Technology and Disability Policy Highlights

November 2015

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# Overview

In November, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) took several actions to improve communications access for people with disabilities. Regarding emergency communications, in efforts to implement the *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010* (CVAA), they announced that beginning November 30, 2015, video programming distributors must provide emergency information television text crawls to people with vision loss by sounding an aural tone and aurally presenting the information at least twice. Also, the FCC released a *Noticed of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) *In the Matter if Improving Wireless Emergency Alerts [WEA] and Community Initiated Alerting* [PS Docket No. 15-91], proposing to increase the length of WEA messages from 90 characters to 360 and including URLs in the messages. Specifically, the FCC would like to know if and how these, and other proposed changes would improve the accessibility of WEA messages to people with disabilities. A complementary action taken in November, was the FCC’s vote adopting the new Hearing Aid Compatibility (HAC) rules requiring *all* wireless handsets to be HAC compliant. This is meant to give people who use hearing assistance technologies the same range of device choices observed by consumers without hearing loss. In prior rulemakings the Wireless RERC has asserted that WEA accessibility depends, in part, on the accessibility of the device. So the extension of HAC requirements to all wireless handsets should increase access on both fronts, to personal communications and emergency notifications.

In Wireless RERC news, we submitted [ex parte comments](http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view;ECFSSESSION=KscRWnSPcY1cc2PLv2WJTGJnLpCwDjpQGT2txQ21SplnwfBYsh63!1951721665!-1566059965?id=60001338897) to the FCC in open proceedings concerning the Emergency Alerts System [**Docket Nos. 15-94 and 04-296**] and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) [**Docket Nos. 15-91 and 07-287**]. The document presented the background and results of research activities which were conducted to examine the effectiveness of EAS and WEA to provide alerts to people with disabilities.

Finally, two important reports were released in November concerning current and emerging technologies. The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) released a paper, [*eRecruiting & Accessibility: Is HR Technology Hurting Your Bottom Line?*](http://peatworks.org/sites/peatworks.org/files/uploads/attachments/node/1038/talentworks_erecruiting.pdf)*,* which outlines the current state of electronic recruiting of people with disabilities and what it means for employers. Also, the National Council on Disability (NCD) released a report titled, [*Self-Driving Cars: Mapping Access to a Technology Revolution*](http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/self-driving-cars-mapping-access-technology-revolution). The report focused on how self-driving cars have the potential to increase independence of people with disabilities.

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# Legislative Activities

**Congress Passes Bill to Use Social Media During Disasters**

November 5, 2015 - The *DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015* **[H.R. 623**], sponsored by Representative Susan W. Brooks (R-Indiana), became **Public Law No: 114-80**. This new bill amends the Homeland Security Act and requires the establishment of a social media working group to identify best practices of disaster event communications through social media. The group will also post information about emergency preparedness in all phases of natural disasters and acts of terrorism. Among others, the working group must include representatives from FEMA’s Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC), the American Red Cross, the private sector and academia. Unless renewed the working group will have a five year term.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

H.R.623 - DHS Social Media Improvement Act of 2015

[<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/623>]

# Regulatory Activities

**FCC Released a Deadline for Providing Accessible Emergency Information**

November 25, 2015 – In FCC efforts to implement the *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010* (CVAA), they announced that beginning November 30, 2015, video programming distributors must provide emergency information television text crawls to people with vision loss by sounding an aural tone and aurally presenting the information at least twice. Emergency information relayed on Second Screen devices like tablets and smartphones must also be aurally accessibly. Additionally, the Public Notice states that an accessible mechanism to activate secondary audio streams must also be developed by December 20, 2016.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Public Notice](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-15-1366A1.docx)

<https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-15-1366A1.docx>

**FCC Aims to Improve Wireless Emergency Alerts**

November 19, 2015 – In efforts to strengthen emergency communications, the FCC released a *Noticed of Proposed Rulemaking* (NPRM) *In the Matter if Improving Wireless Emergency Alerts and Community Initiated Alerting* [PS Docket No. 15-91]. Some of the main issues the NPRM is seeking stakeholder input on include:

* Increasing the maximum WEA characters length from 90 characters to 360 characters;
* Adding a fourth message type, “Emergency Governmental Information” which would allow for alerting authorities to send out information concerning shelter locations, boil water advisories and other pertinent life and property saving information that comes in the wake of an initial emergency message;
* The technical feasibility of the provision of multilingual WEA messages; and
* Revising the rules to require the geotargeting of WEA messages to be more precise.

Once the NPRM is published in the Federal Register, stakeholders (e.g. the public, mobile phone manufactures and service providers, organizations representing the interests of people with disabilities, academics, emergency managers, etc.) will have 30 days to submit comments and 60 days to submit reply comments.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[NPRM on Improving WEA](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1119/FCC-15-154A1.pdf)

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1119/FCC-15-154A1.pdf>]

**FCC Passed New Hearing Aid Compatibility Rules**

November 19, 2015 – The new Hearing Aid Compatibility (HAC) rules are meant to drive innovation for wireless voice technologies by requiring all future voice communications technologies to be HAC compliant, making developers consider this in the early design processes. Additionally, the HAC rules now cover traditional wireless service (i.e. cellular) and IP-based communications services like Wi-Fi Calling and Voice-over-LTE. Further, all wireless handsets are now required to be accessible by people using hearing aids and cochlear implants. This is meant to give people who use hearing assistance technologies the same range of device choices observed by consumers without hearing loss.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[FCC News](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1119/DOC-336415A1.pdf)

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1119/DOC-336415A1.pdf>]

**FCC Chairman Speaks at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities**

November 17, 2015 – FCC Chairman, Tom Wheeler, delivered keynote remarks at an event held by the Association of University Centers on Disabilities. Among other things, he discussed two challenges concerning the communications needs of people with cognitive disabilities. The first being the absence of technology and services that are able to meet the needs of people with cognitive disabilities, and the second, the overall lack of awareness in the government and private sector regarding accessibility rights and enforcement mechanisms. According to Chairman Wheeler, to take on these challenges, the FCC will conduct an assessment of the features needed to produce useful assistive technology for people with cognitive disabilities, as well as engage with other agencies to further research in this field. In the end they hope to have pledges for cognitive accessibility from telecommunications carriers, government stakeholders, and service providers. For the complete speech visit the link below.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Remarks of Chairman Tom Wheeler](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1117/DOC-336447A1.pdf)

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2015/db1117/DOC-336447A1.pdf>]

**Project Civic Access agreement Reached with McLennan County, Texas**

November 17, 2015 - A Project Civic Access agreement was reached that will ensure that all areas throughout McLennan County, Texas will comply with the standards set by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The agreement gives the county three years to get all facilities up to code. The employment policies of the county will also be amended to comply with Title 1 of the ADA, to provide individuals with hearing and/or vision disabilities with a means of effective communication. All county websites will also be reworked to ensure they are all accessible to people with disabilities.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://www.ada.gov/mclennan_pca/mclennan_sa.html>

[<http://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-settles-mclennan-county-texas-regarding-accessibility-county-services>]

**The American Council of the Blind and The GSA Have Reached a Settlement**

November 10, 2015 - The General Services Administration (GSA) has agreed to a settlement to make significant accessibility changes to the SAM.gov website that was previously inaccessible to federal contractors with blindness and low vision. The SAM.gov website needs to be accessed and updated for federal contractors to maintain their status as such and continue working for the government. This settlement, and the subsequent accessibility updates, will enable business owners that are blind or have low vision to retain federal contracts.

According to the press release, both parties are pleased with this settlement and proud of the fact that another website will be made accessible for all Americans. Lewis S. Wiener, co-chair of the Washington Lawyers’ Committee, stated “This is an excellent result not only for our clients, but for the blind community as a whole. The Internet is part of our daily lives, and being unable to access any website—much less a website that is essential to doing business with the federal government—puts members of the blind community at an economic disadvantage. It is unfortunate that it took the filing of a lawsuit to bring about meaningful change but we thank GSA for working collaboratively with us and our clients to make [SAM.gov](https://www.sam.gov/portal/SAM/#1) accessible.” For more information regarding the settlement follow the link below.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[The Committee and Sutherland Reach Landmark Settlement with GSA on Behalf of Blind Federal Contractors and the American Council of the Blind](http://www.washlaw.org/news-a-media/451-gsa-settlement)

[<http://www.washlaw.org/news-a-media/451-gsa-settlement>]

# Publications

**eRecruiting & Accessibility: Is HR Technology Hurting Your Bottom Line?**

November 2015 - The Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) works towards improving employment, retention, and career advancement of people with disabilities. PEAT released a paper, *eRecruiting & Accessibility: Is HR Technology Hurting Your Bottom Line?,* which outlines the current state of electronic recruiting of people with disabilities and what it means for employers. The report highlights the fact that most people with disabilities experience barriers to the online application process. Some of the top issues identified in the paper are lack of awareness of the need to provision accessible online job application, the “compliance vs. usability mindset,” breaking built-in accessibility features with customized tools, and misguided belief that addressing accessibility issues will be costly and complex.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[eRecruiting & Accessibility: Is HR Technology Hurting Your Bottom Line?](http://peatworks.org/sites/peatworks.org/files/uploads/attachments/node/1038/talentworks_erecruiting.pdf)

[<http://peatworks.org/sites/peatworks.org/files/uploads/attachments/node/1038/talentworks_erecruiting.pdf>]

**NCD Releases Report on Self Driving Cars and Accessibility**

November 2, 2015 - The National Council on Disability (NCD) released a report titled, [*Self-Driving Cars: Mapping Access to a Technology Revolution*](http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/self-driving-cars-mapping-access-technology-revolution). The report focused on how self-driving cars have the potential to increase independence of people with disabilities and what possible barriers need to be overcome to enable this technology. NCD Chairperson, Jeff Rosen, wrote in the letter of transmittal, “Autonomous vehicles hold great promise to advance social inclusion by offering people with disabilities independent mobility to get to school, jobs, and all places that Americans go each day. They offer the possibility of ending the isolation that many people who are aging experience by keeping them connected with others and to activities that are often lost when we lose the ability to drive.” The report examines the policy considerations, current technology, and scientific and political roadblocks.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Self-Driving Cars: Mapping Access to a Technology Revolution](http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/self-driving-cars-mapping-access-technology-revolution)

<http://www.ncd.gov/publications/2015/self-driving-cars-mapping-access-technology-revolution>

# Other Items of Interest

**Office of Disability Employment Policy launches Disability Inclusion Web Tool**

November 20, 2015 - Small Business & Disability Employment: Steps to Success, is a web tool that has strategies for achieving inclusion of people with disabilities in the community and workplace. Diverse teams are part of successful workplaces and making sure all feel included is essential to success. This tool gives strategies to employers that are unfamiliar with the needs and preferences of employees with disabilities.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Small Business and Disability Employment: Steps to Success](http://blog.dol.gov/2015/11/20/small-business-and-disability-employment-steps-to-success/" \o "Permanent Link to Small Business and Disability Employment: Steps to Success)

[<http://blog.dol.gov/2015/11/20/small-business-and-disability-employment-steps-to-success/>]

**New Guidance from the Department of Education to Help Students with Disabilities**

November 17, 2015 - In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*, new guidance aimed at improving the education of children with disabilities was released from the U.S. Education Department. The guidance states students with disabilities should have individualized education programs and a free appropriate public education. There are also several other updates including:

* Website Featuring Best Practices from the Field
* Classroom Strategies for Teachers
* Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS) Implementation Blueprint for Educators
* Tip Sheets for Parent

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Education Department Announces New Guidance to Help Students with Disabilities as Part of 40th Anniversary of IDEA Law](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-announces-new-guidance-help-students-disabilities-part-40th-anniversary-idea-law)

<https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-department-announces-new-guidance-help-students-disabilities-part-40th-anniversary-idea-law>

**Merger Announced Between Freedom Scientific and Optelec**

November 16, 2015 – Freedom Scientific and Optelec have combined to create the world’s largest assistive technology provider of aids for non-visual access. Both companies previously shared the mission of providing people with vision loss with technology solutions to gain and maintain their employment and education. Prior to this merger both companies were acquired by Vector Capital which, according to the press release, facilitated a more seamless merger. Maarten Bosch, CEO of Optelec, had this to say, “Our employees are energized by the capability that results from this merger and we are eager to start working together to deliver market leading solutions, training and support to the broadest audience of blind and low vision users.”

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Freedom Scientific and Optelec Join Forces in Assistive Technology Merger](http://www.freedomscientific.com/About/News/Article/149)

[<http://www.freedomscientific.com/About/News/Article/149>]

**U.S. Dept. of Defense Creates Accessible Employment App CAP**

November 5, 2015 - The Computer/Electronic Accommodations Program (CAP), of the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD), launched a free app that allows users to look up information about services provided by CAP. CAP, established in 1990, is a centrally funded reasonable accommodations program for employees with disabilities in the DoD. Their mission is to “provide assistive technology and accommodations to support individuals with disabilities and wounded, ill and injured Service members throughout the Federal Government in accessing information and communication technology.” The CAP App provides aid in planning job accommodations for individuals with disabilities. It can be used by both the person with a disability and their employer. The app has several capabilities like notifications on the latest news in assistive technology, tutorials, disability related events and the ability to contact CAP directly. The app is available in the iTunes App store as well as the Google Play store.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://www.cap.mil/newsevents/marketing/mobileapp.aspx>

<https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/cap-mobile-app/id543280345>?

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=mil.cap.capapp>

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# Wireless RERC Updates

**Wireless RERC Comments on Accessible Emergency Communications**

November 19, 2015 - The Wireless RERC submitted ex parte comments to the Federal Communications Commission in open proceedings concerning the Emergency Alerts System [**Docket Nos. 15-94 and 04-296**] and Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) [**Docket Nos. 15-91 and 07-287**]. The document presented the background and results of research activities which were conducted to examine the effectiveness of EAS and WEA to provide alerts to people with disabilities. Specifically, the Wireless RERC conducted comparative analyses of the awareness of EAS and WEA messages, the accessibility of the two systems, as well as the types of protective actions taken as a result of the emergency messages. The survey research occurred between 2011 and 2014 and the results, analyses and recommendations were completed in 2015 and submitted for consideration in the above-referenced rulemakings. This research was provided to government entities to supply unbiased data and evaluation to help ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal access to critical lifesaving information through digitally-based warning systems.

#### Additional Information

[Wireless RERC ex parte filing regarding the Emergency Alert System (EAS) and Wireless Emergency Alerts](http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view;ECFSSESSION=KscRWnSPcY1cc2PLv2WJTGJnLpCwDjpQGT2txQ21SplnwfBYsh63!1951721665!-1566059965?id=60001338897)

(WEA/s)

[<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view;ECFSSESSION=KscRWnSPcY1cc2PLv2WJTGJnLpCwDjpQGT2txQ21SplnwfBYsh63!1951721665!-1566059965?id=60001338897>]

**Share the Survey of User Needs (SUN)**

The Wireless RERC's 2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies is still open and we invite you to share the survey with your networks. It‘s available in both English and Spanish. The SUN is our cornerstone survey of wireless technology use and usability by people with all types of disabilities. First launched in 2002, the SUN is the only national source of comprehensive information and insight into the wireless technology needs of people with disabilities.

Please consider sharing the Survey of User Needs to ensure we capture any new data to reflect the changing nature of accessibility and wireless technology adoption by people with disabilities.

* **To** [**share**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-launches-new-survey-user-needs) **the SUN,** use the share buttons at this link: <http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-launches-new-survey-user-needs>.
* **To** [**take**](HTTPS://WWW.SURVEYMONKEY.COM/R/SUN-2015) **the SUN online**, please go to this address: [https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==" \t "_blank)

Individuals with disabilities may also participate on the phone, or we can send a paper copy with a postage paid return envelope.

To complete the survey over the phone or to request a paper copy, contact John Morris at:**[john\_morris@shepherd.org](mailto:john_morris@shepherd.org" \t "_blank)**or 404-367-1348

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[2015 Survey of User Needs (SUN) for Wireless Technologies](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==)

[[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-2015](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?f=001Almm6pKWRoe4bLrBoBiBLLSsAEX4U6Z9qvArYmzspO1grSzgoAhX7BEjNmBVOCewzKFzJfj1-RttDJram8b2fvw1bnqvLDtZvj7KALFFf4fAwhXIJCn_oW_Jw0p73Ft9YEr2Jd1PqNQF8K07NtRx3_H0hovw0lr_P63TCpx7xiYkc5gy-AzsPsoDKpxWrCacdRRQWo8-0SxOq7CtW1YpqjGwBXQI-HAbvXsMdZ3S5rK1yzbp3YnXlxdYt71QLk7jU91Yv0rc_lpzTnxsUsS8Ao0P3mkebAasjrQaEbwDOZTtaHqAxMBG8pSGuE_P9vP64y_YJgFrWnnCKPszovWXV1YrGpPme12l693v5YNN8GQ=&c=J5gXrtB50_k7qMoPCVvEVj0_vOXpZ-bkPplhgXDkvn808R9deFl8hQ==&ch=i1yuPCr7Hno8MtABcPJo1pX6VGDxbTWC4_jeO7pHoNgbv7ZBhkC6TA==" \t "_blank) ]

[Encuesta sobre las Necesidades del Usuario respecto a las Tecnologías Inalámbricas](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-Esp_2015)

[<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-Esp_2015>]

**RERC lanza la Encuesta sobre las Necesidades del Usuario respecto a las Tecnologías Inalámbricas-2015**

El Centro de Investigación sobre la Ingeniería de la Rehabilitación con Tecnologías Inalámbricas (Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies, Wireless RERC) ha lanzado la Encuesta sobre las Necesidades del Usuario respecto a las Tecnologías Inalámbricas-2015 (Survey of User Needs for Wireless Technologies 2015, SUN-2015).

El fin de esta encuesta es descubrir cómo la gente con discapacidades usa tecnología inalámbrica para consumidores. Se enfoca principalmente en los teléfonos celulares, sin embargo, también incluye preguntas sobre otros tipos de dispositivos como las tabletas, por ejemplo el iPad de Apple y el Kindle Fire de Amazon, Surface de Microsoft, y otros dispositivos similares.

Los datos que se recopilen ayudarán a los diseñadores e ingenieros a elaborar nuevos dispositivos y servicios inalámbricos que satisfagan las necesidades de las personas con discapacidades. Desde el año 2001 más de 6000 personas han completado esta encuesta.

Invitamos a todas las personas con cualquier tipo de discapacidad o limitación física, cognitiva, o sensorial completar el questionario. Se puede completarlo en el Web: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SUN-Esp_2015>. Si prefiere completar el questionario en papel o por telefono, por favor comuníquese con John Morris: 404-367-1348; [john\_morris@shepherd.org](mailto:john_morris@shepherd.org)

Sus respuestas son importantes para nosotros, incluso si usted no usa la tecnología inalámbrica. El questionario se puede completar con la ayuda de un asistente o una enfermera si no puede completarlo directamente usted mismo.

No venderemos ni utilizaremos su información personal de otra manera que no sea para realizar la investigación sobre el tema de esta encuesta. Sus datos personales permanecerán en estricta confidencialidad.

# Upcoming Events

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**Annual Disability Statistics Compendium**

The Annual Disability Statistics Compendium event will be held in Washington, D.C. on February 4, 2016. At the event the 2015 Compendium will be released. It acts as a disability statistics database where various federal agencies can store and access all of their data in one place. This makes finding and using already verified data much easier when working on various legislative actions.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Register to attend the 2015 Annual Disability Statistics Compendium](http://www.researchondisability.org/home/events/2015/10/01/register-to-attend-the-2015-annual-disability-statistics-compendium)

[<http://www.researchondisability.org/home/events/2015/10/01/register-to-attend-the-2015-annual-disability-statistics-compendium>]

**2016 American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference**

The American Foundation for the Blind Leadership Conference will be held March 3-5,2016 in Arlington, Virginia. The purpose of the conference is to bring experts and people affected by visual impairments together to discuss the most recent and developing topics within the field of blindness. A diverse range of participants from corporate representatives to students with visual impairments will all be in attendance. For more information follow the link below.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conference Website](http://www.afb.org/info/about-us/events-and-awards/american-foundation-for-the-blind-leadership-conference-2016-2017/123)

[<http://www.afb.org/info/about-us/events-and-awards/american-foundation-for-the-blind-leadership-conference-2016-2017/123>]

**31st Annual Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference**

The 31st Annual Technology & Persons with Disabilities Conference, also known as CSUN 2015 will convene in San Diego, CA from March 21 to March 26, 2016. CSUN conferences are well attended by professionals, advocates and academics that work at the intersection of technology and access by people with disabilities.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conference Website](http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference/2016/sessions/index.php/public/website_pages/view/1)

[<http://www.csun.edu/cod/conference/2016/sessions/index.php/public/website_pages/view/1>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** November 2015

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The Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) reports on national public policy events and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities, researchers, policymakers, industry, and advocacy professionals. The TDPH is published monthly by the Wireless RERC. The Wireless RERC is a research center that promotes universal access to wireless technologies and explores their innovative applications in addressing the needs of people with disabilities. For more information on the Wireless RERC, please visit our web site at [<http://www.wirelessrerc.org>].

For further information on items summarized in this report, or if you have items of interest that you would like included in future editions, please contact this edition’s editors Dalton Nechanicky [Dalton@cacp.gatech.edu] or Salimah LaForce [salimah@cacp.gatech.edu].

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