Overview of the Wireless RERC

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CTIA 2013 Accessibility Outreach Initiative
June 13, 2013 Webinar

wireless RERC Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center

The Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies is sponsored by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR) of the U.S. Department of Education under grant number H133E110002. The opinions contained in this website are those of the Wireless RERC and do not necessarily reflect those of the U.S. Department of Education or NIDRR.

Our Mission

To research, evaluate and develop innovative wireless technologies and products that **meet the needs, enhance independence, and improve the quality of life and community participation** of people with disabilities.

wireless RERC Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center

General information

- Funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR)
- Since 2001
- 5-year funding cycles
- Current cycle: 2011-2016
- Partnership between:

Georgia Institute of Technology

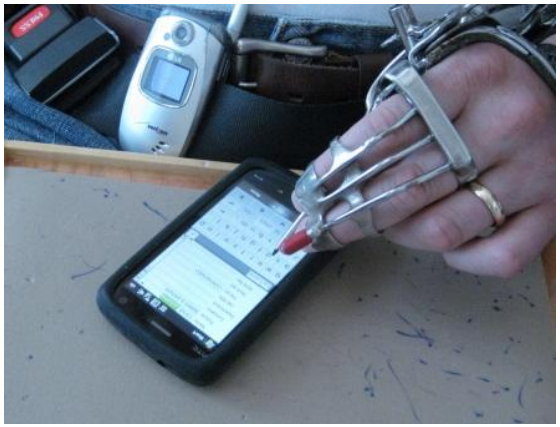
SHEPHERD CENTER
A Catastrophic Care Hospital

- 7 projects in 3 areas (Research, Development, Training)

Research Projects

User Centered Research

- •Survey of User Needs (SUN)
- • Consumer Advisory Network (CAN)
- •Topical Surveys
- •Focus Groups/User Studies/Technology Evaluations



Policy Approaches to Accelerate Access to Advanced Wireless Technologies

- •Regulatory Filings
- •Trends and Barriers Analysis
- •Technology and Policy Highlights

Development Projects

The App Factory

- Development of accessible and/or assistive apps
- Wireless RERC funds app developers through annual RFP
- Ability to fund up to 8 apps per year

BrailleTouch

- Alternative text input app based on the Braille alphabet

IDEAL Currency Identifier

- Identifies three generations of U.S. currency notes beginning in 1993

Access Note

- Note taking app designed for people with substantial loss of vision

Georgia Read More for ASL Learners

- Streams video of GPB's Georgia Read More program with ASL overlay

Development Projects (cont.)

Emergency Lifelines on Wireless Platforms

- **External Alerting Interface** - Control traditional altering devices such as bed shakers and light flashers from wireless devices via Bluetooth

- **WEA Video Platform** - Test methods to provide American Sign Language to Wireless Emergency Alerts

- **AAC Emergency Alerts** - Allow access to emergency communications channels such as 9-1-1 via AAC devices (Augmentative and Alternative Communications)

Training Projects

Promoting Awareness of Access and Usability Needs for Wireless Devices

- Industry & Consumer Outreach/Education/Support
- Re: Wireless - Industry/Consumer Newsletter
- SUNspots
- Events/Conferences/Webinars/Trade Shows

Building Research Capacity in Wireless Accessibility and Usability

- Annual student design challenge
- Annual Healthy Environments and Active Living (HEAL) event

State of Technology Summit 2014

- Experts exploring migratory micro and macro trends in wireless technology

Services to CTIA Member Companies

Assist your R&D efforts:

•Conduct focus groups
•Evaluate existing, or forthcoming, devices for accessibility
•Funding or partnership for accessible app development available through App Factory

Provide data from:

•The Survey of User Needs (SUNspots)
•Emergency Communications Survey
•Hearing Aid Compatibility Survey
•Access to R&D findings

Sponsorship Opportunity:

•State of the Technology Summit

Ways to Contact & Connect

Access more apps, news, and reports 24/7 @

www.wirelessrerc.org

And Subscribe:

- Re:Wireless - Industry and Consumer Newsletter
- Technology & Disability Policy Highlights
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Thank you very much for your time and attention!

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