LOCATION: Interlocken Ballroom A/B

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

CTIA’s AccessWireless.org is a first stop for information on accessible wireless services, products, and feature offerings. This session will demonstrate the resources that the website offers such as “Find a Phone”, accessibility guides for various wireless services, direct access to carrier and manufacturer accessibility websites, and best ways to access information on wireless products and services that meet specific needs.

Matthew Gerst, JD, is Director of Regulatory Affairs at CTIA®, The Wireless Association. Gerst leads the association’s efforts before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) on a variety of policy matters, including universal service, 9-1-1 and emergency communications, and access for persons with disabilities. He also represents CTIA on the FCC’s Disability Advisory Committee and North American Numbering Council.

Gerst is a graduate of Ohio University and received his JD from New York Law School, where he was editor-in-chief of Media Law & Policy and participated in the Advanced Communications Law and Policy Institute. He is admitted to the bars of New York and Washington, DC.

Gerst served as an adjunct professor of law in the scholarly writing program at the George Washington University School of Law focusing on the Federal Communications Law Journal.

Laura Berrocal has over a decade of experience working in strategic alliance and partnership building at both the national and local level. She currently serves as Director of External Affairs at CTIA (The Wireless Association), where she manages the association’s grassroots, grasstops and third party relationships and develops communications strategies to educate communities on CTIA’s work across the wireless and tech sector. Previously, she served as vice president of public policy and legislative affairs for Net Communications, where she managed legislative and communications strategies for Fortune 500 companies and industry trade associations spanning the tech and energy sectors. Berrocal has also worked with several national nonprofit organizations in Washington, DC, where she has provided public policy counsel in the areas of technology, minority entrepreneurship, energy, education, and health.

She holds a MPA degree from The George Washington University Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration (TSPPPA) and a BA in political science from Temple University.
LOCATION: Interlocken Ballroom D

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Come learn from our experience! We are conducting 14 outcome studies using technology to support communication, independence, health, fitness, employability skills, engagement, positive behaviors, safety and sleep for people with cognitive disabilities. We will discuss the details of the technology implementation, share our challenges and successes, and provide our outcome and return on investment data.

Laurie Dale is the Senior Leader of Empowering Technology Solutions for Ability Beyond, a leading nonprofit that provides services and programs that promote independence and community integration to over 2,600 individuals with disabilities in Connecticut and New York. In this role, Dale is responsible for all aspects of assistive technology and for integrating new innovations that revolutionize the way Ability Beyond supports people with disabilities. She creates the bridges between technology and the individuals supported by the organization, identifying and determining what will best allow them to increase their independence.

Patrick Queenan, PhD, is the Director of Clinical and Behavioral Services at Ability Beyond. Queenan is responsible for developing, measuring, and monitoring high-quality and novel methodologies for the delivery of services that meet the individualized needs of the people that Ability Beyond supports; and for incorporating best practices and applied research into daily operations. Queenan is also the co-chair of a technology grant project which allows Ability Beyond to study the impact of providing empowering technology to people with physical and cognitive disabilities.
LOCATION: Centennial Ballroom E

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Preliminary data are being ordered through FY 2016 from our State of the States in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) survey of the 50 states and DC. A few questions which will be answered in this presentation are: Have the states fully recovered from the Great Recession; Has Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) Waiver spending continued to grow; Which states are leaders or laggards in financing community support for individuals with IDD and their families; Has spending for families increased; Has there been continued decline in the use of state-operated IDD institutions in the states?

There will also be a discussion of the State of the States website (http://www.StateoftheStates.org), and the types of data presented there. Website data include graphic “profiles” for each state, and our “create-a-chart” option facilitating the comparison of states, and/or regions that the user selects.

David Braddock, PhD, is Senior Associate Vice President of the University of Colorado (CU) System and Executive Director of the Coleman Institute for Cognitive Disabilities. He holds the Coleman-Turner Chair in Cognitive Disability in the Department of Psychiatry at CU’s Anschutz Medical.

Richard Hemp has served as Project Coordinator and Analyst on the State of the States in Developmental Disabilities Project since 1984. He contributes to ongoing technical assistance for families, public officials, advocacy and provider organizations, and other researchers. Hemp was awarded the 2011 Annual Distinguished Researcher in Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Award by The Arc/United States. He received his MA in human development/health policy in 1974 from Governors State University, and also studied in the School of Public Health, University of Illinois at Chicago.
LOCATION: Centennial Ballroom F

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

User communities are key to advancing beyond the “early adoption” phase of the field of cognitive technology and establishing a solid foundation and ensuring sustained growth in the future. A firm foundation and expansion of the field are both necessary for the potential of person-centered cognitive technologies which enable independence to be realized. This session will highlight state-of-the-art cloud-based cognitive technologies that are enabling connection and collaboration among user communities and helping to create the foundation necessary for advancing the field.

Daniel K. Davies has been actively involved in research and development of technology for individuals with cognitive disabilities for over 20 years. He has been closely associated with issues important to individuals with disabilities, since his oldest brother John lived with severe intellectual and physical disabilities. Davies has directed over 75 research projects focused on technology and intellectual and other cognitive disabilities funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Administration for Community Living, National Institutes on Aging, DARPA and the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. He has been on the leading edge of research into cognitive support technology for individuals with intellectual disabilities and consequently in 2006 received the Technology Museum of Innovation’s prestigious Katherine M. Swanson Equality award for “pioneering information technology for individuals with cognitive disabilities.” He has authored over 100 publications, reports and book chapters related to cognitive technology for individuals with disabilities and is an invited presenter at professional conferences nationally and internationally.

Larry R. King, Chief Technology Officer at AbleLink Technologies, Inc., has been a software engineer for 17 years and has worked in the IT industry since 1995. King’s specialty is Human Interface Engineering, where he not only develops software but also designs and builds compelling and effective user experiences for people with intellectual disability, autism spectrum disorders, traumatic brain injury and those experiencing age related cognitive decline. King has been responsible for authoring, developing, and designing 24 commercially-deployed software applications for various platforms, including iOS, Android, Windows Mobile, Windows Desktop, and Web. Over his career King has developed commercial and internal use applications for six companies in a wide variety of development landscapes, including cloud-computing, mobile application development, with particular emphasis on making everyday technologies accessible to individuals with cognitive disabilities.
**Lower Level — BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

**Using MOOCs to Build Independent Learning, Self-Monitoring, and Digital Skills Among Postsecondary Students with Intellectual Disabilities**

**LOCATION:** Spruce

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

A MOOC is a Massive Open Online Course with publicly shared curriculum and open-ended, student-driven outcomes. MOOCs mix student learning interests, accessible online resources and video instruction in a format that lends itself to flipped instructional environments. Use of the digital literacies needed to succeed in a MOOC have indicated great potential to increase digital skills and learning capacity among postsecondary students with intellectual disabilities.

*Cathleen Allen* is Executive Director of the Inclusive Higher Education Certificate Program (IHECP), and is responsible for the design, implementation, and management of the IHECP. In high school she volunteered at the Ruth M. Wood School in Boulder and later, for more than 16 years, managed the daily functions of a retail furniture store. Before launching the IHECP, Allen served as the Highlands Ranch Bridge Program significant support needs transition teacher during the last seven years of her 15-year tenure with the Douglas County School District.

Allen earned her BA in behavioral science, and a special education generalist teaching license, from the Metropolitan State College of Denver. Her MA in administration and supervision, Principal Licensure Program, is from the University of Phoenix.

**Empowering People to Achieve More Through Microsoft Technologies**

**LOCATION:** Fir

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

Microsoft Accessibility Technical Evangelist will present how Microsoft is developing technologies to ensure ease of use for people with and without disabilities, how these technologies are being leveraged to personalize user experiences, and where free Microsoft technologies, trainings and support are available.

*Megan Lawrence, PhD* is the Senior Technical Accessibility Evangelist at Microsoft. She has over 13 years experience conducting research and development with and for people with disabilities. Prior to joining Microsoft, Lawrence was a research scientist at the Smith-Kettlewell Eye Research’s Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (RERC) on Blindness and Low Vision. She also was a senior research associate and accessibility consultant at Cognito. As a consultant, she worked with nonprofits, government agencies and Fortune 500 companies to help them make their products and services accessible to people with a range of abilities. Lawrence has a PhD in geography from the University of Oregon with an emphasis on accessibility and human cognitive behavior.
Web Searching Skills: Improving Abilities of Students with Cognitive Challenges Through Training and Web Interface Design

LOCATION: Cedar

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Some of the cognitively challenged individuals have limited access to information on the web due to lack of training in web searching skills. This presentation will highlight some of the obstacles that individuals with cognitive disabilities encounter while searching the web. Moreover, how we used an accessible version of the Google Search Education lessons as a training manual to improve the web searching skills of students with cognitive disabilities.

Redhwan Nour is a PhD student in Computer Science at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He earned his MS in computer science in 2012. His research interest includes human centered computing (HCC), web accessibility, web searching, technology and cognitive disabilities, inclusive design, and assistive technology. For his thesis research, he is focusing on improving web searching skills for people with cognitive disabilities based on their functional capabilities.

Leveraging 3D Printing to Support Education and Accessibility

LOCATION: Alder

SESSION DESCRIPTION:

Join us for a discussion on 3D printing in the context of education and accessibility. In this session, we will provide a high-level overview of the current software and hardware used in 3D printing. We will discuss existing examples of 3D printing being used in mainstream and special education, as well as assistive devices and accessibility solutions created with 3D printers.

Erin Buehler is a fifth-year PhD student in the Human-Centered Computing program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, advised by Professor Amy Hurst. Her research supports universal access to education for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Buehler’s work has explored the use of rapid fabrication tools and individualized interface design to improve the accessibility of curriculum in both formal and informal educational settings.
How States and Providers Can Use National Data for a Comprehensive Look at Outcomes, Services, and Supports

**LOCATION:** Birch

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

Knowledge is power! A key component of advocacy and systems efficiency is being equipped with an understanding of the service system from different angles. Using data from CQL’s Personal Outcome Measures, State of the States, and the National Core Indicators, presenters will show how these data sets have informed policy and practice for states and providers.

**Faythe Aiken** is the Senior Research Analyst for The Council on Quality and Leadership (CQL). In this role, Aiken works on analysis, database administration, and technical support for all research projects. Prior to joining CQL, she served as a research analyst at the Human Services Research Institute (HSRI), a national organization providing research, evaluation and technical assistance to state and federal entities, with the goal of improving the lives of and opportunities for people with disabilities. During her time at HSRI, Aiken was responsible for data management on all projects. She conducted policy and statistical analyses, provided technical assistance, and worked with key stakeholders. She also worked with the University of Minnesota as a research assistant on the Residential Information Systems Project (RISP) and the Supporting Families Information Systems Project (FISP), collecting, analyzing, and interpreting Medicaid data. In addition to conducting her research, Aiken worked in a L’Arche community providing direct support in a community environment for people with disabilities. She holds a BA in psychology from Holy Cross College.

Development of Animation-Based Instrument for Depression Evaluation (AIDE) Tool for Assessing Depressive Symptoms in Persons with Intellectual Disability

**LOCATION:** Aspen

**SESSION DESCRIPTION:**

Depression is often unrecognized and untreated among persons with intellectual disabilities (ID) because of impaired expressive language, low literacy levels, and, sometimes, physical limitations. We are developing an Animation-Based Instrument for Depression Evaluation (AIDE) tool to improve access to the expression of depressive symptomatology for persons with ID through a visual, auditory, and touch interface. This presentation will describe AIDE’s development process.
**Jia-Wen Guo, PhD, RN**, is an Assistant Professor in the College of Nursing at the University of Utah. She received her BA in nursing in Taiwan and then worked as a clinical nurse in oncology, cardiovascular, and mental health for years. Her MA and PhD degrees in nursing focused on nursing informatics. Before she came to the US to study nursing informatics, she had a MA degree in biomedical science studying the genes that cause Alzheimer disease.

Guo’s research areas of interest focus on two interrelated areas: improving the quality of care among vulnerable populations and cancer patients and supporting nursing research and practice through the use of health-related information technology. One of her research studies focuses on developing a novel tool, an animation-based instrument for depression evaluation (AIDE), to assess depressive symptoms among people with intellectual disabilities. A multimedia animation is used to present questions from the AIDE to facilitate comprehension of complex and/or abstract concepts embedded in the different levels of answer options for each question. Her research was supported by the Funding Incentive Seed Grant Program, University of Utah.

**Abe Rafi** is Director of Digital Strategy and Online Services at The Arc of the United States. He is charged with enabling The Arc to achieve its goals in the digital dimension. As the founder of a web design firm, he has organized and led product development teams to create online communities, mobile applications, websites, and business intelligence tools for social change for organizations such as Ashoka, Disability Rights International, The Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law, and for various other clients. Rafi is a longtime advocate for the rights of people with disabilities, having reported on human rights abuses in institutions for people with disabilities and trained human rights activists in Serbia, Turkey, and Russia. He is a graduate of the University of Michigan and the sibling of a man with an intellectual and developmental disability.