TechSpec Assistive Technology Program: An Intensive Training Program for Professionals in Rehabilitation Services

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM), Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center (R2D2), and the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute at the University of Wisconsin - Stout are pleased to present the TechSpec Program, which provides a stipend for an intensive, on-line, Assistive Technology and Accessible Design (ATAD) Program of Study.

This supportive program is tailored for professionals who work with State Division of Rehabilitation consumers. The ATAD Certificate is designed to offer working rehabilitation professionals with competency-based training addressing the accommodation and assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities, and the accessibility of environments, services, and products, through the implementation of universal design. This unique learning opportunity, taught by world-renowned faculty members, cannot be found elsewhere in the country. Interactive learning occurs within small group cohorts of experienced professionals (or professionals in training) who participate in the TechSpec Program. Practical experiences to enhance knowledge and skill are arranged with participants.

The Certificate in Assistive Technology and Accessible Design, which is awarded at the completion of the TechSpec Program, is an interdisciplinary, collaborative program through the UWM College of Health Science's Departments of Occupational Therapy and Communication Sciences Disorders and the School of Education's Department of Exceptional Education. This 1 ½ to 2-year part-time graduate study program is designed to meet the increasing demand for assistive technology and universal design expertise within the field of rehabilitation. The program builds on counselors’ current knowledge and skills regarding disability and technology in the areas of case management, assessment, intervention and leadership. Coursework provides disability professionals with theoretical and practical backgrounds in assistive technology, enhancing their work in a variety of settings, including vocational rehabilitation offices, university disability services offices, independent living centers, schools and other rehabilitation settings.

The full Application Kit needs to be completed and submitted for review and consideration for acceptance into the Assistive Technology and Accessible Design Certificate Programs and to receive the TechSpec stipend. Upon acceptance to the program, participants will receive a Letter of Acceptance and guidelines for getting started. Participants who successfully complete the program will have earned 15 graduate credits and the ATAD Certificate; and will be qualified to prepare for the ATP Certification exam offered by RESNA and/or to sit for state and national certification examinations as an Assistive Technology Specialist.
A. TechSpec Coursework toward the ATAD Certificate
Includes:

- **Introduction to Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology**, OccThpy 620 (3 credits)
- **Design and Disability**, OccThpy 625 (3 credits)
- **Assessment in Assistive Technology and Accessible Design**, OccThpy 770 (3 credits)
- **Assistive Technology Service Delivery – Applications to Rehabilitation Counseling, Case Management & Individual Accommodations**, OccThpy 775 (3 credits)
- **(Capstone) Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology**, OccThpy 760 (3 credits)

*Classes begin September 2013 or January 2014, depending on date of acceptance to the program.*

(2 Vision Courses: Introduction to Low Vision and Vision Impairment and Interventions for Low Vision and Vision Impairment are available on the UW Milwaukee campus, and can be included in the program, if interested. Applicants interested in these courses will need permission from TechSpec Director. Additionally, AAC courses may be available, but these courses are subject to availability and special permission from the Department of Communication Sciences Disorders.)

We’re starting soon! We are limited to 8 participants. Interested participants can complete an Application Kit (attached) and return it to Aura Hirschman, by July 12, 2013, by Fax (414) 229-6843, mail or email. Contact information: Phone (414) 229-1139 or email hirschma@uwm.edu.

The TechSpec Program is a Rehabilitation Long Term Training – Rehabilitation Technology Grant supported in part by the U.S. Department of Education’s Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA), PR/Award # H129E100003. (Please note that the National Council on Disability recommended, in 2008, that RSA recruitment and professional development activities attract qualified people with disabilities to the field. Thus, applicants with a disability who meet all of the qualifications required for the program are encouraged to apply.)