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USSAAC
THE VOICE OF AAC

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May 2023

Dear Friends:

Lots happening!

Registration open now! Register now for our June 14, 2023 webinar (7:00 – 8:00 pm eastern*) "Core vs Fringe: Aligning Vocabulary Prediction and Selection in AAC with Language Development"* presented by Bethany J. Frick Semmler. This webinar will aim to align core vocabulary with typical language development through understanding when the words on seven core vocabulary lists emerge in typical language development. Strategies that SLPs typically use to predict and select vocabulary for early symbolic communicators who use AAC will be discussed, as well as vocabulary prediction for early symbolic communicators who use AAC. To register, go to https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_apXN6LsHQReOjBqFiYwwPw

Committee Spotlight: Public Information

The Public Information committee is chaired by Alison Pentland, and includes members Tina Moreno and Deirdre Galvin-McLaughlin. As you may recall, USSAAC is undertaking a major overhaul of our website! Three bids were submitted and reviewed and Sunstar Media https://www.sunstarmedia.com/was selected for this critical work. While the draft of the site map for the "website of our dreams" is being readied, we are recruiting interested USSAAC members for an ad hoc task force to look at the bigger picture of the USSAAC logo and design. Interested in tapping into your creative side? Please join this task force on May 22, 2023 at 5 pm eastern! For more information and to RSVP for the task force, please contact Alison at public-information@ussaac.org

Committee Spotlight: Research

On April 26, the USSAAC BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) Research subcommittee held a successful webinar, *"Perspectives of People of Color Who Use AAC: Focus Group Results and Live Panel"*. If you missed it, the recording can be found behind the member "pay wall" at https://bit.ly/3HKBKhh A highlight of the webinar was brainstorming actionable ideas for researchers, manufacturers, and service providers! More than twenty of the 100+ attendees indicated interest in helping with continued advocacy and/or research on this topic. If you'd like to join the committee – whether or not you attended the webinar - please complete the form at https://bit.ly/3B9muXc or email bipoc@ussaac.org

for more information. Many thanks to our panelists, Tim Jin, Kevin Williams, and Lateef McCleod for presenting their views. Thanks also to everyone who attended and committed to making small changes!

Committee Spotlight: Development

Amplifying AAC Voices Mini-Grants (up to $1000) are still available! People who use AAC have lots to say and contribute, but too often the avenues through which their voices can be heard remain limited. USSAAC's Amplifying AAC Voices mini-grants are designed to broaden those opportunities. Grants may address issues at a local, state, regional, or national level. Applicant must be a USSAAC member and include an AAC user in developing the application. Contact president@ussaac.org for more information.

USSAAC's Speaker Connection https://speaker.ussaac.org now has a roster of 30 speakers! Tune in to AAC in the Cloud on June 20 to hear from a panel from the Speaker Connection about their experiences (Register for the conference at AAC in the Cloud 2023: The Power of One Tickets, Tue, Jun 20, 2023 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite). Know someone who SHOULD be listed? Let them know you need not be a USSAAC member to be a part of the Speaker Connection!

The Development Committee extends its ongoing appreciation to the sponsors of the "Amplifying AAC Voices" initiative, whose support has made the Speaker Connection, Member Finder, and Mini Grant program possible! Thank you Attainment, Bridge School, PRC-Saltillo and Tobii Dynavox!

ISAAC Conference Cancún

Will you be presenting in Cancun? Let us know so we can promote the sessions by USSAAC members! By June 15, please send your session day, time, and title to president@ussaac.org And again, congratulations on being a part of a world class educational program.

Did you know – USSAAC is sponsoring ASHA Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for ISAAC Cancun? If you are a speaker, please follow the instructions you were sent to submit your ASHA Conflict of Interest disclosure form by May 30th to ensure CEUs for your presentation will be available. The blank template form can be downloaded from the ISAAC website at https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/call-for-papers/asha-forms/ Many of our attendees will be seeking to earn CEUs; not completing this form could cause your session to have lower attendance, since our conference attendees will want to prioritize selecting sessions that are able to offer CEU credits.

Don't forget ISAAC's Resource Exchange! Learn more at ISAAC – Resource Exchange (isaac-online.org)

Early bird registration has been extended to June 9th! Don't miss the opportunity to save! Once you have registered ISAAC Conference Cancun - Registration (eply.com) it's time to book your stay at a Conference Cancún participating hotel. More details at https://isaac-online.org/english/conference-cancun/hotel-accommodation/

As your conference schedule fills up, be sure to hold Tuesday, July 25 at 12:45 – 1:45 for the USSAAC Chapter meeting. I look forward to greeting you there!

Have a great month!

Amy S. Goldman, President

Calendar Re-Cap

May 22, 3023, 5:00 Eastern: Public Information meeting on USSAAC brand design

June 5, 2023: ATIA Call for Presentations ends (Abstract Submission Form (goeshow.com))

June 9, 2023: ISAAC Cancun Early Bird registration ends

June 14, 2023, 7:00 pm Eastern; USSAAC Webinar, "Core vs Fringe: Aligning Vocabulary Prediction and Selection in AAC with Language Development"

July 15, 2023: Closing the Gap Early Bird registration ends

July 22-23, 2023: ISAAC Pre-Conference Workshops, AAC Camp, Executive and Council Meetings

July 24-27, 2023: ISAAC Cancun Main Conference

July 25, 2023 12:45 – 1:45 PM: USSAAC Chapter Meeting, Cozumel 1

October 11-13, 2023: Closing the Gap, Minneapolis, MN.

October 11, 2023: 5:30 – 6:30 PM. USSAAC Meet-up at Closing the Gap, Directors Row

Stay up-to-date on USSAAC activities through social media - Follow, like, comment and share at https://www.facebook.com/ussaac1

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