## Logo reads Wireless Inclusive RERC

## Technology and Disability Policy Highlights - March 2019

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

[Legislative Activities](#_Legislative_Activities:) [Regulatory Activities](#RegulatoryActivities)  [Wireless RERC Updates](#_Wireless_RERC_Updates) [Other Items of Interest](#_Other_Items_of)

 

March saw the reintroduction of [*The Internet of Things (IOT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2019*](https://www.scribd.com/document/401616402/Internet-of-Things-IoT-Cybersecurity-Improvement-Act-of-2019)bill*,* with an aim to improve security for IoT devices bought by government agencies. This Act has implications for the devices used by people with disabilities, and its legislative approach is similar to that used to bolster compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. That is, for technology companies to sell to the government, they must abide by certain security standards and regulations. In an effort to make diversity the standard, as opposed to the exception, the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing entitled “[Inclusion in Tech: How Diversity Benefits All Americans](https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/rescheduled-hearing-on-inclusion-in-tech-how-diversity-benefits-all).” This hearing discussed the link between workplace diversity and innovation and included testimony from Jill Houghton, President and CEO of Disability: IN, who asserted that diversity must include disability. Contending that disability inclusion is a driver of business performance and technology innovation.

In the regulatory space, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) voted to broaden the frequency ranges from 95 GHz to 3 THz for possible use with wireless communications as a 6G network. Ted Rappaport, the founder of NYU Wireless, provided five use cases for THz, including sensing for air quality detection, personal health monitoring, gesture detection, and touchless smartphones, explosive detection and gas sensing. The sensing use case also has implications for improving the accessibility of smart devices, and personal health monitoring could have a positive impact on the health and function of people with disabilities.

In Wireless RERC news, the team is preparing for our April 25, 2019 [Leadership Luncheon, *Contexts of Connectivity*](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/wireless-rerc-leadership-luncheon-contexts-connectivity), where we will engage in a discussion on how smart spaces can support the independent living of people with disabilities. If you’re in the Atlanta area, we invite you to join us. Please see the details inside the newsletter (page 6) or follow the link above.

This issue also includes news about rural broadband, *The State of Digital Accessibility 2019*, Microsoft’s Accessibility Checker, a “Robot’s eye view,” assistive technology for educational access, and more.

**Legislative Activities**

**The Internet of Things Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2019**

March 19, 2019 – Members from both sides of the aisle introduced the *Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2019* into the House and Senate. The bill seeks to implement regulations for IoT devices purchased by government agencies. These IoT devices must meet the standards for security set by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST). Reportedly, many IoT devices are lacking in security features or have vulnerabilities in their design. This issue of security in IoT devices has been considered as a threat to national security. The article asserts that the Office of the Director of National Intelligence has regularly noted IoT in its annual Worldwide Threat Assessment report since 2017. Approaches to improving IoT security are not novel; however, this legislative approach is similar to that used to bolster compliance with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. That is, in order for technology companies to sell to the government, they must abide by certain security standards and regulations. Previously, the Cybersecurity Improvement Act proposals provided best practices. This version of the *IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2019* places regulatory authority with NIST, directing them to create a series of security standards to mitigate vulnerability issues and to encourage technology companies seeking government contracts to comply with set standards.

These guidelines would also address another pertinent issue: how agencies, contractors, and developers handle security vulnerabilities in IoT devices that are already in use. Fortunately, prior to the introduction of this bill, NIST had begun to develop IoT security guidelines. As a result, the article suggests that the bill will be less susceptible to bureaucratic processes as it is not contingent on congressional dictations.

The bill also defines vulnerability as “any attributes . . . that could enable the compromise of the confidentiality, integrity, or availability of an information system.” This definition will likely be contested; however, this bill provides a progressive step towards addressing IoT security in our increasingly connected world and could assuage end-user reticence to adopt the technologies. [Source: 116th Congress; JustSecurity]

#### Additional Information:

Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2019

[<https://www.scribd.com/document/401616402/Internet-of-Things-IoT-Cybersecurity-Improvement-Act-of-2019>]

[A Legislative Shot at Internet of Things Security](https://www.justsecurity.org/63280/a-legislative-shot-at-internet-of-things-security/)

[

[https://www.justsecurity.org/63280/a-legislative-shot-at-internet-of-things-security/]](https://www.justsecurity.org/63280/a-legislative-shot-at-internet-of-things-security/%5D)

**Subcommittee Hearing on Inclusion in the Tech Workforce**

March 6, 2019 - The Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce of the Committee on Energy and Commerce held a hearing entitled “Inclusion in Tech: How Diversity Benefits All Americans.” This hearing discussed the effects of the lack of diversity in the technology sector, namely building in biases to consumer products and service delivery. Many witnesses asserted that the absence of a diverse workforce leads to the development of software and algorithms that contain and perpetuate biases against non-majority populations such as people with disabilities and racial and ethnic minorities. Seven expert witnesses testified at this hearing. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President of the University of Maine, articulated the necessity of higher education to recruit and retain diverse STEM professionals to participate in innovation and research. She argued that higher education has an obligation to ensure that professionals from a variety of backgrounds are able and ready, to apply their talents and perspectives to the design and development of technologies and business operations.

Jill Houghton, President and CEO of Disability: IN, asserted that diversity must include disability because disability inclusion is a driver of business performance and technology innovation. To support these arguments, she highlighted the Disability Equality Index (DEI), a “comprehensive tool benchmarking disability inclusion in corporate America.” The DEI analyzes disability inclusion along five categories: (1) Leadership and Culture, (2) Enterprise-Wide Access, (3) Employment Practices, (4) Community Engagement and (5) Supplier Diversity. Their study found that disability inclusion is good for business. Leading companies in disability inclusion “on average over the four-year period [had] 28 percent higher revenue, double the net income, and 30 percent higher economic profit margins than their peers.” Houghton’s company, Disability: IN, also found that inclusion drives technology innovation. They used Microsoft’s disability, diversity and inclusion initiatives as an illustrative example. Houghton also testified that the GDP could get a “boost up to $25 billion” if just 1 percent more of persons with disabilities joined the U.S. labor force.

Similar to Houghton’s testimony, Jiny Kim, Vice President of Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC) through Policy and Program, provided a report entitled “Breaking the Mold: Investing in Racial Diversity in Technology.” She argued that effective reform takes more than hiring reform, but a strong collaboration with civil society organizations “to change a deep-seated culture in tech companies.” After Kim’s testimony, David Lopez testified about the importance of diversity in technology. David Lopez is the Co-Dean at Rutgers Law School in Newark. He focused his argument on the use of big data, algorithms, artificial intelligence, and the negative effects of predictive analytics. Within his testimony, he says that “bad data inputs lead to bad results and can deepen inequality and discrimination.” Lopez continued to examine diversity and the challenges of algorithmic justice and ethical coding. Several other witnesses reiterated the link between workplace diversity and innovation. [Source: Committee on Energy and Commerce]

#### Additional Information:

[Hearing on “Inclusion in Tech: How Diversity Benefits All Americans”](https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/rescheduled-hearing-on-inclusion-in-tech-how-diversity-benefits-all) [Includes archived video of the hearing and PDFs of witness testimonies]

[<https://energycommerce.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/rescheduled-hearing-on-inclusion-in-tech-how-diversity-benefits-all>]

[Memorandum Regarding the Hearing](https://gtvault-my.sharepoint.com/personal/mz22_gatech_edu/Documents/wiRERC_2016%20-%202021/TDPH/March%202019/Memorandum%20Regarding%20the%20Hearing)

[https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF17/20190306/108901/HHRG-116-IF17-20190306-SD002.pdf](https://docs.house.gov/meetings/IF/IF17/20190306/108901/HHRG-116-IF17-20190306-SD002.pdf%20)

**Regulatory Activities**

**Terahertz Spectrum to Include Sensing, Imaging, and Wireless Cognition**

March 19, 2019 – Despite 5G still being in the developmental stages, the FCC voted to broaden the frequency ranges from 95 GHz to 3 THz for possible use with wireless communications as a 6G network. FCC Chairman, Ajit Pai, stated that the decision to expand the spectrum would “give innovators strong incentives to develop new technologies using these airwaves while also protecting existing uses.” The article also provided insight from Ted Rappaport, the founder of NYU Wireless, who was enthusiastic about the transition to 5G and the U.S.’s move to remain competitive in “science, technology, engineering, and mathematics [because] STEM and engineering research are so vital for our country’s economic future, and it needs attention like the President gave to 6G.” Rappaport also provided five use cases for THz uses and their applications as shown below:

* **Wireless cognition**: Robotic control and drone fleet control;
* **Sensing**: Air quality detection, personal health monitoring, gesture detection, and touchless smartphones, explosive detection and gas sensing;
* **Imaging:** See in the dark, HD resolution video radar, Terahertz security body scanning;
* **Communication**: Wireless fiber backhaul, intra-device radio communication, connectivity in data centers, information shower; and
* **Centimeter-level positioning.**

The sensing use cases have implications for improving the accessibility of smart devices, the wireless cognition use case can advance the capabilities of socially assistive robots, and personal health monitoring could have a positive impact on the health and function of people with disabilities. [Source: RCR Wireless]

#### Additional Information:

[Looking beyond 5G, FCC opens up Terahertz spectrum](https://www.rcrwireless.com/20190319/policy/fcc-terahertz-spectrum)

[<https://www.rcrwireless.com/20190319/policy/fcc-terahertz-spectrum>]

**Wireless RERC Updates**

**Two New Videos Available on Wireless RERC's YouTube Channel**

The Wireless RERC outreach team has produced two new accessible videos that are available on our [YouTube channel](https://www.youtube.com/user/WIrelessRERC/featured) and featured on our [website](http://www.wirelessrerc.org/?utm_source=Wireless+RERC+Newsletter+2019%2F03%2F15&utm_campaign=Wireless+RERC+Newsletter+2019%2F03%2F15&utm_medium=email).  The first video is an update to our popular Android-focused Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) video that shows how to customize the WEA settings on an Android device running OS version 8. This video intends to show how to enable or disable the various settings available in the WEA menu to suit your needs. Some of the settings could be considered accessibility features, so we want to ensure Android users know about these so that they do not miss an alert. The video is captioned and has American Sign Language (ASL) interpretation.

The second video is meant to provide information on the Wireless RERC homepage for visitors whose primary language is ASL. It gives a basic overview of our mission and the projects. This video is also captioned.

We encourage everyone to subscribe to our YouTube channel as we have more great videos coming out in 2019!

#### View the videos:

* [Customizing Wireless Emergency Alert Settings on Android Devices.](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIE81uIlF80&t=7s)
[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIE81uIlF80&t=7s>]
* [American Sign Language Interpretation Overview of The Wireless RERC and Website](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuwiqHsVOdU)

[<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YuwiqHsVOdU>]

**Content Generation for Workforce Training Workshop**

Paul M.A. Baker (Wireless RERC/Center for Advanced Communications Policy) and Maribeth Gandy Coleman (Wireless RERC/Interactive Media Technology Center) were on the "High-level views of the challenges" panel at the Computing Community Consortium (CCC) Content Generation for Workforce Training workshop held March 14-15, 2019 in Atlanta, Georgia. The visioning workshop was designed to discuss and articulate research concepts for authoring rich media content for new workforce training and summarize the current state of the practice. This workshop is in response to growing needs in the field and new programs such as the National Science Foundation’s Future of Work at the Human-Technology Frontier: Advancing Cognitive and Physical Capabilities initiative.

#### Additional Information:

[Workshop Information](https://cra.org/ccc/events/content-generation-for-workforce-training/)

[<https://cra.org/ccc/events/content-generation-for-workforce-training/>]

| Logo reads Wireless Inclusive RERCLeadership Luncheon512 Means Street NW, Atlanta, 30318 | Contexts of Connectivity•April 25, 2019 12:00pm - 2:00pm |
| --- | --- |
| Photo of Doug GuthriePhoto of Liz PersaudPhoto of Maribeth Gandy ColemanJoin us for a discussion on how smart spaces can support the independent living of people with disabilities.**Meet the speakers:**[**Douglas Guthrie**](https://corporate.comcast.com/news-information/leadership-overview/douglas-r-guthrie)(left) is Senior Vice President, Comcast Big South Region and responsible for operations, financial performance, and customer experience. Doug is very involved in many industry and community organizations. He actively supports Atlanta’s Special Olympics and personally mentors three individuals.[**Liz Persaud**](https://www.amacusg.gatech.edu/bio.php?id=119) (middle) is the Program and Outreach Manager within the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation at Georgia Tech. A nationally recognized public speaker, addressing the need to build bridges between individuals with and without disabilities, she has dedicated her life to increasing independence for individuals with disabilities through education on self-determination, successful transition practices, and using assistive technology. [**Maribeth Gandy Coleman**](http://www.imtc.gatech.edu/people/maribeth-gandy-coleman-phd) (right) is the Director of the Wearable Computing Center, Interactive Media Technology Center, and is a Principal Research Scientist at Georgia Tech. In her 16 years as research faculty, her work has been focused on the intersection of technology for mobile/wearable computing, augmented reality, human-computer interaction, assistive technology, and gaming. | Smart connected devices can enhance access to public and private environments and support the independent living of people with disabilities. From the home and workplace to community and recreation, let’s consider the possibilities and learn of the work being done to realize them.**Tools for Life Access Lab**After the discussion, [**Ben Jacobs**](https://www.amacusg.gatech.edu/bio.php?id=149), Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation, will demonstrate new consumer technologies that allow people with disabilities to manipulate their environments.**Register**Click “**yes**” to RSVP.Please indicate:* Accommodations that are needed.
* Dietary restrictions.

Questions? Call 404-894-8297 |

**Other Items of Interest**

**LiveWell RERC Wins Best Paper at CSUN Assistive Technology Conference**

March 2019 - The 34th *CSUN Assistive Technology Conference* (CSUN) convened March 11 through March 19, 2019, in Anaheim, California. This conference provided an opportunity for researchers, practitioners, exhibitors, end users, and others to share best practices and knowledge in the realm of assistive technology. The Dr. Arthur I. Karshmer Award for Assistive Technology Research is given on an annual basis to the author(s) with the best submission to the Science/Research Journal Track. The recipients of this year’s award included LiveWell RERC researchers Nicole Thompson, John Morris, Mike Jones, and Frank DeRuyter for their paper, [*Use of mHealth Technologies by People with Vision Impairment*](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5698f3670ab377ee41d1ff0b/t/5c784dedc83025058c534a2a/1551388141675/CSUN%2B2019%2BExtended%2BAbstract_mHealth%2BTechnology_Blind%2Band%2BLow%2BVision_FINAL.pdf), which shares the results of focus groups of people with vision disabilities use of mobile health technologies and software. [Source: LiveWell RERC]

#### Additional Information:

[LiveWell RERC researchers win the 2019 Dr. Arthur I. Karshmer Award for Assistive Technology Research](http://www.livewellrerc.org/news/2019/2/28/livewell-rerc-researchers-win-the-2019-dr-arthur-i-karshmer-award-for-assistive-technology-research)

[<http://www.livewellrerc.org/news/2019/2/28/livewell-rerc-researchers-win-the-2019-dr-arthur-i-karshmer-award-for-assistive-technology-research>]

**State of Digital Accessibility Report**

March 18, 2019 - Level Access and G3ict released their *State of Digital Accessibility 2019* report. The two organizations partnered to survey 550 professionals, working in large and small companies, about their accessibility programs. They examined the drivers for digital accessibility, who knows about and executes accessibility compliance, challenges faced, accessibility testing and testing tools, and the legal outlook. Regarding the latter, notably, the results showed that there were 2259 digital accessibility lawsuits in 2018 which is nearly triple the amount in 2017. “54.6% of legal & compliance officials surveyed said they are accelerating their accessibility plans due to the current litigation trends.” In response, the authors encourage that all digital content, including marketing materials, be accessible to people with disabilities; and respondents indicated a need and a want for the Americans with Disabilities Act to be amended to provide clarity on digital access rights.

The report also details the top five challenges for accessibility programs as shared by survey participants, which include: incorporating accessibility earlier in the development lifecycle, budget for accessibility program, training, too many content creators leading to unmonitored content, and the development timeline needing to account for accessibility in pre-design phases. “When digital accessibility is only considered after a product is developed, remediation takes more time and energy. It is much more cost-effective to be thinking about inclusive design at the first stages of planning a new product or a new feature for an existing product” the report states. The authors also suggest that companies do accessibility testing as part of a continuous integration strategy, citing the negative effects associated with forgoing accessibility testing as an indication of its worth. [Source: LevelAccess]

#### Additional Information:

[The State of Digital Accessibility 2019](https://www.levelaccess.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-State-of-Digital-Accessibility-Report-Final-a11y.pdf)

[<https://www.levelaccess.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/2019-State-of-Digital-Accessibility-Report-Final-a11y.pdf>]

**Microsoft Helping the Public to Develop Accessible Documents**

March 17, 2019 - Microsoft Office Suite is making it easier for people to make documents accessible to people with disabilities. Microsoft has implemented a feature called Accessibility Checker which allows the user to evaluate their content for accessibility errors. It provides an inspection results tab indicating which content is invisible to screen readers and also reading logic issues. For example, it is often difficult for screen readers to know where the object is relative to the text. The inspection results also give the user step-by-step instructions on how to remediate errors and troubleshooting tips. This feature can be used on emails or when sharing a document. The most recent update to the Accessibility Checker allows it to run in the background and gives reminders when the user should investigate errors. This technology improves the visibility of accessibility for the average Microsoft user, facilitating accessible document creation, and could have a positive impact on accessibility in the educational and workplace contexts. [Source: MSPowerUser]

#### Additional Information:

[Microsoft is making it easier to create accessible documents to help people with disabilities](https://mspoweruser.com/microsoft-is-making-it-easier-to-create-accessible-documents-to-help-people-with-disabilities/)

[<https://mspoweruser.com/microsoft-is-making-it-easier-to-create-accessible-documents-to-help-people-with-disabilities/>]

**Robot “EYE” Assist with Motor Impairments**

March 15, 2019 – Dr. Phillip Grice, a recent Georgia Tech doctoral graduate, and Dr. Charlie Kemp, a Biomedical Engineering Professor, developed augmented reality technology and placed it in a humanoid robot to help individuals with motor impairments. This robot assists with feeding and performing routine personal care tasks such as applying skin lotion. The technology can also provide the user with visual access to the environment. The web-based interface works by displaying a “robot’s eye view” of surroundings to help the user navigate and be aware of what is in the space. For example, a person with a limited range of head/neck motion may hear their door open and want to know who is entering the room. Robot eye-view will look for them.

To test the PR2 mobile manipulator (or wheeled robot) with 20 degrees of freedom, Grice and Kemp conducted two studies. In the first study, they made the PR2 available online. The participants learned to perform tasks utilizing the robot remotely and interfacing with their own assistive devices. In the second study, the two researchers utilized one participant to test the PR2 and interface system in vivo. The researchers reported that “When we gave Henry free access to the robot for a week, he found new opportunities for using it that we had not anticipated. This is important because a lot of the assistive technology available today is designed for very specific purposes. What Henry has shown is that this system is powerful in providing assistance and empowering users. The opportunities for this are potentially very broad.” These studies and the development of the PR2 addresses an essential human need for independence. Because the technology can enable independence for a wide range of people and multiple use cases, the researchers have produced foundational evidence for a new conceptualization of universal design. However, the product is still under evaluation because the cost and size of the PR2 as it stands it is not commercially viable. The studies were funded through a NIDILRR grant and can be found below. [Source: GaTech Newsroom]

#### Additional Information:

[Seeing through a Robot’s Eyes Helps Those with Profound Motor Impairments](https://www.news.gatech.edu/2019/03/15/seeing-through-robots-eyes-helps-those-profound-motor-impairments?utm_campaign=daily-digest&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dd-article:10789%7C2019-03-19)

[<https://www.news.gatech.edu/2019/03/15/seeing-through-robots-eyes-helps-those-profound-motor-impairments?utm_campaign=daily-digest&utm_medium=email&utm_source=dd-article:10789%7C2019-03-19>]

Phillip M. Grice and Charles C. Kemp, “In-home and remote use of robotic body surrogates by people with profound motor deficits” (PLOS ONE 2019). <https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0212904>

**Call for Data on Rural Internet**

March 11, 2019 - Three national rural nonprofits, Rural Community Action Partnership, National Association of Counties (NACo), and Rural LISC, collaborated to produce data on the speed of internet connections in rural America. To accomplish this, they partnered with the Measurement Lab and developed the TestIT smartphone app. The app was designed to identify and assess areas with low or no connectivity to help ensure adequate funding for broadband infrastructure around the country. It also measures and reports the speed of individual devices on any network whether it is fixed or cellular. These three nonprofits hope to “push for change” and identify major gaps for rural communities in hopes that the FCC, National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and other policymakers can address the issue with greater precision.

In the Wireless RERC comments regarding *Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion*[**GN Docket No. 17-199**], we noted that there is a higher prevalence of disability in rural America compared to urban areas. As such, people with disabilities living in rural areas, who have lower broadband adoption rates compared to their non-disabled counterparts regardless of geography, would face a double jeopardy, impeding access based on their region of residence and disability status. So, getting an accurate accounting of rural broadband speeds is important to targeting resources and initiatives to improve access and availability in the appropriate geographic areas.

Author’s note: The app was tested on an iPhone XR in St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands, and the test took about 34 seconds to run from the author’s residence in Crown Mountain. Though her carrier says there is service availability, the download speed was 9.49 Mbps, and the upload speed was .77 Mbps which is below the national average and below the FCC minimum. [Source: DailyYonder]

#### Additional Information:

[How Fast Is Rural Internet? Consumers Are Asked to Fill in the Gaps](https://www.dailyyonder.com/fast-rural-internet-consumers-asked-fill-gaps/2019/03/11/30708/)

[<https://www.dailyyonder.com/fast-rural-internet-consumers-asked-fill-gaps/2019/03/11/30708/>]

**Assistive Technology as a Facilitator of Equitable Access to Education**

March 7, 2019 - UNICEF released a press release reporting that 75% of children with disabilities in Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia are left out of inclusive, quality education. They assert that better access to assistive technology could transform these dismal statistics and “increase the number of children with disabilities in school.” To improve access to assistive technology (AT) for children with disabilities, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recommends that governments, private sector members, and other key stakeholders adhere to the following:

* Undertake research to better understand how and what types of AT can support children with disabilities in achieving access to education.
* Adopt legislation and associated policies that facilitate AT access.
* Provide funding to make AT an affordable and viable adoption.
* Establish systems to ensure the supply, quality, and service of AT.
* Train personnel so that AT can be used, maintained, updated, and repaired.
* Involve children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and the design of AT services and products.

[Source: UNICEF Relief Website]

#### Additional Information:

[Read the UNICEF Press Release](https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Children%20with%20Disabilities%20out%20of%20School_UNICEF_PR_FINAL.pdf)

[<https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/Children%20with%20Disabilities%20out%20of%20School_UNICEF_PR_FINAL.pdf>]

**Upcoming Events**

**Leadership Luncheon, Contexts of Connectivity**

The Wireless RERC will convene its Leadership Luncheon on Thursday, April 25, 2019, at the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation in Atlanta, Georgia. Join us for a discussion on how smart connected devices can enhance access to public and private environments and support the independent living of people with disabilities.

#### Additional Information:

[Event Details](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/wireless-rerc-leadership-luncheon-contexts-connectivity)

[<http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/wireless-rerc-leadership-luncheon-contexts-connectivity>]

**AAAED 45th National Conference and Annual Meeting**

Save the datefor the 45th National Conference and Annual Meeting to be held June 11 through 13, 2019 in Indianapolis, IN. The theme will be “Moving Beyond Diversity Towards Equity and Inclusion.”

#### Additional Information:

If you would like to join the Committee, please email us at [Conference2019@aaaed.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5Cmz22%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CT1OK8VV1%5CConference2019%40aaaed.org).

**M-Enabling Summit 2019**

The M-Enabling Summit will convene from June 17 to June 19, 2019, in Washington, D.C. Summit presenters will cover topics such as robotics, wearables, virtual and augmented reality, artificial intelligence, and IoT.

#### Additional Information:

[Conference Registration](http://www.m-enabling.com/conreg.html)

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

**Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) 2019**

APPAM 2019 will convene July 29 through 30, 2019 in Barcelona, Spain. Co-hosted by [The Johns Hopkins University - University Pompeu Fabra (JHU-UPF) Public Policy Center](https://www.upf.edu/web/jhu-ppc), this year’s theme is “Public Policy in an Era of Rapid Change.” A global perspective will be taken at this conference with a particular emphasis on informing policies that address social inequalities.

#### Additional Information:

[APPAM 2019](http://www.appam.org/2019-international-conference/)

[<http://www.appam.org/2019-international-conference/>]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights, March 2019**



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, user experiences, and expectations 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)] or Dara Bright [dara.bright@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.