical psychology and rehabilitation at the Illinois Institute of Technology.

**Collaboration for Crisis Services — Development and Implementation of Mental Health Crisis Intervention / Stabilization Services for People with IDD (Panel)**

**LOCATION:** Pine

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

Learn how a cross system team engaged legislators, state agencies, service providers, academia, and advocates to research, develop, secure funding, and implement a program of crisis intervention/prevention/stabilization for people with IDD and co-occurring behavior disorders.
Cordelia Robinson Rosenberg, PhD, RN. Professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry University of Colorado School of Medicine, has worked in university programs focused on individuals with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities since 1993. Until July 1, 2015 and for the past 22 years she directed JFK Partners Colorado’s UCEDD and LEND programs. Beginning in July, she is working 50 percent time. Since completion of her doctoral studies in Psychology with a research specialty in Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities she has been pi or co-pi on more than 30 demonstration, research and training projects addressing all aspects of intellectual and developmental disabilities including work on autism.

As director of JFK Partners Colorado’s UCEDD for over 20 years she was responsible for oversight of all aspects of the program, supervising a staff of more than 40 faculty and annual enrollment of 12 to 15 full time long-term trainees representing multiple disciplines. While her particular specialty is early intervention she has worked on projects across the life span. She joined the Colorado IN! Inclusive Education Board when it was founded in 2014. Given her extensive background in research and project management she is in an excellent position to direct the evaluation of the Colorado Consortium for Inclusive Higher Education (CCIHE) with UCCS, the other schools in the Consortium, and the IN Board and advisory group.

Robinson Rosenberg earned a RN BS in Nursing, from D’Youville College, Buffalo, NY, and a MA in Special Education; PhD Psychology, from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University.

Sharon Jacksi, PhD. has spent her career supporting individuals with developmental disabilities, most notably as director of numerous nonprofit agencies, as Colorado Department of Human Services Director of Regional Center Operations and as Director of the Division for Developmental Disabilities. She received an MA and PhD in psychology with an emphasis in intellectual disabilities from Peabody College, Vanderbilt University.

Jacksi is currently CEO of STRiVE, the Mesa County, Colorado Community Centered Board, after having served as vice-president of Behavioral Services for three years. Most recently, she has been instrumental in developing Audyssey, the inter-disciplinary diagnostic clinic serving children and adults with autism in Mesa County. Her agency, STRiVE, is part of the Crisis Pilot project built on a collaborative crisis prevention group composed of several local human service and healthcare organizations.
Collaboration for Crisis Services — Development and Implementation of Mental Health Crisis Intervention / Stabilization Services for People with IDD (Panel) (continued)

LOCATION: Pine

Carol Meredith started working for The Arc Arapahoe & Douglas Counties in 1998 as their Executive Director. She works primarily to achieve equal rights and social justice for people with disabilities through systems advocacy at state and federal legislatures, county departments, and statewide public policy forums. Most of this work is done in collaboration with other chapters of The Arc in Colorado, Parent to Parent of CO, Family Voices, CO Cross Disability Coalition and many others. Her passion comes from her experiences as the parent of a son with autism. Meredith strives to make systems work so that people with disabilities can get the services and supports they need to live rich, full lives in their communities. She is a graduate of Partners in Leadership, the premier training program for self-advocates and parents with children with developmental disabilities, as well as the Grassroots Leadership Nonprofit Training Program, an intensive training program for management personnel of nonprofit organizations. In 2000, she was appointed by the governor to serve as a member of the Governor’s Task Force for Persons with Disabilities. Meredith was a founder of Parent to Parent of Colorado, and an early developer of Early Childhood Connections, providing support to families with very young children with developmental delays. She also created Family Connector Education Training for parents who have children with disabilities to enhance peer-to-peer networking.

From 1993-1997, Meredith was the executive director of The Arapahoe Early Childhood Network. From 1991-1993, she served as president of the Autism Society of Colorado. She is a past board member of many nonprofit organizations including the Developmental Disabilities Resource Center and the Denver Center for Independent Living.

Marijo Rymer has served as Executive Director of The Arc of Colorado for nine years. She coordinates and leads public policy advocacy for 13 local chapters of The Arc in Colorado. She is an active member of the National Council of Executives of The Arc US and has served on the Board of Directors of that organization. She was honored by The Arc US in 2012 for Outstanding Professional Achievement.

Rymer served on the Community Living Advisory Group for the state of Colorado and chaired the task force for HCBS Medicaid waivers re-design. She most recently served on a legislative task force to consider alternatives to Colorado’s remaining institutional facilities for adults with developmental disabilities. She is co-chair of the Mental Health committee of the Colorado Collaborative for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disability Options (CANDO) and co-chaired that group’s efforts to identify gaps in mental health/behavioral services for people with IDD leading to legislation for a pilot project for cross system response to behavioral crises.
In 2008, Marijo Rymer led efforts for a Colorado ballot initiative to end the waiting list for services for adults and children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. In 2015, she was presented with the President's Award from The Arc of the Pikes Peak region as well as the President's Award from Advocacy Denver.

Rymer is a graduate of the Developmental Disabilities Leadership Institute at the National Leadership Consortium at the University of Delaware. She received a BA in English and political science and completed master’s level work in political science from The University of New Mexico.