



KARRN and ACAT updates from June 6th through July 18th, 2023

1. CARAT-TOP Program
 - a. We have created the curriculum to use this fall with our 4th cohort of high school students in Perry Co.
 - i. Will be working with only one school this fall (Hazard Independent High school)
 - b. We are working with a professional videographer to create a CARAT-TOP promotional video that we can use when meeting with different school systems.
 - c. We will begin our 3rd year of funding by the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disability to create a mobile version of this program.
 - i. We have begun purchasing this equipment for the mobile kits.
 - ii. We are developing different build kits that we will take into the schools and libraries.
 - d. We have funding to hire 1-2 high school students to help in the ACAT center.
2. Summer Activities----- Toys with a Purpose program
 - a. We participated in several high school summer camps at UK this that focused on examining accessibility and inclusion through play and adapting toys and board games. Each of these events was a lot of fun. The students were very energetic, thoughtful, and creative when developing their ideas for adapting toys and games. They also began to look at the world a bit different.
 - i. June 15th, 4-H Teen Summer Conference. We worked with 20 students and 4 mentors.
 - ii. June 21st, AHEC summer Camp. We worked with 20 students and 3 counselors.
 - iii. July 14th, CHS Summer Bridge Program. We worked with 15 students and 5 mentors.
 - b. We gave a workshop at the KY Assistive Technology Summer Conference on June 28th.
 - c. We met with the eastern KY supervisors for the KY Department of Community Based Services (DCBS). This Department oversees the Foster Care and Child Protective Services. We are working to see how we can provide support for the kids in these programs.
 - d. We have begun collaborating with Professor Dima Strakovsky in the UK School of Art and Visual Arts. Professor Strakovsky brings in a lot of experiences in many areas including having worked for a toy manufacture. He and his daughter (a student at Dunbar High School) have been helping adapt some of the more complex toys and prototyping inexpensive switches.

3. Appalachian Center for Assistive Technology (ACAT)
 - a. We are almost completed with the application process to become a Pre-employment transition (Pre-ETS) vendor in eastern KY.
 - b. We held our next CARAT training session which included DPT students and two of the Kentucky Home Place Community Health Workers.
 - c. We are planning a community "Open House" for August 8th.
 - d. We are currently working with the UK Center of Excellence in Rural Health (CERH) admin to create the Program Work Plan/ Strategic Plan for the ACAT and will share this with our Community Advisory Committee.
 - e. We are currently working to expand our Community Advisory Committee in a targeted way to include additional community stakeholder groups.

4. Student projects. They are all moving along.
 - a. Decreasing Biases towards individuals with disabilities.
 - i. Project includes four CHS undergraduate students.
 1. They presented their initial literature search at the UK Undergraduate Research Showcase on April 26th and did a great job.
 - ii. Working with and interprofessional team including Melissa Slone, Jim Ballard III, Shelly Ferrin, Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker, Judy Page, Janine Schmedding-Bartley.
 - iii. We are planning on holding 2-day experience for students in the UK Interprofessional Healthcare Residential College (IHRC) program.

 - b. Coordination and Assisting the Reuse of Assistive Technology (CARAT) program assessment
 - i. We have two DPT students who will be working with me and the KY Assistive Technology Service Network to develop a survey that will examine the impact of the CARAT program on quality of life and community participation. We will also be examining supports and barriers to access to DME. This project will likely have an interview component to it.

 - c. CARAT-TOP program assessment
 - i. We have two DPT students who are analyzing the first three cohorts worth of survey data we have already collected from the high school students. We have pre-program and post-program survey data.
 - ii. We are looking at the impact of participation in the service-learning program (that included students of all abilities) on attitudes about disability.
 - iii. We submitted the preliminary results for poster presentations at two conferences.
 1. The APTA-Kentucky conference on September 8-9. This abstract has been accepted for a poster presentation!
 2. The APTA Combined Section meeting in Boston in Feb 2024

- d. Virtual reality, augmented reality, and extended reality in clinical practice.
 - i. We have two DPT students conducting a survey to examine the supports and barriers to using VR in clinical practice.
 - ii. We are collaborating with Dima Strakovsky from the UK School of Arts and Visual Arts and Richard Hoagland.
- e. Engineering student capstone projects
 - i. We have one group in their final semester working on adapting devices.
 - ii. We have one group in their final semester completing their wheelchair adaptation project.