

Employees First: Employment for People Who Happen to Use AAC

October 12, 2022
7:00-8:00 PM EDT

PRESENTED BY: Thanh Diep, Tracy Rackensperger PhD., Patrick Regan, Tyson Renze

ABOUT THE PRESENTERS:

Thanh Diep is a Vietnamese American woman with Cerebral Palsy. She interacts with people with the assistance of her AAC device, an Accent 1400. She is a Bridge School alumnus and graduated from San Francisco State University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies. She is a mentor to many, an artist, film maker and writer. She lives in San Francisco.

Tracy Rackensperger Ph.D. is a Public Service Assistant within the College of Family and Consumer Sciences, Institute on Human Development and Disability at the University of Georgia. Dr. Rackensperger has conducted a number of research studies, including published scholarly works regarding augmentative communication and people with disabilities. She has personally used AAC for over 35 years. She is a Project Co-Leader for Training and Dissemination with the RERC on AAC.

Patrick Regan is the Coordinator of Activities and Events for Bridging Communities Through Alternative Communication, an adult outreach program of the Bridge School. He is also the Senior Media Tech Coordinator for St. John Methodist Church in Anchorage, Alaska. Patrick has been using AAC since the age of two-and-a-half. He uses an Eyegaze Edge device, as well as other low tech communication strategies including spelling, partner assisted scanning and a trackball for computer access. Patrick has Spinal Muscular Atrophy.

Tyson Renze works as a mentor to students who use AAC at The Bridge School where he also teaches a class on self-determination. He has used AAC since the age of three. He communicates using a Tobii Dynavox device accessed with eye gaze, a laptop with scanning that he accesses with a switch at his foot or knee and various low-tech tools.

SEMINAR DESCRIPTION:

During this lively discussion about employment, four panelists will share their own unique experiences with conducting job searches, the interview process, securing supports in the work environment, relationships with coworkers and, yes, communication. These presenters all use AAC as their primary mode of communication and will detail the many ways they express themselves while working. Throughout this session, they will highlight the importance of harnessing relationships at the outset with the job search, while securing needed supports to ensure optimal work performance and building important partnerships with coworkers, supervisors and customers.

MODERATED BY: Tina Moreno, M.A., CCC-SLP, ATP

SLPs who are USSAAC/ISAAC members may have their participation in this webinar reported for ASHA CEUs at no charge. Non-members must pay a \$25 reporting fee.

This course is offered for 0.1 ASHA CEUs (Introductory level; Professional area.)

PARTICIPANTS WILL:

1. Identify three resources or tools designed to help people who use AAC in searching for employment.
2. Identify three strategies people who use AAC can use when preparing for a job interview.
3. Name three supports that individuals who use AAC can use at work to ensure success in fulfilling job expectations.
4. Describe the important role coworkers play in the work environment.

TIME ORDERED AGENDA:

- 5 minutes: Introduction of speaker, USSAAC and topic
- 10 minutes: The job search and application process
- 10 minutes: Preparing for job interviews and meeting potential employers
- 10 minutes: Utilizing supports a work
- 10 minutes: Coworkers and everyday communication strategies
- 15 minutes: Wrap-up, Questions

American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) CEUs in speech-language pathology and audiology are awarded by the ASHA CE Registry upon receipt of the CEU Participant Form from the ASHA Approved CE Provider, USSAAC. CEU Participant Forms are available onsite at Registration. ASHA CEUs are provided to full registrations. This program is offered for .1 ASHA CEUs (Introductory Level, Professional Area)

ASHA Disclosures:

- **Speakers**

- **Financial:**

- *Thanh Diep has no financial disclosures to report.*

- *Tracy Rackensperger is a salaried faculty member at University of Georgia and compensated by RERC on AAC through Pennsylvania State University.*

- *Patrick Regan has no financial disclosures to report.*

- *Tyson Renze has no financial disclosures to report.*

- **Nonfinancial:**

- *Thanh Diep has no nonfinancial disclosures to report.*

- *Tracy Rackensperger is the President-Elect of USSAAC.*

- *Patrick Regan has no nonfinancial disclosures to report.*

- *Tyson Renze has no nonfinancial disclosures to report.*

- **Moderator**

- *Tina Moreno has no financial disclosures to report. She serves on the executive board of USSAAC (nonfinancial).*

To register for this Webinar please go to the following link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Kwoih-VsT9GJOMBLzdOKZA

PLEASE NOTE: Only the first 150 attendees to log into the webinar will be guaranteed spots.

USSAAC EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Betsy Caporale, Richard Hurtig,
Stephanie Meehan, Sharon Redmon, Wendy Quach

about USSAAC

The United States Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (USSAAC) is the national chapter of the International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC). As the United States' only non-profit organization dedicated to supporting the entire AAC community, USSAAC provides an invaluable role, working to ensure that individuals who could benefit from AAC have access to the technology and services they need.

Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to:

- Free access to USSAAC webinar series with ASHA CEUs and USSAAC Twitter chats
- Advocacy for maintaining & expanding access to AAC systems and services
- Discount to 2023 ISAAC Conference – Australia
- SpeakUp publication/Blog
- Information updates on USSAAC website & social platforms
- Membership in ISAAC with their additional benefits

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