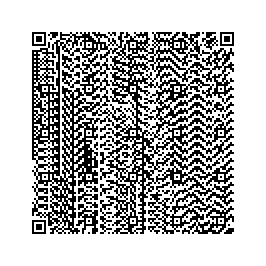


[View our profile on LinkedIn - Clickable button](http://r20.rs6.net/tn.jsp?e=001BAYcM6XeLJHdRXRV2X7aDlNH5PKaF2SSpyupMxkLvrvLec3G20arTN3hl_C5tqpuCKtN1URu1IyEg0-XB2AR0Azck2WjLK8ksxFtVnwNToFbq21rNvPpkVAf6RL6wsuMoAifPNu8U94fj8auaeM_cCj87S2qXNSl)Technology and Disability Policy Highlights  

April 2018

Overview

In April, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Public Notice inviting stakeholder input to *Refresh the Record on Facilitating Multimedia Content in Wireless Emergency Alerts* (WEA) [**PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94**] was published in the Federal Register, setting the comment and reply comment deadlines as May 29, 2018, and June 11, 2018, respectively. Keeping a laser-like focus on emergency communications, the FCC also released their final report of the 2017 Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). On the EAS participant side (television and radio broadcasters) of the continuum, the test was considered successful as the equipment and software worked to deliver the test message across the nation. However, on the public end of the continuum, some accessibility issues were reported including poor audio quality, instances where the text crawl was overlapped with other captioning or text on the screen, or its speed made it unreadable, among others. The purpose of the test was to identify areas for improvement, and the FCC report outlines measures that will be taken to advance the accessibility of EAS messages.

In Wireless RERC news, on April 24, 2018, we hosted academics, practitioners, and service organizations at the *Using Technology R&D to Effect Policy Change* Leadership Workshop. The morning panel, moderated by Dr. Helena Mitchell, addressed the importance of stakeholder engagement in policymaking, and attendees heard the perspectives of Robert Knotts, Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Office of Government and Community Relations; Donna Platt, North Carolina Division of Services for Deaf and Hard of Hearing; and Hamish Caldwell, Wireless Insiders Network. In the afternoon, the attendees had three small group discussions and were tasked with distilling each discussion into three takeaways to share with the whole group. Inside the newsletter, you can read a teaser of the nine takeaways. A more comprehensive report detailing the small group discussions that led to the above takeaways will be produced this summer.

Recruitment for the Survey of User Needs is ongoing. To inform the inclusive development of wireless technologies and services, we are collecting data on people with disabilities’ user experiences and expectations. Take the survey online at [**http://bit.ly/2018UserNeedsSurvey**](http://bit.ly/2018UserNeedsSurvey). Scan the QR Code to open the survey on your mobile device.

This issue also includes news about a tool for accessible travel, a hands-free drumming machine, a silent user interface that understands nonverbal prompts, and more.

**Click the headings below to link directly to a particular section.**

[Regulatory Activities](#regulatoryactivities) [Wireless RERC Updates](#wirelessrercupdates) [Other Items of Interest](#otheritemsofinterest) [Upcoming Events](#Upcomingevents)

Regulatory Activities

# FCC Requests Public Input on Multimedia WEA Messages

April 26, 2018 – The FCC’s Public Notice inviting stakeholder input to *Refresh the Record on Facilitating Multimedia Content in Wireless Emergency Alerts* [**PS Docket Nos. 15-91 and 15-94**] was published in the Federal Register, setting the comment and reply comment deadlines as May 29, 2018, and June 11, 2018, respectively. The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau wants to update the 2016 Report & Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking record with new evidence and claims regarding the feasibility of including multimedia such as maps and photos in WEA messages. In 2016, some comments focused on the utility of adding images and photos. For example, the Wireless RERC shared results of our usability study that included 16 IPAWs approved hazard symbols to determine if message comprehension was impacted by the inclusion of American Sign Language (ASL) and/or symbology. Study results indicated that multimedia messages could improve comprehension for people for whom English is a second language, particularly those whose primary language is ASL. However, any standard use of symbology would need to be accompanied by an educational campaign as the symbols were not universally deciphered. Now, in 2018, the FCC is seemingly convinced of the advantage that multimedia messages would afford to the public and emergency responders alike, but require viable technical solutions for implementation. Prepared comments for docket numbers 15-91 and 15-94can be uploaded via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

[Public Notice – Multimedia WEA Messages](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-18-302A1.pdf)

[<https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-18-302A1.pdf>]

# Report on the 2017 Nationwide Test of the Emergency Alert System

April 13, 2018 - The FCC’s Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau released a final report on the 2017 nationwide test of the Emergency Alert System (EAS). The report shows that the test was largely a success, stating that, “Overall, the 2017 Nationwide EAS Test demonstrated that Federal Emergency Management Agency’s (FEMA) Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) continues to deliver high-quality, effective, and accessible EAS alerts and that EAS Participants’ results show improvement in several areas.” However, the report identifies some issues regarding accessibility, and steps to be taken within the next year to remedy these problems. Some of these issues include participants citing poor audio quality, instances where the text crawl was overlapped with other captioning or text on the screen, or its speed made it unreadable, and non-English language stations transmitting English language alerts, among others.

Based on these reported problems, steps being taken to ensure accessibility include:

* Reaching out to specific stations to ensure future coordination of the alert crawl with closed captioning.
* Revising the EAS Test Reporting System (ETRS) Form Three to ensure the accessibility of the test alert for people with disabilities and non-English speakers.
* Improving alert accessibility to non-English speakers and those with disabilities by ensuring that EAS participants receive the transmission over IPAWS and not over-the-air, as the former includes common alerting protocol-formatted (CAP) digital audio, Spanish and text files while the latter does not.
* Encourage “EAS participants to adopt best practices for the upkeep of EAS equipment, particularly regarding the updating of equipment software.”
* Continue collaborating with State’s Emergency Communications Committee (SECC) and “EAS equipment manufacturers to reach out to EAS participants to encourage them to update their EAS equipment and software to ensure successful participation in tests and compliance with the Commission’s rules.”

The PSHSB will continue working with FEMA, the SECCs, and EAS participants around the nation to improve the accessibility and reliably of EAS. As many people with disabilities depend on this information during times of crisis, it is vital that these alerts be made accessible to all citizens. [Source: FCC]

Additional Information:

[Report on 2017 Nationwide Emergency Alert System Test](https://www.fcc.gov/document/report-2017-nationwide-emergency-alert-system-test)

[<https://www.fcc.gov/document/report-2017-nationwide-emergency-alert-system-test>]

Report: [Docx](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-350223A1.docx) -- [Pdf](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-350223A1.pdf) -- [Txt](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-350223A1.txt)

Wireless RERC Updates

# Wireless RERC Leadership Workshop

April 24, 2018 – The Wireless RERC hosted academics, practitioners, and service organizations at the *Using Technology R&D to Effect Policy Change* Leadership Workshop. The morning panel, moderated by Dr. Helena Mitchell, addressed the importance of stakeholder engagement in policymaking, and attendees heard the perspectives of Robert Knotts, Georgia Tech Office of Government and Community Relations; Donna Platt, North Carolina Division of Services for Deaf and the Hard of Hearing; and Hamish Caldwell, Wireless Insiders Network. Salimah LaForce presented *The Mechanics of Policy Input*, which was followed by four Wireless RERC Rapid Fire R&D Demos. Clint Zeagler discussed the [Social and Cultural Design Research](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/r2) project, showing a piece of smart fabric under development to test a vibrotactile interface. Maureen Linden, demonstrated the [Inclusive Emergency Lifelines](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/d1) project, showing a prototype American Sign Language (ASL) interpreted Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) message that can be assembled ‘*on the fly’* from an ASL library of WEA codes. Josephine Mendhe introduced the attendees to the Wireless RERC [Employment and Community Living Research](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/r1) project, which is exploring the use of wireless technologies to support competitive, integrated employment, and facilitate social connectedness and community participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Keenan May discussed the development of [Advanced Auditory Assistive Devices](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/d2), interfaces that include auditory menus with entire sets of commands and features that can be clustered into an auditory-based operating system (OS) and incorporated into, and interact with, a range of wireless hardware and devices.

In the afternoon, the attendees had small group discussions and were tasked with distilling the discussion into three takeaways to share with the whole group. Following are small group discussion topics and takeaways.

**Data sources at your disposal – organizational data that could provide support for policy recommendations.**

1. The quality of data matters, and we must take steps to ensure trust and objectivity in the collection and analysis of data, as well as privacy and security.
2. The “politics” of data matters—there must be a willingness to invest in data collection, which means long-term gains over short-term gains.
3. How data is presented matters—presenting data in ways that everyone, including policymakers, can understand, as well as explaining why data is collected, how data is collected; and “so what” regarding data collection.

**Disability access policy priorities - policy domains that should be on the regulatory agenda to improve parity of access by people with disabilities.**

1. Awareness – The group suggested that the substrate of inequity across domains was a lack of awareness of the lived experiences of people with disabilities. This inexperience prevents developers, policymakers, employers, healthcare providers, educators, and so on, from being inclusive.
2. Employment and Training – Improving employment outcomes for people with disabilities, targeting training of both employees and employers on accessible workplace technologies.
3. Inter/intra-agency coordination – The group bemoaned the time and efforts lost due to lack of coordination between government programs. One example given included service extensions that should bridge the transition of youth and emerging adults with disabilities from K-12 into higher education and the workforce.

**Engaging stakeholders- strategies for encouraging people with disabilities and non-governmental organizations to participate in federal rulemakings.**

1. Strategy Innovation – start with \*both\* a vision (top-down) and with the insights/input of key stakeholders (bottom-up). Draw on both for direction and engagement.
2. Have a relatable leader or champion that to help bring people to the table.
3. Employ a mix of communication tools common to the target stakeholders. One size (or channel) does not fit all. “Meet people where they communicate.”

Stay tuned for a more comprehensive report detailing the small group discussions that led to the above takeaways.

# Addressing Workforce Participation of People with Disabilities

April 16, 2018 – [*Barriers to Employment Participation of Individuals With Disabilities: Addressing the Impact of Employer (Mis) Perception and Policy*](http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0002764218768868), authored by Dr. Paul M.A. Baker, Maureen Linden, Salimah LaForce, Jennifer Rutledge, and Kenneth Goughnor, is available as an advanced publication online. The article discusses research conducted under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Office of Disability Policy Employment (ODEP).

**Abstract:** Although progress has been made toward the objective of increased employment for people with disabilities, the 17.2% employment rate of people with disabilities stands in distressing contrast to the 65% rate of those without disabilities. This article summarizes the results of a comparative survey of representative academic literature and industry publications related to employer policies and practices that can affect workforce participation of individuals with disabilities. Emergent themes include variance in employer perspectives on hiring of individuals with disabilities, impact of perceived versus actual cost as a hiring barrier, and the perceived mismatch of education and/or skills to job qualifications among applicants with disabilities. These themes represent key areas to probe in subsequent research. The research objective is to identify focal points in the industry literature, representative of employer and industry (demand side) points of view that differ from those generally portrayed in the academic literature (more generally, supply side). Findings from a thematic analysis of industry publications can provide (1) evidenced based background to assist in crafting targeted policy to address employer awareness, (2) informed development of industry guidance on topics that may assist employers to achieve a more inclusive workplace, and (3) insights applicable to addressing barriers to broadening participation by technical, scientific, and engineering trained individuals with disabilities.

#### Additional Information:

[Read Barriers to Employment Participation of Individuals With Disabilities: Addressing the Impact of Employer (Mis) Perception and Policy](http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0002764218768868)

[<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/0002764218768868>]

# Tell Us About Your Wireless Devices!

To inform the inclusive development of wireless technologies and services, the[**Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Inclusive Technologies (Wireless RERC)**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/tags/newsroom/wireless-rerc-news)is collecting data on people with disabilities’ user experiences and expectations.

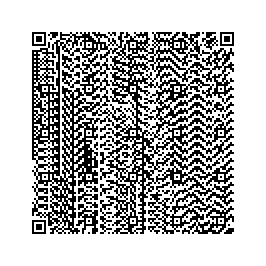
Your responses will:

* Help designers and engineers make more accessible wireless devices and services for people with disabilities.
* Inform recommendations to better ensure inclusive policies and practices.

Take the survey online at <http://bit.ly/2018UserNeedsSurvey>

Or

Scan the QR Code below to open the survey on your mobile device:



To take the survey by telephone contact:

Kenneth Goughnor

404-385-4611

Other Items of Interest

# Mapp4All, Developing an Atlas of Accessibility Features Around the World

April 23, 2018 – It has been said that necessity is the mother of invention. Mr. Josep Esteba, an entrepreneur, would likely agree with this sentiment. The challenges of navigating his native Spain in his wheelchair inspired him to create Mapp4All, a smartphone app that has a function for people with a variety of disabilities to share the accessibility features of buildings and cities they visit. Anticipating that an app is only as reliable as the data it is built upon as well as its timeliness, Mapp4All allows users to add their observations, such as which buildings offer wheelchair accessible ramps or elevators. Individual buildings and businesses are also able to use the app to log their accessibility features. As the app updates in real-time, users can be informed of building construction or route changes (e.g., obstructions) that have made formerly accessible areas temporarily or permanently inaccessible, and vice versa.

Speaking of his experiences traveling around Spain and the world, Mr. Esteba shared, “When it’s somewhere they don’t know, they’re not sure there will be the drop curbs they need ... they’re not sure they’re going to be able to get off the bus. You only need a couple of experiences of going somewhere and getting stuck to lose your independent mobility.” The challenge to increase urban accessibility is a great one, but one that technology can offer potential solutions. According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, an estimated 6.25 billion people are expected to live in urban areas around the world, of which 15% (937,500,000) are expected to have a disability. Further, according to the United Nations Development Programme, an estimated 80% of people with disabilities live in developing settings. The need for better information about accessibility is paramount. Catherine Holloway, a lecturer in assistive technology and accessibility at University College London said, “In the developing world, it really helps if there is already legislation in place to make infrastructure accessible – before it is built – so it doesn’t have to be retrofitted after construction, which is much more expensive.” Apps such as Mapps4All can help legislators better understand what areas need to be made more accessible, or what features citizens have said they would like incorporated into other buildings and city projects.

Mr. Esteba’s work has already been used to inform other efforts, such as Delhi’s Street Rehab program which aims to make the bustling city more accessible. By providing citizens and policy-makers with more up-to-date data on the accessibility of their cities, technology solutions such as Mapps4All can help ensure that cities are made and planned to be more accessible. [Source: The National]

#### Additional Information:

[Technology gives disabled more freedom in cities](https://www.thenational.ae/business/technology/technology-gives-disabled-more-freedom-in-cities-1.724004)

[<https://www.thenational.ae/business/technology/technology-gives-disabled-more-freedom-in-cities-1.724004>]

# Jackie Bertone Uses Hands-Free Jamboxx Instrument

April 13, 2018 - Jackie Bertone is a renowned musician who has worked with bands such as the Beach Boys and The Eagles. He also has multiple sclerosis (MS), so to keep drumming Mr. Bertone has used an electronic synthesizer named Jamboxx. In a report, Mr. Bertone said, “As a long-time touring and recording percussionist, I was diagnosed with MS, which eventually hindered my expression as a performer. Fortunately, with Jamboxx, I can now be more musical than ever, exploring a melodic side along with enhancing my rhythmic foundation, while finding new passion on the road to health and musical discovery.”

Jamboxx allows for hands-free operation from a harmonica like input method, in which a user’s breath is converted into digital MIDI notes. Moving to the left or right on the mouthpiece affects the tone, and the device can be modified to output as a guitar, drums, violin, piano, or saxophone. The company behind Jamboxx, My Music Machines, was founded by David Whelen, who is paralyzed from a skiing accident, and Mike Dicesare, a musician. Mr. Dicesare said in a statement, “We designed the Jamboxx for everyone: for those with any type of cognitive or physical disability to any artist in any performance venue. We’re honored to partner with EnterTalk Media and Jackie Bertone to help bring the Jamboxx instrument to enthusiasts and professionals alike.”

In a video interview, Mr. Bertone shared how Jamboxx had helped him keep music in his life, stating, “I just think it’s pretty amazing. You know, for those out there that just don’t have the ability — again I’m fighting back tears, man –because this gives the ability to the brothers and sisters that can’t play anymore. Or didn’t think they could play anymore. I’m promoting this, man, because on the times when my right-hand doesn’t want to work…It gives me the ability to play what I can’t play…I’ve been a 30-year player in the industry. MS has taken some of it away. This brought it back.” [Source: Global Accessibility News]

#### Additional Information:

[Beach Boys Drummer Beats M.S. with Hands-Free Jamboxx MIDI Instrument](http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2018/04/13/beach-boys-drummer-beats-m-s-with-hands-free-jamboxx-midi-instrument/)

[<http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2018/04/13/beach-boys-drummer-beats-m-s-with-hands-free-jamboxx-midi-instrument/>]

# App that Allows for Assessing of Parkinson's Disease Severity

April 6, 2018 – The Hopkins PD App, a result of a collaboration between researchers at the Johns Hopkins University, the University of Rochester Medical Center, and the United Kingdom’s Aston University, can evaluate Parkinson’s Disease severity via a smartphone. The app uses the device’s microphone, accelerometer, and touchscreen to assess how users perform tasks such as finger manipulation including their accuracy, speed, and reaction time. This data can then be shared with a doctor and can be performed anywhere-anytime. Dr. Ray Dorsey, a University of Rochester neurologist and co-lead of the project said, "If you think about it, it sounds crazy, but until these types of studies, we had very limited data on how these people function on Saturdays and Sundays because patients don't come to the clinic on Saturdays or Sundays. We also had very limited data about how people with Parkinson's do at two o'clock in the morning or 11 o'clock at night because unless they're hospitalized, they're generally not being seen in clinics at those times." The app is not meant to be a replacement for existing Parkinson’s Disease diagnosis methods, but rather a way to complement traditional methods with real-world assessments that can be initiated by the patient.

An Android version of HopkinsPD is available at their website located here:

An iOS version of the same, named mPower, is available through the App Store. [Source: Ben Coxworth, Health & Well Being; Zhan et al., 2018, JAMA Network]

#### Additional Information:

[Smartphone app objectively assesses Parkinson's symptoms](https://newatlas.com/parkinsons-severity-app/54110/)

[<https://newatlas.com/parkinsons-severity-app/54110/>]

[Using Smartphones and Machine Learning to Quantify Parkinson Disease Severity](https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurology/article-abstract/2676504?redirect=true)

[<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamaneurology/article-abstract/2676504?redirect=true>]

# Wearable Device that Can Understand Nonverbal Prompts

April 4, 2018 - Researchers at MIT have developed a wearable device called AlterEgo that can recognize nonverbal prompts, such as unspoken words. The device consists of flexible electrodes that pick up neuromuscular signals from the user’s jaw and face vibrations, which are then passed through a machine-learning system that can connect these prompts with specific words. Also, the device uses bone-conduction headphones that transmit the audio signal into the bones of the inner ear, which makes the wearable silent to all but the user, allowing the user to have conversations at normal audio levels. Together, these technologies become a lightweight wearable device that can “translate” nonverbal prompts into words, with a silent user interface. According to Arnav Kapur, a graduate student who was involved with the development of the wearable system, “The motivation for this was to build an IA device — an intelligence-augmentation device. Our idea was: Could we have a computing platform that’s more internal, that melds human and machine in some ways, and that feels like an internal extension of our own cognition?”

The device, still in development, is capable of discerning twenty words with ninety-two percent accuracy. As to the future of AlterEgo, the team is hopeful that they will one day achieve full conversation capabilities with the device. Other researchers have taken note of this project and its potential in employment and assisting people with disabilities. One such researcher is Thad Starner, a professor at Georgia Tech’s College of Computing who said, “I think that they’re a little underselling what I think is a real potential for the work. Like, say, controlling the airplanes on the tarmac at Hartsfield Airport here in Atlanta. You’ve got jet noise all around you, you’re wearing these big ear-protection things — wouldn’t it be great to communicate with voice in an environment where you normally wouldn’t be able to? You can imagine all these situations where you have a high-noise environment, like the flight deck of an aircraft carrier, or even places with a lot of machinery, like a power plant or a printing press. This is a system that would make sense, especially because often in these types of or situations people are already wearing protective gear. For instance, if you’re a fighter pilot, or if you’re a firefighter, you’re already wearing these masks.” The team behind AlterEgo hopes that the device can also be helpful to people with disabilities to communicate more effectively in work and non-work environments. One example could be assisting people who use sign language to remain in communication with their colleagues even if their hand signals are not visible or if they were wearing movement restricting safety apparel such as gloves.

For more information on AlterEgo, please visit MIT’s News Office which features a video demonstration of the prototype: <https://news.mit.edu/2018/computer-system-transcribes-words-users-speak-silently-0404>. [Source: Sara Rice, Consumer Technology Association; Larry Hardesty, MIT News Office]

#### Additional Information:

[Computer system transcribes words users “speak silently”](https://news.mit.edu/2018/computer-system-transcribes-words-users-speak-silently-0404)

[<https://news.mit.edu/2018/computer-system-transcribes-words-users-speak-silently-0404>]

Upcoming Events

# Getting It Right 2018 National Inclusive Disaster Strategies Conference

Getting It Right 2018 National Inclusive Disaster Strategies Conference, will convene from May 23 to 25, 2018, at the Marriott Metro Center in Washington, DC and online. The focus of Getting It Right is on expanding the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies’ shared commitment to achieving and sustaining disability inclusive whole community emergency preparedness, community resilience, response, recovery, and mitigation before, during, and after disasters.

#### Additional Information:

[Register to Attend in D.C.](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-it-right-dc-2018-regis…)

[[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-it-right-dc-2018-regis…](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/getting-it-right-dc-2018-registration-42791079270)]

[Register to Attend Remotely](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EAiaqCsbScSTA6vFOlm3dA)

[<https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_EAiaqCsbScSTA6vFOlm3dA>]

[Conference Web Page](http://www.disasterstrategies.org/)

[<http://www.disasterstrategies.org/>]

# Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) Conference

The IDEAS conference will convene from June 5 through June 8, 2018, in St. Simons Island, Georgia. Conference partners include Georgia Tools for Life (GTFL), Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Georgia Council for Exceptional Children (GaCEC), and the Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA). The workshops, presentations, and networking events are designed to provide professional guidance on educating students with disabilities. Past event-goers have reported that attending the conference improved their teaching skills and provided inspirational insights that revived them in their purpose.

#### Additional Information:

[IDEAS Conference Web Page](http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IDEAS/IDEAS-Conference.aspx)

[<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/IDEAS/IDEAS-Conference.aspx>]

# M-enabling Summit

The 7th Annual M-enabling Summit will convene June 11 through June 13, 2018, in Washington, D.C. This year’s theme is Accessible and Assistive Technologies Innovations: New Frontiers for Independent Living. Summit attendees can expect to hear presentations and visit exhibitors that address next-generation connected devices and services including artificial intelligence, augmented reality, digital assistants, autonomous vehicles, and more.

#### Additional Information:

[M-Enabling Summit Web Page](http://www.m-enabling.com/)

[<http://www.m-enabling.com/>]

# National Emergency Number Association 2018 Conference and Expo

The National Emergency Number Association (NENA) 2018 conference will convene June 16 through 21, 2018 in Nashville, TN. NENA's annual conference is designed to equip attendees with ideas and strategies for overcoming daily obstacles through the provision of experts’ and peers’ experiences. The Expo will feature cutting-edge products and services for 911, specifically, and public safety, in general.

#### Additional Information:

[NENA Conference Web Page](http://www.nena.org/?page=NENA2018)

[<http://www.nena.org/?page=NENA2018>]

**43rd Annual Natural Hazards Research and Applications Workshop**

The 2018 Natural Hazards Workshop will convene from July 8 to July 11, 2018, in Broomfield, CO. This year’s theme, [Twenty Questions: Looking for Answers to Reduce Disaster Risk](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/theme), will focus on critical areas that need addressing to reduce the human toll of disasters. Some session titles include [Moonshots: Ideas to Change the World of Hazards and Disasters](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/moonshots-ideas-to-change-the-world-of-hazards-and-disasters), [Cultural Competence: Initiatives to Reduce Disaster Vulnerability](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/cultural-competence-initiatives-to-reduce-disaster-vulnerability), [Root Causes: Social Inequality and Vulnerability in Disaster](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/root-causes-social-inequality-and-vulnerability-in-disaster), [Learning Our Lessons: Integrating Disaster Research and Practice](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018/session/learning-our-lessons-integrating-disaster-research-and-practice), and many more.

#### Additional Information:

[Natural Hazards Workshop Web page](https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018)

[<https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2018>]

# RESNA's 2018 Annual Conference

RESNA's 2018 Annual Conference will convene from July 11 to 15, 2018 in Arlington, VA. The conference will have presentations on assistive technology trends in cognitive and sensory impairments, computer applications and communications, emerging technology, job and environmental accommodations, public policy and advocacy, among others. In addition to the presentations, there will be an exhibit hall and networking opportunities.

#### Additional Information:

[2018 RESNA Conference Web page](https://www.resna.org/news-events/annual-meeting/resna-2018-annual-conference)

[<https://www.resna.org/news-events/annual-meeting/resna-2018-annual-conference>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** April 2018

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The Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) is a monthly newsletter that reports on national public policy events and tracks emerging issues of interest to individuals with disabilities, researchers, policymakers, industry, and advocacy professionals. 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 website 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 Salimah LaForce [[salimah@cacp.gatech.edu](file:///C:\Users\salimah\OneDrive%20-%20Georgia%20Institute%20of%20Technology\wiRERC_2016%20-%202021\TDPH\April%202017\salimah@cacp.gatech.edu)] or Kenneth Goughnour [kenneth@cacp.gatech.edu].

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