

Technology and Disability Policy Highlights  

March 2018

Overview

In March, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released a Public Notice seeking comment on a [**Joint Petition for Extension of Waiver of Accessible Emergency Information Requirements**](https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-18-298A1.pdf) [**12-107**]. The American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Association of Broadcasters filed the petition jointly requesting additional time (five years) to develop a technical solution that enables the automatic recognition, tagging, and describing of non-textual emergency information such as maps be video described. Despite concerted efforts to research and develop a technically feasible solution, the petitioners assert that the current state of the broadcasting system is not capable of capitalizing on advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) or application programming interfaces (APIs) that could facilitate compliance with the accessible emergency information requirement. The deadline for initial comments is April 13, 2018, and April 30, 2018, for reply comments. Prepared comments for docket number 12-107 can be uploaded via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>.

In Wireless RERC news, the slide decks for Wireless RERC Presentations at the 2018 CSUN Assistive Technology Conference are available for download.[**Getting on the Record with the FCC: Public Input Process How To’s**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/csun_2018_-_getting_on_the_record_with_the_fcc_final_pdf.pdf), was presented by Dr. Helena Mitchell and Salimah LaForce, and provided tips on how to submit comments to the FCC and contribute to disability stakeholder representation in the public input process. Brianna J. Tomlinson presented[**Supporting Simulation Use for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/2018_3_22_tomlinson_presentation_final_pdf.pdf), detailing a study that explored how enhancing interactive science simulations with sonifications can scaffold interaction and learning for students with cognitive impairments. Recruitment for the Survey of User Needs is ongoing. To inform the inclusive development of wireless technologies and services, we are collecting data on the user experiences and expectations of people with disabilities. Take the survey online at [**http://bit.ly/2018UserNeedsSurvey**](http://bit.ly/2018UserNeedsSurvey), or scan the QR Code below to open the survey on your mobile device:



This issue also includes news about, Breaking Down Barriers, Dr. Stephen Hawking, emojis, accessible gaming, hands-free switch access, 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

# Petition to Waive Accessible Emergency Information Requirements

March 26, 2018 - The FCC’s Media Bureau is seeking comment on a *Joint Petition for Extension of Waiver of Accessible Emergency Information Requirements* [**12-107**]. The American Council of the Blind, American Foundation for the Blind, and the National Association of Broadcasters filed the petition jointly requesting additional time (five years) to develop a technical solution. A provision the *Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010* (CVAA), the rules require that visual, non-news, televised emergency information be made accessible to people with vision disabilities utilizing the secondary audio stream to present visual information aurally. However, the rules also require that non-textual emergency information such as maps be video described, as well. This latter specification has proven difficult to achieve. The joint petition reads, “no technical solution exists for aurally describing dynamic visual images in emergency crawls that can be integrated into the current broadcasting system. Developers remain stymied by the problem of how to generate an audible crawl when the software to automatically create dynamic images, unlike text-based information, do not contain test files that can be converted to speech.” According to the petitioners, the current state of the broadcasting system is not capable of capitalizing on advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) or application programming interfaces (APIs) that could facilitate the automatic recognition, tagging, and describing of dynamic images and video content. However, with last month’s publication of the final rule, *Authorizing Permissive Use of the “Next Generation'' Broadcast Television Standard Report & Order* [**GN Docket No. 16-142**], efforts to transition from legacy systems to support advanced technologies are on the horizon. As broadcasters adopt the next-generation television standard, development of a technical solution to comply with making dynamic, non-text-based, emergency information accessible to people that are blind or have low vision is more viable. The deadline for initial comments is April 13, 2018, and April 30, 2018, for reply comments. Prepared comments for docket number 12-107 can be uploaded via the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>. [Source: FCC]

#### Additional Information:

**Public Notice:**

Word:    <https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-18-298A1.doc>

PDF:      <https://apps.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-18-298A1.pdf>

**Joint Petition:** <https://ecfsapi.fcc.gov/file/10323901626468/AudibleCrawlsExtensionPetition3-23-18.pdf>

# Richard Ray is Recognized as a Technology and Accessibility Leader

March 28, 2018 – In a recent Government Technology article, Mr. Richard Ray was recognized for his work in the city of Los Angeles as the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Technology Access Coordinator, as well as his leadership as co-chair of the Federal Communications Commission‘s Disability Advisory Committee. Mr. Ray, who is himself deaf, began working twenty-six years ago on helping connect people with disabilities in L.A. with city services. In the article, he lists spearheading the transition to texting 911 emergency services over using legacy teletypewriter (TTY) systems as one of his proudest achievements. Access to emergency services remains a barrier for many people in the United States who often rely on outdated or unreliable technology to communicate with and receive information from emergency services. Speaking to this issue, Mr. Ray said, “The national standard for answering 911 calls is 10 seconds. This is not equal access; that is why 911 texting is so important. TTY is 60 years old; Deaf people have been using mobile devices for quite a while.” He hopes in the future in addition to texting, video would be added as a 911-access option.

A current challenge that Mr. Ray has been focusing on is the lack of consistency in people receiving notifications, particularly in crises, saying, “Frequently people with disabilities are kicked off the message system or the “system simply breaks down. My focus this year is to heighten awareness nationally so that everyone receives the same information.” We wish Mr. Ray all the best in his continued efforts to increase accessibility for all citizens. [Source: Elizabeth Zima, Government Technology]

Additional Information:

[Top 25 Doers, Dreamers & Drivers of 2018](http://www.govtech.com/top-25/Richard-Ray.html)

[<http://www.govtech.com/top-25/Richard-Ray.html>]

Wireless RERC Updates

# Slide Decks Available: Wireless RERC Presentations at the 2018 CSUN Assistive Technology Conference

[**Getting on the Record with the FCC: Public Input Process How To’s**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/csun_2018_-_getting_on_the_record_with_the_fcc_final_pdf.pdf)

Wireless RERC Principal Investigator, Dr. Helena Mitchell, and Project Director, Salimah LaForce, presented at the 2018 CSUN Assistive Technology Conference. Their presentation provided useful tips on how to submit comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and contribute to disability stakeholder representation in the FCC’s public input process. Wireless RERC policy input through the years has had a significant impact on rules governing disability access to current and emerging technologies. Involvement in the “process” has been and will remain a critical task, one in which more disability stakeholders (individuals and organizations) should also engage. Through a more balanced accounting of people with disabilities’ experiences and expectations with current and emerging technologies, the FCC can better ensure that the accessibility provisions outlined in technology rules and regulations are broad enough to be applicable throughout this century, yet contain enough detail to sufficiently guide compliance and inclusion.

[**Supporting Simulation Use for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/2018_3_22_tomlinson_presentation_final_pdf.pdf)

Brianna J. Tomlinson, of the School of Interactive Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, presented at the 2018 CSUN Assistive Technology Conference. She discussed a study that explored how enhancing interactive science simulations with sonifications can scaffold interaction and learning for students with cognitive impairments. The study's research goals were to understand the needs of students with intellectual or developmental disabilities, understand the overlap between needs of students with intellectual or developmental disabilities and other students, and explore how to enhance PhET simulations for broader access. The use of sonification technology, developed by Dr. Bruce Walker, enhanced the PhET interactive computer simulations for teaching STEM subjects. The sonification technology is integral to other Wireless RERC work that is investigating next-generation auditory interfaces, gesture-enhancement to audio interfaces, and deep-learning enhancements to audio-interfaces.

#### Additional Information:

[Getting on the Record with the FCC: Public Input Process How To’s](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/csun_2018_-_getting_on_the_record_with_the_fcc_final_pdf.pdf)

[[csun\_2018\_-\_getting\_on\_the\_record\_with\_the\_fcc\_final\_pdf.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/csun_2018_-_getting_on_the_record_with_the_fcc_final_pdf.pdf)]

[Supporting Simulation Use for Students with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/2018_3_22_tomlinson_presentation_final_pdf.pdf)

# [[2018\_3\_22\_tomlinson\_presentation\_final\_pdf.pdf](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/sites/default/files/publications/2018_3_22_tomlinson_presentation_final_pdf.pdf)]

# Upcoming Book Chapter in Breaking Down Barriers

Wireless RERC researcher, Young Mi Choi, Ph.D., will have her book chapter,  "Introducing Assistive Technology and Universal Design Theory, Applications in Design Education" published in the upcoming textbook, *Breaking Down Barriers* published by Springer Nature. The chapter's focus is to better understand student assumptions related to the challenges of developing a universally designed device, compared to designing a dedicated assistive device. To do this, two projects were conducted in a sophomore industrial design studio class. Both projects got students to think outside of the box and learn to identify design opportunities. For many students, this aspect (identifying design opportunities) was one of the most difficult tasks.  The following broader lessons in both projects were the most important:

* Practice engaging actual users and directly tackling unexpected issues.
* Building empathy through direct interaction.
* Learning about the advantages, disadvantages and appropriate use of simulation.
* Challenging assumptions of personal views of the designed world.
* Understanding the differences between universal and assistive design.

# 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 user experiences and expectations of people with disabilities.

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

# A Tribute to Stephen Hawking, a Remarkable Theoretical Physicist and Advocate for People with Disabilities

“I want to show that people need not be limited by physical handicaps as long as they are not disabled in spirit.” – Dr. Stephen Hawking

March 2018 - Professor Stephen Hawking passed away on March 14, 2018, at the age of 76. The famous theoretical physicist helped bring the concepts of black holes and quantum gravity to a broad public audience. One of his biggest breakthroughs occurred in 1973 when Hawking discovered that black holes were not truly black; a tiny amount of radiation could escape their grasp (University of Cambridge, 2018). This radiation is now referred to as Hawking Radiation. On reminiscing about his discovery, Hawking said, “I wasn’t looking for them [Hawking Radiation] at all. I merely tripped over them. I was rather annoyed” (New York Times, 2018). This radical rethinking of gravity and quantum mechanics is largely seen as the first “great landmark in the struggle to find a single theory of nature” (New York Times, 2018). It is no exaggeration to say that Hawking’s discovery has driven and continues to drive theoretical physics forward (The Atlantic, 2018).

Author of A Brief History of Time and From the Big Bang to Black Holes, Dr. Hawking was known throughout the world for his works and his humor. Born on January 8, 1942 (exactly three hundred years after the death of Galileo Galilei), Hawking learned as a graduate student at Cambridge University in 1963 that he had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a degenerative neuromuscular disease also known as Lou Gehrig’s disease (ALS). He was given only a few years to live (New York Times, 2018). As he would later come to learn, however, Dr. Hawking had a very slow-progressing form of ALS, which affects less than a few percent of people with the condition (Scientific American, 2018). For most of his adult life, Hawking had diminishing control over his body, eventually only being able to interact through the flexing of his index finger and voluntary eye movements. To improve his ability to communicate, under Hawking's request, Intel and smartphone keyboard company, SwiftKey, developed the Assistive Contextually Aware Toolkit (ACAT)(Quartz, 2018). The software used predictive machine learning algorithms that had been trained on Hawking’s work, and  Dr. Hawking's innovative communication systems and specialized wheelchair allowed Dr. Hawking to share his work and respond much more quickly. On the effect of assistive technology on his life he wrote, "Without this technology, I would be mute, a prisoner inside my own mind. I would not be able to ask for a cup of tea, let alone describe my no-boundary theory of how the universe began. Because I have had such phenomenal technological support, I feel a responsibility to speak for others who have not" (Mashable, 2018).

 Hawking remained active throughout his life, spending thirty years as a full professor of mathematics at the University of Cambridge (Scientific American, 2018). In 2009, Hawking was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Barack Obama, who on the occasion said, "From his wheelchair, he's led us on a journey to the farthest and strangest reaches of the cosmos. In so doing, he has stirred our imagination and shown us the power of the human spirit here on Earth" (Obama White House, 2013). In an interview with the New York Times shortly after Hawking’s death, Michio Kaku, a professor of theoretical physics at the City University of New York said, “Not since Albert Einstein has a scientist so captured the public imagination and endeared himself to tens of millions of people around the world" (New York Times, 2018).

 Writing on his condition on his website, Dr. Hawking said, “I have had motor neuron disease for practically all my adult life. Yet it has not prevented me from having a very attractive family and being successful in my work. I have been lucky that my condition has progressed more slowly than is often the case. But it shows that one need not lose hope" (University of Cambridge, 2018). A few months before his death, Dr. Hawking also shared, “I want to share my excitement and enthusiasm about this quest. So remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet. Try to make sense of what you see and wonder about what makes the universe exist. Be curious, and however difficult life may seem, there is always something you can do, and succeed at. It matters that you don’t just give up" (University of Cambridge, 2018). Lucie Bruijn, Chief Scientist of The ALS Association, an advocacy and research organization in Washington, D.C., described Hawking as an inspiration for people with disabilities, saying, "He was a real figure of hope — that you can do things like communicate and continue to pursue a lifelong dream"  (Mashable, 2018).

Dr. Hawking’s body may have lived in his wheelchair, but his mind lived among the cosmos. He never accepted that he should be limited by his condition, and he outlived his prognosis by five decades. In the process, he transformed our understanding of the universe and many people's perceptions of disability. In the preface of the World Health Organization's World Report on Disability (2011), Hawkings wrote, “Disability need not be an obstacle to success. I have had motor neuron disease for practically all my adult life. Yet it has not prevented me from having a prominent career in astrophysics and a happy family life. In fact, we have a moral duty to remove the barriers to participation and to invest sufficient funding and expertise to unlock the vast potential of people with disabilities. Governments throughout the world can no longer overlook the hundreds of millions of people with disabilities who are denied access to health, rehabilitation, support, education and employment and never get the chance to shine.”

Throughout his life, Dr. Hawking believed that knowledge and the universe should be available to all; not locked away in texts that only academics could access and understand. Beyond his own books and publications, a film was produced on his life. The Theory of Everything is an award-winning 2014 British biographical romantic drama film set at Cambridge University and details Hawking's life. It was adapted from the memoir, Traveling to Infinity: My Life with Stephen, by Jane Hawking, Dr. Hawking's wife of thirty years.

Reflecting on the immense accomplishments of his old friend, Martin Rees, a Cambridge University cosmologist, the Astronomer Royal of England wrote of his longtime colleague, “His name will live in the annals of science; millions have had their cosmic horizons widened by his best-selling books; and even more, around the world, have been inspired by a unique example of achievement against all the odds — a manifestation of amazing willpower and determination" (Deccan Herald, 2018). Living with a life-long disability and possessing an uncommon spirit and intellect, Dr. Hawking’s attitudes and achievements inspire hope. Dr. Hawking and his singular intellect stand as a testament to his work in raising awareness and trying to improve life for people with disabilities while figuring out the mysteries of the cosmos.

Additional Information:

[Stephen Hawking Dies at 76; His Mind Roamed the Cosmos](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/14/obituaries/stephen-hawking-dead.html)

[<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/14/obituaries/stephen-hawking-dead.html>]

[Professor Stephen Hawking](https://www.cam.ac.uk/stephenhawking)

[<https://www.cam.ac.uk/stephenhawking>]

[Stephen Hawking Is Still Underrated](https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/03/stephen-hawking-is-still-underrated/555590/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=atlantic-weekly-newsletter&utm_content=20180316&silverid=MzIyNjMzOTg3NzI2S0)

[<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2018/03/stephen-hawking-is-still-underrated/555590/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=atlantic-weekly-newsletter&utm_content=20180316&silverid=MzIyNjMzOTg3NzI2S0>]

[Happy Birthday, Stephen Hawking](https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2013/01/08/happy-birthday-stephen-hawking)

[<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/blog/2013/01/08/happy-birthday-stephen-hawking>]

[How Has Stephen Hawking Lived Past 70 with ALS?](https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/stephen-hawking-als/)

[<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/stephen-hawking-als/>]

[A brief history of Stephen Hawking's work](http://www.deccanherald.com/content/665330/a-brief-history-stephen-hawkings.html)

[<http://www.deccanherald.com/content/665330/a-brief-history-stephen-hawkings.html>]

[Stephen Hawking was a remarkable advocate for people with disabilities](https://mashable.com/2018/03/14/stephen-hawking-disability-advocate-als/#BY3ga0ID0iqz)

[[https://mashable.com/2018/03/14/stephen-hawking-disability-advocate-als/#jAwolW\_MLiqE](https://mashable.com/2018/03/14/stephen-hawking-disability-advocate-als/%23jAwolW_MLiqE)]

# 13 New Emojis To Better Represent Users with Disabilities

March 27, 2018 – Apple issued a proposal to the Unicode Consortium, the group responsible for approving emojis, calling for 13 new emojis that more fully represent the diversity among people with disabilities. Created in partnership with the American Council for the Blind, the Cerebral Palsy Foundation, and the National Association of the Deaf, the new emojis include people using canes and wheelchairs, a guide dog, and people saying “I love you” in American Sign Language (ASL). In their proposal, Apple goes on to say, “The current selection of emoji provides a wide array of representations of people, activities, and objects meaningful to the general public, but very few speak to the life experiences of those with disabilities. This new set of emoji that we are proposing aims to provide a wider array of options to represent basic categories for people with disabilities.”

Two years ago Scope, a disability advocacy group in London introduced 18 emojis of people with a variety of disabilities to the Unicode Consortium, and Apple’s latest effort aligns with their history of making their software accessible to people of diverse needs and experiences. Acknowledging that this proposal did not reflect all persons with disabilities, the company said, “This is not meant to be a comprehensive list of all possible depictions of disabilities, but to provide an initial starting point for greater representation for diversity within the emoji universe.” [Source: Shaun Heasley, Disability Scoop.]

Additional Information:

[Apple Throws Support Behind Disability Emojis](https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2018/03/27/apple-support-disability-emojis/24900/)

[https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2018/03/27/apple-support-disability-emojis/24900/]

# New Racing Auditory Display for Low-Vision Gamers

March 7, 2018 – Brian A. Smith, a Ph.D. candidate at Colombia University, has created a Racing Auditory Display, or RAD, that allows gamers that are blind and low-vision to play racing video games. The system indicates speed, trajectory, and upcoming turns using a “sound slider” and directional sounds. Early results from volunteer trials showed the users preferring the system’s interface to another leading blind-accessible racing game. Mr. Smith says his RAD system can be integrated into most existing racing games and he hopes to develop the system in the future to add in-game capabilities and allow for use in other styles of games. [Source: Ben Coxworth, New Atlas]

Additional Information:

[RAD Tech Makes Racing Games Blind-Accessible](https://newatlas.com/rad-blind-racing-games/53711/)

[<https://newatlas.com/rad-blind-racing-games/53711/>]

# Hands-free Bluetooth Mouse for Users with Mobility Impairments

March 6, 2018 – This month Shenzhen City-based company, GlassOuse Assistive Device, introduced version 1.2 of its GlassOuse hands-free Bluetooth mouse for users with mobility impairments. The device, which comes in the form of a headset, comes off the heels of a successful Indiegogo funding campaign for the initial prototype and features three input methods which the company refers to as Bite Switch, Puff Switch, and Finger Switch. The Bite Switch mechanism has been redesigned for improved durability and sensitivity. The Puff Switch utilizes a “G-Switch Series” puff mechanism, which allows users to use puffs of air as click inputs. The Finger Switch is a very sensitive moveable switch button that allows the user to select its placement and which part of their body will activate the switch. In addition, version 1.2 of the GlassOuse features 9-axis gyroscopic sensitivity, so users can tilt their head to control cursor movement with improved precision.

GlassOuse Assistive Device believes their improvements represent a milestone in helping users with diverse needs access technology. For more information, visit their website: <http://glassouse.com/>. [Source: Global Accessibility News]

Additional Information:

[GlassOuse Assistive Device Announces Next Generation – Version 1.2](http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2018/03/06/glassouse-assistive-device-announces-next-generation-version-1-2/)

[<http://globalaccessibilitynews.com/2018/03/06/glassouse-assistive-device-announces-next-generation-version-1-2/>]

# Uber Health - On-demand Medical Transportation

March 1, 2018 – In an attempt to make the physical act of seeking medical care easier, Uber has been piloting Uber Health, a new initiative to help people with transportation issues get to medical appointments. Uber Health allows individuals and healthcare providers to schedule rides up to thirty days in advance, with options for follow-up appointments and reminders. According to Uber, the hidden cost of these transportation issues to the healthcare system total $3.6 million annually. Uber Health, which has been in beta testing with over 100 healthcare providers across the nation, attempts to alleviate that burden while increasing access for all patients, regardless of mobility. [Source: Nick Lavars, New Atlas]

Additional Information:

[Uber moves into healthcare with dedicated patient transport service](https://newatlas.com/uber-health-transport/53639/)

[<https://newatlas.com/uber-health-transport/53639/>]

**First FEMA PrepTalk: Modernizing Public Warning Messaging**

In case you missed it, in February, as part of their efforts to improve disaster warning systems and disaster preparedness, FEMA released their first PrepTalks Presentation. The inaugural video presentation, [Modernizing Public Warning Messaging](https://www.fema.gov/preptalks/mileti), details strategies and decision making processes that have worked in the past for industry experts such as Dr. Dennis Mileti, the speaker in this presentation. Among the issues addressed by Dr. Dennis Mileti were:

1. Alerts for Rapid Onset Events - events that occur shortly after being detected.
2. Removing Delays from the Warning System - main delay points typically occur during warning issuance, audience dissemination, and public action initiation.
3. Disseminating Alert and Warning Messages Wisely - use a diverse group of diffusion methods to reach a variety of unique subpopulations.
4. Issuing Messages that Reduce Public Action Delay – humans instinctively begin *milling* when they receive an emergency alert or notification. This milling behavior includes actions like searching for information regarding the event, talking to others about what to do, and deciding if the alert relates to a danger serious enough to take action.

Dr. Mileti emphasizes that to ensure the above factors are handled successfully, the most important aspect of an emergency alert is the content of the alert. The message must be very specific in describing the at-risk population, and describe exactly what to do and where to go if one is a member of that population. The message must also be clear in explaining the threat to those in the impacted area. These steps help to ensure that individuals receiving these alerts will spend less time milling online or talking to their neighbors about what the threat could be. Reducing milling behavior also reduces the impacted individuals’ reliance on unofficial or subjective assessments of the threat.

Future PrepTalk videos will include discussions of pandemics, disaster survivors, and public approval and support of disaster efforts.

Additional Information:

[Watch Modernizing Public Warning Messaging](https://www.fema.gov/preptalks/mileti)

[<https://www.fema.gov/preptalks/mileti>]

[FEMA and Emergency Management Partner Organizations Release First PrepTalks Video Presentation](https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/02/13/fema-and-emergency-management-partner-organizations-release-first-preptalks)

[<https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2018/02/13/fema-and-emergency-management-partner-organizations-release-first-preptalks>]

Upcoming Events

# Annual Southern Gerontological Society Meeting

Wireless RERC researchers Brad Fain, Paul M.A. Baker, and Brian Jones will be speaking on inclusive technology, policy, and research for the Technology and Aging panel at the Southern Gerontological Society 39th Annual SGS Meeting, "Moving Forward Together: Linking Research, Policy, Practice," April 13, 2018, in Buford, GA.

#### Additional Information:

[39th Annual SGS Meeting, Moving Forward Together: Linking Research, Policy, Practice](https://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting.html)

[<https://www.southerngerontologicalsociety.org/meeting.html>]

# Wireless RERC Leadership Workshop

The Wireless RERC hosts a Leadership Workshop, *Using Technology R&D to Effect Policy Change*, from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. Join us for a panel discussion, small group activities, and rapid-fire R&D demos. The event is free but seating is limited, and registration is required. RSVP to salimah@cacp.gatech.edu.

# 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 inspiration 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 (NENA) 2018 Conference and Expo

NENA 2018 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>]

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



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%3A%5CUsers%5Csalimah%5COneDrive%20-%20Georgia%20Institute%20of%20Technology%5CwiRERC_2016%20-%202021%5CTDPH%5CApril%202017%5Csalimah%40cacp.gatech.edu)], Kenneth Goughnour [kenneth@cacp.gatech.edu], or Carter Neely [carterjneely@cacp.gatech.edu].

If you wish to unsubscribe or update your email address, send an email to salimah@cacp.gatech.edu.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The contents of this newsletter were developed under a grant from the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number 90RE5025-01-00).  NIDILRR is a Center within the Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).  The contents of this newsletter do not necessarily represent the policy of NIDILRR, ACL, HHS, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government.