Technology and Disability Policy Highlights

February 2016



# Overview

In February, the *Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act* (READ Act) became Public Law No: 114-124, establishing a Research in Disabilities Education program to work towards expanding interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) for students with dyslexia or other disabilities. More now than ever, access to broadband services is integral to academic, and eventually, career achievements for people with and without disabilities alike. In an effort to ensure access to broadband services for low income Americans, 81 members of Congress signed a letter to FCC chairman Tom Wheeler on the subject of modernizing the current Lifeline program, and advocating for the inclusion of broadband internet services in Lifeline.

In the regulatory arena, the FCC adopted amendments to the closed captioning rules to increase access to televised video programming for Americans that are Deaf or hard of hearing. The FCC is using these amendments to clarify which parties are responsible for the different aspects of delivery and quality of closed captioning on television. Additional actions under purview of CVAA implementation included the FCC Order granting an indefinite waiver extension of rules regarding the accessibility of e-readers. As before, this waiver is for a narrow class of e-readers with the following features: 1) the device has no LCD screen; 2) the device has no Camera; 3) the device is not offered with built-in email or other similar ACS applications; and 4) the device is marketed as a reading device and does not advertise the capability to access advanced communications services (ACS).

In Wireless RERC news, we are pleased to announce funding of five new assistive technology apps for development and release in 2016 as part of our [App Factory development project](http://wirelessrerc.org/content/app-factory-d1). These new apps will provide solutions to a range of challenges that users with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments face. Regarding people who are deaf or hard of hearing [the Wireless RERC filed comments](http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001520486) in the FCC’s Hearing Aid Compatibility (HAC) Rulemaking. The comments were, in large part, informed by analyses of data collected via the Wireless RERC’s hearing aid compatibility (HAC) survey research which was designed to gather data from people who use hearing aids and cochlear implants on how well their hearing technology works with their wireless handsets. Finally, building upon research initiated via the Wireless RERC emergency communications research and development (R&D) projects, the final technical report of the DHS S&T funded project was released. [Optimizing Ability of Message Receipt by People with Disabilities: Prototype Findings Report/Vibration Scale Final Report](http://www.firstresponder.gov/TechnologyDocuments/WEA%20-%20Optimizing%20Ability%20of%20Message%20Receipt%20by%20People%20with%20Disabilities.pdf), summarizes the findings of R&D efforts to understand and identify ways to ensure that people with disabilities had timely and effective access to WEA messages.

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

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

# Legislative Activities

**Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act becomes Law**

February 18, 2016 - The *Research Excellence and Advancements for Dyslexia Act* (READ Act) [**Public Law No: 114-124**] requires that funding be allotted to the National Science Foundation for a Research in Disabilities Education program. This program will work towards expanding interest in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for students with dyslexia or other disabilities; and will support research on “the early identification of children and students with dyslexia, professional development for teachers and administrators of students with dyslexia, curricula and educational tools needed for children with dyslexia, and implementation and scaling of successful models of dyslexia intervention.”

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[READ Act [Public Law No: 114-124]](https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3033)

[<https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-bill/3033>]

**Members of Congress Write Letter Advocating Broadband Access for Low Income Americans**

February 11, 2016 - 81 members of Congress signed a letter to FCC chairman Tom Wheeler about modernizing the current Lifeline program. In its current state, the Lifeline program provides discounts on landline and wireless telephone service to low income households. The letter advocates for the inclusion of broadband internet services in the Lifeline program to make broadband more widely available to Americans with low incomes. The letter contained a series of suggestions like offering a Lifeline subsidy to families that have bundled services and not allowing service providers to use the Lifeline program to lock consumers into long term contracts. Should the FCC pass an Order to include broadband in the Lifeline program, the signatories assert that “The broadband services available to eligible households should not sacrifice quality for affordability.” Movement on the FCC’s efforts to modernize Lifeline is expected early next month.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Read the Letter](http://takano.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Lifeline%20Support%20Letter%202%2011%2016%20copy.pdf)

[<http://takano.house.gov/imo/media/doc/Lifeline%20Support%20Letter%202%2011%2016%20copy.pdf>]

# Regulatory Activities

**FCC Releases Final Report on Next-Generation 911**

February 19, 2016 - The *Consolidated Final Report of the Task Force on Optimal PSAP* [Public Safety Answering Point] *Architecture* has been made available to the public. The report contains recommendations to the FCC regarding actions that PSAPs can take to improve their security, funding and begin NG9-1-1 implementation. The three major themes of the report are cybersecurity, service architecture, and resource allocation. The architecture working group was responsible for, among other things, “ensuring and improving access to NG9-1-1 for people with disabilities.”

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[The Consolidated Final Report of The Task Force On Optimal PSAP Architecture](https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-tfopa-final-report-0)

<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0219/DA-16-179A1.pdf>

**FCC Open Commission Meeting & Accessibility of Video Programming**

February 18, 2016 - The FCC held an open Commission meeting on February 18th. Three items were on the agenda: (1) the first item was the promotion of diverse independent sources of video programing; (2) following was the expansion of consumer video navigation choices; and (3) the last was closed captioning of video programing for people that are deaf or hard of hearing. Regarding the latter, the FCC Adopted amendments to the closed captioning rules to increase access to televised video programming for Americans that are Deaf or hard of hearing. The FCC is using these amendments to clarify which parties are responsible for the different aspects of delivery and quality of closed captioning on television. Video programmers are responsible for the quality of the closed captioning while the distributors handle the delivery and technical aspects. For more information on the amendments follow the link below.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Meeting Webcast](https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2016/02/february-2016-open-commission-meeting)

[[https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2016/02/february-2016-open-commission-meeting](https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2016/02/february-2016-open-commission-meeting)]

[Meeting Agenda](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0211/DOC-337700A1.pdf)

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0211/DOC-337700A1.pdf>]

[Closed Captioning News Release](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0218/DOC-337796A1.pdf)

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0218/DOC-337796A1.pdf>]

**FCC Releases Order Concerning E-Reader Accessibility Waiver**

February 1, 2016 - The Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau of the FCC released an Order In the Matter of Implementation of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Twenty-First Century Communications and Video Accessibility Act of 2010; Coalition of E-Reader Manufacturers’ Petition for Class Waiver of Sections 716 and 717 of the Communications Act and Part 14 of the Commission’s Rules Requiring Access to Advanced Communications Services (ACS) and Equipment by People with Disabilities [CG Docket No. 10-213]. Part 14 of the FCC’s rules require that advanced communications services (ACS) and equipment be accessible to people with disabilities. However, the Order allows for an indefinite waiver extension of rules regarding the accessibility of e-readers. The waiver is for a narrow class of e-readers with the following features:

* The device has no LCD screen
* The device has no Camera
* The device is not offered with built-in email or other similar ACS applications
* The device is marketed as a reading device and does not advertise the capability to access ACS

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Order [CG Docket No. 10-213]](http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0201/DA-16-113A1.pdf)

[<http://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2016/db0201/DA-16-113A1.pdf>]

# Other Items of Interest

**Captivoice, a Free Web Service for Students with Dyslexia or Vision Loss**

February 25, 2016 - Charmtech Labs LLC released Captivoice, a free web service meant to aid students with dyslexia or vision loss in accessing educational materials. The service reads digital texts aloud to the students using high quality text-to-speech voices. Captivoice also allows teachers to create a playlist of text to use with reading assignments for their students. More information can be found in the press release.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Press Release](https://www.captivoice.com/capti-fileserv/download/2016_02_25_PressRelease.doc)

[<https://www.captivoice.com/capti-fileserv/download/2016_02_25_PressRelease.doc>]

**Zyrobotics Awarded Small Business Innovation Research Funds**

February 19, 2016 - The National Science Foundation (NSF), Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program awarded Zyrobotics with phase II funding to continue research on providing mobile device access to children with motor disabilities. According to the press release, in light of the fact that bring your own device realities in the classroom are transforming how teachers teach and learners learn, this fining will facilitate their other goal of bringing STEM subjects to children with special needs. More specifically, they will be creating more educational apps and working on increasing the usability of their current offerings to teachers, parents, and therapists. Founder Dr. Howard said, “I believe that every engineer has a responsibility to make the world a better place because we do have that power to create new things, to help society.”

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Press Release](http://zyrobotics.com/zyrobotics-awarded-phase-ii-funding-from-the-national-science-foundation-2/)

[<http://zyrobotics.com/zyrobotics-awarded-phase-ii-funding-from-the-national-science-foundation-2/>]

**Class Action Lawsuit Brought against AMC Entertainment on behalf of Blind and Visually Impaired**

February 16, 2016 – A complaint filed in the United States District Court, Norther District of California alleges AMC Entertainment violated the ADA when their theaters repeatedly provided insufficient access to video described content. The plaintiffs in the lawsuit have sought audio description technology to receive the same movie going experiences as others during scenes with no dialogue. The argument is being made that AMC does not adequately maintain its audio description technology. According to the complaint, theater patrons that request the equipment, when it is furnished, are often given the wrong equipment or equipment with the wrong movie audio described, or broken or otherwise useless technology and therefore AMC is failing to provide equal access to its theater services which is an alleged violation of Title III of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[COMPLAINT FOR INJUNCTIVE AND DECLARATORY RELIEF FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12101, *et seq*.](http://dralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/AMC_Complaint.docx)

[<http://dralegal.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/AMC_Complaint.docx>]

**W3C Working to Build a More Secure Network**

February 17, 2016 – The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C), a coalition of organizations that develop web standards, has launched a new web standards effort titled Web Authentication. The authentication standard was designed to enable more flexible and secure password alternatives for web logins. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, Web Inventor and W3C Director, had this to say, “When strong authentication is easy to deploy, we make the Web safer for daily use, personal and commercial. With the scope and frequency of attacks increasing, it is imperative for W3C to develop new standards and best practices for increased security on the Web." This new effort’s goal is to create a safer web experience for all users.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[News Release](https://www.w3.org/2016/02/securewebauthwg.html.en)

[<https://www.w3.org/2016/02/securewebauthwg.html.en>]

**Google Research Awards Announced**

February 12, 2016 - Google recently announced winners of its annual research awards competition. The awards cover tuition for graduate students and allow these students and their faculty to work alongside Google researchers and engineers. There were 950 project proposals from all over the world and 151 were funded. Georgia Tech researchers are perennial awardees and appear this year in the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and Hardware and Software Systems categories. Congratulations to all the winners and kudos to Georgia Tech’s own, Keith Edwards (HCI) and Hadi Esmaeilzadeh (Systems). For more information and a complete list of the winners follow the link below.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Google Research Awards: Fall 2015](http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2016/02/google-research-awards-fall-2015.html)

[<http://googleresearch.blogspot.com/2016/02/google-research-awards-fall-2015.html>]

# Wireless RERC Updates

**Wireless RERC Announces 2016 App Factory App Development Awards**

The Rehabilitation Engineering Center for Wireless Technologies (Wireless RERC) is pleased to announce funding of five new assistive technology apps for development and release in 2016 as part of its App Factory development project. These new apps will provide solutions to a range of challenges that users with physical, sensory and cognitive impairments face. The Wireless RERC received 13 proposals for its 2016 App Factory funding competition. All were top quality proposals targeting important user needs. After careful consideration, 5 were selected for funding.

[BlueSky Designs](http://blueskydesigns.us) **Pow!r Mount** app will provide accessible control for powered mounting and positioning systems. The app works in conjunction with BlueSky Design's forthcoming Pow!r Mount to provide individuals with significant physical disabilities access to and control over devices in their environment through their smart device, like a smartphone, tablet or AAC device. With the powered mount’s ability to move, rotate and tilt devices and trays, a person will be able to move essential items into accessible positions, and to easily and independently change activities. Positioning of mounted devices is controlled through an accessible method of choice, such as a switch, voice, wheelchair controls or direct touch, with a finger or conductive mouthstick. The Pow!r Mount app will be available for iOS and Android devices.

[Komodo OpenLab’s](http://gettecla.com) **Tecla Remote** expands on the success of its Tecla Shield switch controller and related technologies, in order to facilitate access and control of appliances and external hardware by people who lack the fine motor manual abilities to interact with the standard console, remote or app-based controls provided with commercial media streaming devices. The Tecla Remote will be available for iOS and Android devices.

[Sendero Group’s](http://www.senderogroup.com) **Easy Listening** app is a low cost application that will facilitate direct smartphone/earpiece communication to provide local noise cancelling and speech amplification for people who are blind as well as for everyone who wishes a more easy listening experience. It will employ sophisticated noise filtering and amplification to differentiate itself from other sound amplifying apps already available in the marketplace. It will be available on the iOS operating systems.

[Shepherd Center’s](http://www.shepherd.org) **Healthy Timer** app will allow users to use their mobile devices as a tool for providing consistent timers and reminders for key daily activities, such as weight shift prompts, bladder management cues, medication reminders, meal reminders, blood sugar monitoring, performance of home exercise programs, positioning reminders (ex.“keep your head up”) and monitoring and controlling moods and behaviors (behavior “check in”) to name just a few. The core timer functionality may also serve as a platform for future integration with bio-sensor technology to automatic alerting. Healthy Timer will be available on Android Play.

[Smart Steps](http://www.smartsteps4me.com) will be using App Factory funds to add functionality to its existing decision-making app for users with autism, developmental disabilities or other cognitive impairments. The existing Smart Steps app prompts users to create decision trees to solve problems such as taking the bus, asking strangers for help, and interacting with others. The new functionality will enhance the ability to save and share decision trees, the ability for Smart Steps admins to assign decision trees to individuals and groups, the ability to send text messages directly from the Smart Steps app, and add a read aloud button inside the app, to name a few. Smart Steps is currently available on [Apple’s App Store](https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smart-steps-mobile/id887603628?mt=8) and [Google Play](https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.smartsteps4me.mobile&hl=en).

The Wireless RERC’s App Factory project has funded over 20 assistive app development projects over the past 5 years through an annual call for proposals. Read more at: <http://wirelessrerc.org/content/app-factory-d1>.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information, please contact Ben Lippincott at ben@imtc.gatech.edu or 404-894-7034.

**Wireless RERC on the Record: Volume Control Standards for Hearing Aid Compatibility**

The Wireless RERC, in collaboration with Georgia Tech’s Center for Advanced Communications Policy (CACP) filed comments before the FCC in response to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) *In the Matter of Access to Telecommunications Equipment and Services by Persons with Disabilities* **[CG Docket No. 12-32];** *Petition for Rulemaking Filed by the Telecommunication Industry Association Regarding Hearing Aid Compatibility Volume Control Requirements* **[CG Docket No. 13-46];** *Amendment of the Commission’s Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets* **[WT Docket No. 07-250];** *Comment Sought on 2010 Review of Hearing Aid Compatibility Regulations* **[WT Docket No. 10-254].** The comments, in large part, were informed by analyses of data collected via the Wireless RERC’s hearing aid compatibility (HAC) survey research. The 2014 HAC survey was designed to gather data from people who use hearing aids and cochlear implants on how well their hearing technology works with their wireless handsets. Answers to the survey questions have provided insight into the effectiveness of hearing aid compatibility requirements in the United States, as well as the need for any amendments to the rules.

The Wireless RERC’s comments supported the incorporation of the proposed 2012 American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Wireline Volume Control Standard, and further recommended extending any technology requirements for wireline phones to Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) phones, as well. Regarding applying the volume control standard to wireless devices, the comments took a more modified approach. While the Wireless RERC generally agrees with the FCC’s belief “*that standards and requirements for manufacturers and service providers are needed for volume control in wireless handsets as well[[1]](#footnote-1)” and r*espondents to the Wireless RERC’s 2014 HAC Survey indicated that volume control impacted the usability of their wireless handset; ultimately the Wireless RERC supported further investigation of whether it is necessary to incorporate a volume control standard for wireless handsets, recognizing that this might take longer than voluntary compliance via industry driven solutions. Given the complexity of interactions between increasingly sophisticated and powerful wireless handsets, telecom delivery services (i.e. VoIP), hearing aids and the variability of hearing loss amongst the users, the difficulty of crafting regulations that improves access for end-users is not overlooked by the Wireless RERC/CACP. Nevertheless, people with hearing loss deserve and are entitled to parity of access to telecommunications services, wireless, or otherwise.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Wireless RERC HAC 2016 Comments](http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001520486)

[<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/view?id=60001520486>]

[**WEA - Optimizing Ability of Message Receipt by People with Disabilities**](http://www.firstresponder.gov/TechnologyDocuments/WEA%20-%20Optimizing%20Ability%20of%20Message%20Receipt%20by%20People%20with%20Disabilities.pdf)

February 9, 2016 - In 2014, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate funded the Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech), Center for Advanced Communications Policy to examine and report on how to optimize Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) message receipt by people with disabilities. The research conducted under this contract with DHS S&T builds upon research initiated via the Wireless RERC emergency communications research and development projects.

Reaching people with disabilities, including the Deaf and the hard of hearing, with WEA messages is critical, in part because people with disabilities utilize and depend on wireless devices, including mobile phones at more than 96 percent. Their devices become even more important during emergencies. The aim of this project was to assist in understanding and identifying ways to ensure that people with disabilities had timely and effective access to WEA messages. This report summarizes the findings.

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Optimizing Ability of Message Receipt by People with Disabilities: Prototype Findings Report/Vibration Scale Final Report](http://www.firstresponder.gov/TechnologyDocuments/WEA%20-%20Optimizing%20Ability%20of%20Message%20Receipt%20by%20People%20with%20Disabilities.pdf)

[<http://www.firstresponder.gov/TechnologyDocuments/WEA%20-%20Optimizing%20Ability%20of%20Message%20Receipt%20by%20People%20with%20Disabilities.pdf>]

**Top 25 TDPH Topics of 2015**



Technology and Disability Policy Highlights (TDPH) editors produced 149 stories in 2015, covering a wide range of disability access issues. The graphic word cloud above depicts the twenty-five most used keywords in 2015. The keywords that appeared the most include: Accessibility, Wireless, Policy, Services, Assistive Technology (AT), Blind (Vision Loss/Impairment), Emergency, Employment, Web, Apps, and Community. Not surprisingly, “hot” topics were the provision of accessible information, wireless technology, emerging technology, the community and public impact, research, and policy. The provision of accessible information largely referred to emergency information, and included policy considerations for ensuring access to emergency alerts and information over multiple platforms (television, radio, wireless devices, and other Internet connected devices). Other policy content, not related to emergency information, addressed employment, broadband access, hearing-aid compatibility, accessible transportation, and inclusive education, to name a few. The TDPH stories concerning wireless technology as a keyword addressed linking hearing aid technology to wireless devices, text-to-911, accessible and assistive apps, using wireless technology as a workplace accommodation, and more. The emerging technology content included smart cities, wearables and other Internet of Things connected devices.

While our most frequent information source was the FCC, we developed reports from a variety of homes: the White House, The Department of Justice, Department of Labor, FEMA, National Council on Disability, Life Labs, HTC, Sendero Group, United Nations, Web AIM, Partnership for Employment and Accessible Technology (PEAT), NARIC, Nuance, Mobility Live, and many more, for a total of 67 discrete sources in all.

As you may have noticed, the TDPH is organized by story type. The following chart shows the percentage of stories for each type (i.e. legislative, regulatory, publications and reports, other items of interest and Wireless RERC news.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Story Type** | **Percent** |
| Legislative Activities | **7.4%** |
| Regulatory Activities | **26.2%** |
| Publications and Reports | **8.7%** |
| Other Items of Interest | **38.3%** |
| Wireless RERC Updates | **19.5%** |

Table 1 - Percentage of TDPH Stories by Story Type

The TDPH reaches 640 subscribers directly via email, and extends to a much greater audience through social media. We engage over 911 members in our LinkedIn Group ([ATPG](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1854667&trk=my_groups-b-grp-v)), 657 followers on Twitter ([@CACPGT\_wRERC](https://twitter.com/CACPGT_wRERC)), and 297 fans on Facebook ([WirelessRERC](https://www.facebook.com/WirelessRERC)). In 2015, the Wireless RERC’s social media presence on Twitter alone was able to reach more than 200,000 profiles/people. As measured by social media sharing rates, last year’s top ten stories were:

* [Take the 2015 Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) Survey!](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/take-2015-wireless-emergency-alert-wea-survey)
* [Reaching People with Disabilities: Wireless Emergency Alerting and Accessibility](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/reaching-people-disabilities-wireless-emergency-alerting-and-accessibility)
* [Emergency Preparedness and Your Mobile Device](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/emergency-preparedness-and-your-mobile-device)
* [App Factory Releases 2015-2016 Call for Proposals](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/app-factory-releases-2015-2016-call-proposals)
* [New App in Development to Help People with Disabilities Navigate Buildings](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/new-app-development-help-people-disabilities-navigate-buildings)
* [Wireless RERC Comments on Accessible Emergency Communications](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/wireless-rerc-comments-accessible-emergency-communications)
* [Multilingual and Sign Language Disaster Training Library Offered Online](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/multilingual-and-sign-language-disaster-training-library-offered-online)
* [2015 Wireless Independence Now! Workshop Presentations Available Online](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/2015-wireless-independence-now-workshop-presentations-available-online)
* [New Requirements for Video Game Accessibility May Start In The Fall](http://www.wirelessrerc.gatech.edu/content/newsroom/new-requirements-video-game-accessibility-may-start-fall)

If you haven’t already, please join us on LinkedIn ([ATPG](https://www.linkedin.com/groups?gid=1854667&trk=my_groups-b-grp-v)), Twitter ([@CACPGT\_wRERC](https://twitter.com/CACPGT_wRERC)), and Facebook ([WirelessRERC](https://www.facebook.com/WirelessRERC)). None of this would be possible without you, our readers. You may receive the newsletter directly as a monthly digest, or as-it-happens updates on social media.  Either way we appreciate your being a part of our network.  As always…thanks for reading and sharing!

# Upcoming Events

#

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

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

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

**Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity**

The 32nd Annual Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity -“From the Margins to the Center” will convene in Honolulu, HI on April 25-26, 2016. Pac Rim 2016 addresses the question: How do we innovate to bring more people from the margins of society into the center where they can live to their full potential?

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Conference Website](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/)

[[http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/](http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/)]

**Technology and Disability Policy Highlights,** February 2016



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

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

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

This is a publication of the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center for Wireless Technologies supported by the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR grant number 90RE5007-01-00).  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

1. *1996 HAC R&O*, 11 FCC Rcd at 8282 ¶ 78. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)