



NMTAP
New Mexico
Technology Assistance Program

Assistive Technology Conference 2025

ATC25



SEPTEMBER 22 & 23, 2025
BERNA FACIO PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER

In partnership with:



Sponsored by:





Conference Info

The professional conference will emphasize the importance of Assistive Technology (AT) in promoting accessibility and inclusion. It focuses on practical applications and innovative solutions to help participants navigate the changing tech landscape in education and rehabilitation. Over two days, attendees will take part in sessions covering the latest advancements in Assistive Technology, its impact across sectors, and effective implementation strategies. The program aims to encourage collaboration among professionals, educators, and advocates, fostering a more inclusive environment for individuals with disabilities.

Refund and Cancellation Policy

All cancellation notices must be given by September 19th, 2025, to receive a full refund.

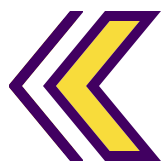
NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN AFTER FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 19TH, 2025.

To request a refund please Contact Vanessa Martinez at vanessa@nwrec2.org

Non-Discrimination Statement

New Mexico Technology Assistance Program fosters an environment of mutual respect and inclusion that is free from harassment, bias, and discrimination based on race, color, religion (creed), sex, gender, gender expression, age, national origin (ancestry), disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or military status.





Important Conference Details

Evaluation Forms and Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

- Complete an evaluation form at the end of **each session** for feedback, attendance verification, and CEU verification.
- You **must** complete the quiz on the evaluation form if you are acquiring CEUs.
- Completed evaluation forms will reflect hours attended on a **Certificate of Attendance** emailed after the conference.
- An overall conference evaluation will be emailed to you within a week after the completion of the conference. Please provide your honest feedback for conference improvement and future sessions desired.

Registration

- You must sign in at the Registration Desk at the start of each conference day.
- You can pick up your name badge, any pre-approved accommodations, and any other conference materials at the Registration Desk.

Exhibitors

- Exhibitors will be present each day of the conference for you to explore useful resources related to AT.
- Put your name on the Exhibitor Card and get 100% initials from every booth you visit to be entered in a prize drawing.
- The prize drawing will be done on the afternoon break at 2:45pm on September 23rd.

Food

- Breakfast will be available in the mornings. Snacks and beverages will be available each day.
- Lunch is on your own.

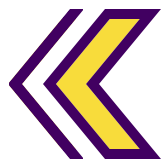




Educational Materials

- Participants can access all Educational Materials for the conference by visiting www.tap.gcd.nm.gov/trainings/training-materials/ or by scanning the QR Code below.





Educational Sessions Agenda

Monday, September 22nd

Time	Educational Session
8:00am to 8:45am	Sign In at Registration Table
8:45am to 9:00am	Opening Remarks
9:00am to 10:15am	"Supporting Food Growers with Assistive Technology"
10:15am to 10:30am	15 minute break
10:30am to 11:45am	"Adaptive Technology and How It Assists DVR Clients"
11:45am to 1:30pm	LUNCH
1:30pm to 2:45pm	"Rehabilitation Engineering and Clinical Collaboration"
2:45pm to 3:00pm	15 minute break
3:00pm to 4:15pm	"Creating Meaningful AAC Communication with Peers"



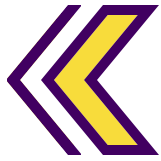


Educational Sessions Agenda

Tuesday, September 23rd

Time	Educational Session
8:00am to 8:45am	Sign In at Registration Table
8:45am to 9:00am	Opening Remarks
9:00am to 10:15am	"Assistive Technology for pALS (Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)"
10:15am to 10:30am	15 minute break
10:30am to 11:45am	"Understanding the AAC Device Funding Process"
11:45am to 1:30pm	LUNCH
1:30pm to 2:45pm	"Using Smartphones to Support Daily Living After a Brain Injury"
2:45pm to 3:00pm	15 minute break and Prize Drawing
3:00pm to 4:15pm	"Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology Solutions for New Mexico Students"





Supporting Food Growers with Assistive Technology

Monday, Sept. 22nd - 9:00 am to 10:15 am

Though various forms of gardening have been shown to promote health (CDC, 2020), gardening, horticulture, and other forms of food production do come with ergonomic and other risks. Assistive technology (AT) offers opportunities for people to engage in the healthy activity despite injury. Alternately, AT can help restore gardening and other forms of food producing for people who have experienced different injuries or health conditions. In this session, low and high-tech AT opportunities will be discussed for various types of AT including mobility aids, aids for sensory loss, cognitive prosthetics and aids to daily living.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will relate at least two concepts in the Human, Activity, Assistive Technology (HAAT) model to the activity demands of food producers.
- Participants will evaluate at least four pieces of low-technology AT to support gardeners, farmers and food producers.
- Participants will examine at least two supports for professional food producers in New Mexico.

Presenters

Mary Thelander, MOT OTR/L, ATP

Mary is a lecturer at the University of New Mexico. Mary has been the fieldwork educator with NM AgrAbility since 2020, and has worked closely with Mandy's Farm and other organic farm sites to integrate people with developmental disabilities into occupations of farming. Mary has extensive clinical experience in adult rehabilitation settings involving low and high-tech assistive technology.





Adaptive Technology and How It Assists DVR Clients

Monday, Sept. 22nd - 10:30 am to 11:45 am

There are multiple forms of technology that can support success for students and adults working with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) whose disabilities prevent them from learning information in school and at work. With this technology (both software applications and physical hardware devices) applied appropriately through the provision of DVR services, the success for students and adults who are trying to work is increased, as these tools can improve performance in multiple areas through education and employment.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will know what DVR does and who it serves.
- Participants will know what services a client of DVR can receive.
- Participants will know what technology and tools can be accessed by the public, without DVR involvement.

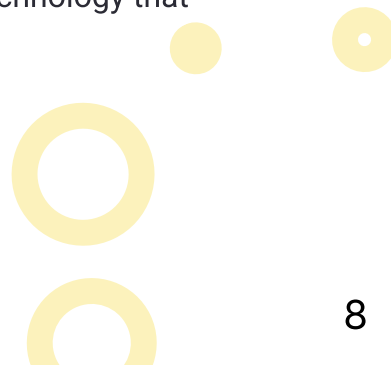
Presenters

Sasha King, BA

Sasha King has a BA in social work and has served the community in a variety of industries (services for those impacted by housing and resource issues, child and adult survivors of domestic violence, child protective services, and vocational rehabilitation). He is familiar with the application of technology in various settings and how it can benefit individuals with disabilities in increasing their personal skill levels, improving communication, and learning to use new technology to benefit individuals requiring its' use in their work setting. He currently works with the New Mexico Division of Vocational Rehabilitation as a counselor assisting youth and adults with disabilities who want to prepare for and access employment.

Monica Moya, MAS, MA

Monica Moya has a MAS, in management and MA in Psychology. She has been an instructor with the Albuquerque Police Department and CNM, LEA training cadets. She has a specialization in adult learning and is learning that every aspect of the Vocational Rehabilitation process is to satisfy the clients needs. She has worked hard to ensure that people with disabilities have the resources available to them and finding technology that can match their needs to get gainful employment.





Rehabilitation Engineering and Clinical Collaboration

Monday, Sept. 22nd - 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm

The purpose of this presentation is to show examples of products and processes developed through collaboration between different team members in the Assistive Technology space with a focus on Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder patients. This is also a chance to show the existence of clinical rehabilitation engineering and the value that it can provide within the assistive technology space.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will understand the value of Clinical Rehabilitation Engineering.
- Participants will be able to provide examples of 3D printing individualized assistive technology
- Participants will understand the collaboration among different roles in the Assistive Technology Space.

Presenters

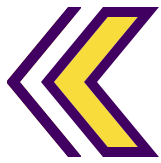
Hank Madden, BS, MS

Hank Madden is a Clinical Rehabilitation Engineer (CRE) at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center on the Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder unit. From Northern Virginia, Hank has a bachelor's degree in biomedical engineering from Virginia Commonwealth University and a master's degree in healthcare human factors engineering from the University of Wisconsin. While at VCU, Hank interned for the Rehabilitation Engineering department at the Richmond VA Medical Center and fell in love with the field and the idea of “getting to apply an engineering outlook to patient care”. After working as a Biomedical Engineer for the Chicago VA Medical Center, Hank moved to Albuquerque to return to working in direct patient care in 2022. As a CRE, he develops and modifies unique assistive technology equipment for veterans as well as providing technical expertise, powered mobility driver training, and medical device education for both the department and veterans.

Andrew Schlosser, MOT, AS, BS

Andrew Schlosser is an Occupational Therapist at the Raymond G. Murphy VA Medical Center on the Spinal Cord Injury/Disorder Unit. From Los Alamos, NM, Andrew has a Master's of Science in Occupational Therapy among other degrees. Previous work experience includes starting and managing a Hippo Therapy Practice, working at Carrie Tingley Children's Hospital, and currently on the Spinal Cord Injury Care Line at the Raymond G Murphy Veteran's Hospital here in Albuquerque. He has previously been the manual and power mobility specialist for the Spinal Cord Injury Unit, Governmental, and private industries. Having personally ordered over 2,100 manual, power assist, power, specialized and sport's wheelchair, Andrew has seen first-hand how collaboration with a Clinical Rehabilitation Engineer can both maximize our veteran's ability to use their mobility devices as well as making their activities of daily living (ADL's) more efficient.





Creating Meaningful AAC Communication with Peers

Monday, Sept. 22nd - 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

This presentation will provide participants with the knowledge and skill to create an effective social language activity for use with any child who uses a high- or low-tech Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) system. This session will briefly review why building effective social communication with AAC begins with a complete AAC assessment and how to apply the data collected during the assessment process to create meaningful social interactions between children using AAC. Participants will leave the presentation with language learning activities for immediate implementation at school, home, and community.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will be able to explain the link between assessment and the creation of treatment objectives.
- Participants will be able to explain how to create multiple opportunities for communication during social and/or peer interactions.
- Participants will be able to create a social language AAC activity which can be adjusted for severity and ability with AAC.

Presenters

Dr. Jennifer .L. Parker Ph.D. CCC-SLP

Dr. Parker is a Speech and Language Pathologist currently working with inpatient and outpatient clients at Christus Hospital. She holds a Ph.D. Interdisciplinary Health Sciences with a concentration in Neurodivergence and AAC.

She has held faculty positions at Central Michigan University, Western Michigan University and Eastern New Mexico University. During her tenure as faculty, she has taught the following courses: AAC and Neurodivergence, Voice, Language Disorders, Intro into Communication Disorders, Phonological Disorders, Statistical Analysis for Research, Presentation in Research, Clinic Methods, and Literacy disorders.

In addition to working in academia, Dr. Parker has spent her career working in both the medical and education settings, providing therapy to people of all ages and difficulties. Her passion has always been to provide a voice to those who are not able to vocalize on their own and loves how AAC can transform a person's life. In her spare time, Dr. Parker likes to hike, practice yoga and Pilates, play piano, read, and spend time with her husband and their two rescue dogs, Lucky and Diesel.





Assistive Technology for pALS (Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - 9:00 am to 10:15 am

New Mexico has a single nationally recognized ALS clinic which is located at the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH). This unique clinic provides multidisciplinary care for patients with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) in the entire state of NM as well as surrounding areas. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the disease through the lens of the supports most common to this population as well as provide a snapshot of what our clinic entails and how community clinicians can help support this population.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will learn a brief overview of the common course and impairments seen in ALS.
- Participants will identify the common assistive technology used for activities of daily living (ADLs) with pALS.
- Participants will identify the common communicative methods/devices used for pALS.

Presenters

Jacqueline Chacon, MS

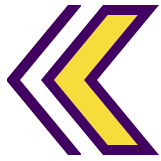
Jacqueline received her Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology degree in 2014 from The University of New Mexico. She has been a practicing clinician since that time and has worked primarily in the outpatient hospital setting for large organizations in New Mexico. She is currently working at the University of New Mexico Hospital as an outpatient clinician with adults. For 8 years she worked with patients post stroke, with various other neurological disorders, and head and neck cancer patients on cognition, language, swallowing, speech, and voice. She specializes in neurological disorders such as Parkinson's and currently works in the Comprehensive Movement Disorders Center at UNMH. More recently she has been involved in the multidisciplinary amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) clinic treating patients for cognition, swallowing, and communication needs, including augmentative alternative communication (AAC). She is MBSImP certified and is currently working on deepening her knowledge of voice and head and neck cancer evaluation and treatment with Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallow (FEES) and laryngoscopy procedures in the ENT clinic.

Jessica Wood, OTD, OTR/L

Jessica Wood received her Clinical Doctorate in the field of Occupational Therapy (OT) from Washington University in St. Louis in 2012, where she had the opportunity to work as a teaching assistant for the Assistive Technology course. She has been an Occupational Therapist at the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) since 2013, which involves evaluating and facilitating participation in meaningful activities for individuals across the lifespan. Jessica specializes in providing acute inpatient OT services for adult ICU and pediatric populations. Additionally, she has been providing OT services to support individuals and families/caregivers at the outpatient multidisciplinary UNMH Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic since 2014. Outside of the work setting, Jessica enjoys spending time with family, music, and crafts.



Presenters continues on next page



Assistive Technology for pALS (Patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis)

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - 9:00 am to 10:15 am

Presenters Continued

Stephanie McDougale, MS, CCC-SLP

Stephanie McDougale has been an adult Speech Language Pathologist at the University of New Mexico Hospital (UNMH) since 2012. She spent over 8 years at UNMH performing evaluations of dysphagia, cognition, and communication (speech and voice) in acute neurology and trauma patients before transitioning to outpatient specializing in Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) and Head and Neck Cancer. She began providing outpatient speech pathology services including Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) evaluations in the UNMH Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Clinic in 2014 and began specializing in Head and Neck Cancer in the outpatient ENT clinic in 2019. Stephanie specializes in dysphagia including Flexible Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallow (FEES) and is both MDTP and MBSImP Certified. She received both a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Hearing Sciences (2010) and a Master of Science in Speech Language Pathology (2012) from the University of New Mexico.

Charlotte Carruth, MOT, BS

Charlotte Carruth is a dedicated and compassionate Occupational Therapist, with a strong foundation in both adult and pediatric rehabilitation. She holds a Master's of Occupational Therapy from the University of New Mexico School of Medicine and has been licensed in the state since 2021. Currently serving at UNMH Inpatient Rehab Services, Charlotte works with acute-level patients on the pediatric floors full-time and recently has been expanding to the on-site ALS clinic. With a calm, professional demeanor and an emphasis on trauma-informed care, she collaborates closely with patients and their families to maximize independence and functionality. Charlotte brings additional depth through her volunteer work with children's theater and public-school nutrition programs, her research on cue-based infant feeding, and her experience developing antiracism curricula for the OT program. Her enthusiasm, empathy, and wide-ranging clinical competencies make her a standout in her field. On her days off, the Albuquerque native enjoys spending time with her toddler, swimming, hiking, and crafting.





Understanding the AAC Device Funding Process: A Guide for Family Members, Therapists, and Caregivers

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - 10:30 am to 11:45 am

This presentation is designed for family members, therapists, and caregivers seeking to understand the process and their role in securing funding for an Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) device. Participants will learn about the essential steps involved in the funding process, including the key team members and their responsibilities. By the end of this presentation, participants will feel confident and prepared to navigate the AAC device funding process successfully.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will gain a comprehensive understanding of the steps involved in securing funding for an AAC device, including eligibility criteria and documentation requirements.
- Participants will learn about the various professionals involved in the funding process, such as Speech-Language Pathologists, insurance specialists, and funding coordinators, and understand their respective roles and responsibilities.
- Participants will explore the resources and support offered by the Tobii Dynavox Funding Team and learn how to effectively leverage this support to navigate the funding process with confidence and ease.

Presenters

John Pfirman, CCC-SLP, CBIS

John is a dedicated Speech Language Pathologist with certifications as a Brain Injury Specialist and Dysphagia Specialist. He has worked across diverse settings with both adult and pediatric populations including pediatric care, home health services, and skilled nursing facilities. John also shares his knowledge and passion for his field as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). He is currently the New Mexico/West Texas Solutions Consultant for Tobii Dynavox, furthering his impact in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC). He calls El Paso, TX home, where he continues to make a positive impact through his clinical work, teaching, and AAC advocacy.





Using Smartphones to Support Daily Living after a Brain Injury

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - 1:30 pm to 2:45 pm

Your smartphone is not just for talking, texting, and social media; it's your partner in navigating post-brain injury challenges. By using the built-in features and apps it can be more accessible, reduce distractions, track activities and improve your day-to-day life. In this session you will learn how to:

- Reduce distractions using Focus features,
- Manage and track medications,
- Use voice controls to navigate the phone,
- Adjust font size and contrast,
- Utilize color filters, and
- Have text read aloud to increase understanding.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will gain an understanding of the iOS medication feature, its purpose, and its various components.
- Participants will be introduced to common voice commands for general control, gestures, and device navigation.
- Participants will learn about the Focus/Do Not Disturb option on both iOS and Android devices.

Presenters

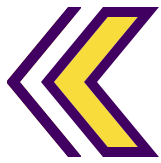
Michelle Ranae Wild, MA

Michelle Ranae Wild is a professor in Coastline Community College's Acquired Brain Injury program, where she has spent more than 30 years helping individuals living with brain injury and other cognitive conditions learn to use compensatory strategies to gain greater independence.

Knowing that many individuals with brain injury continue to struggle after medical discharge, Michelle founded Brain Education Strategies and Technology (BEST) to extend her unique experience and expertise to a wider audience. BEST provides free and low-cost webinars and workshops for individuals with cognitive challenges, their caregivers, and the professionals who work with them.

Michelle applied her expertise and her interest in adaptive technology to create the BEST Suite app to help individuals with executive function challenges. She is the author of several books to help brain injury survivors learn to use iOS and Android devices as assistive technology for cognition (ATC). Her materials are in use in various schools, rehabilitation facilities, VA hospitals, and military hospitals across the country.





Enhancing Access to Education: Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology Solutions for New Mexico Students

Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

This professional development session aims to equip educators, administrators, and assistive technology specialists with the knowledge and tools to foster inclusive learning environments for New Mexico students. The session will begin with an exploration of Universal Design for Learning (UDL), emphasizing its principles and strategies for addressing diverse learning needs. Participants will gain insights into how UDL can be effectively implemented to remove barriers to reading and writing, promoting equitable access to education for all learners. Additionally, the session will delve into the array of Assistive Technology (AT) solutions available to New Mexico students, showcasing innovative tools and resources designed to support their unique learning requirements. Through practical examples, participants will discover how these assistive technologies can enhance student engagement, independence, and academic success.

Learning Objectives

- Participants will understand the principles and framework of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and its application in creating inclusive educational environments.
- Participants will explore a range of AT solutions tailored to address reading and writing challenges faced by New Mexico students.
- Participants will learn how to effectively integrate AT tools into instructional practices to support diverse learners and promote equitable access to educational opportunities across New Mexico schools.

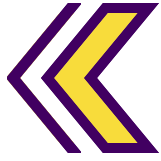
Presenters

Jennifer Armstrong, MA

Jennifer Armstrong is a passionate advocate for Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles in education. With nearly two decades immersed in the dynamic realm of K-12 public education, she has served in multifaceted roles including educator, instructional coach, and diagnostic prescriptive teacher. She has been guided by an unwavering commitment to fostering inclusive learning environments where every student can thrive. Holding certifications in K-12 administration and supervision, K-12 special education, and K-8 general education with a specialized endorsement in reading, she brings a comprehensive understanding of the diverse needs within educational settings. Additionally, she is proud to hold the coveted Assistive Technology Practitioner (ATP) license, a testament to her dedication to leveraging technology to empower learners of all abilities. She is eager to share insights, collaborate, and collectively advance our mission of equity and access for all learners.



Presenters continues on next page



Enhancing Access to Education: Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology Solutions for New Mexico Students

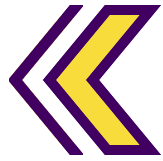
Tuesday, Sept. 23rd - 3:00 pm to 4:15 pm

Presenters Continued

Rebecca Thomas, MA

Rebecca Thomas is currently a Universal Design for Learning Coach for the state of New Mexico. She is an experienced and certified K-8 teacher with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an endorsement in TESOL and a Master's of Education in Elementary Education. Throughout her career, she has served as a Classroom Teacher, Instructional Coach, Literacy Specialist, Project Facilitator, and now a UDL Coach. Rebecca is a proud native New Mexican who is eager to spread the love of UDL to teachers across this great state!





Our Conference Sponsors

Accessible New Mexico



Accessible New Mexico provides accessibility consulting and advocacy, helping communities, businesses, and governments remove barriers and create environments where everyone has equal access to participate and succeed. Founded by Eli Fresquez, an expert in disability rights, ADA, and civil rights, we bring decades of experience to support organizations in achieving compliance and building inclusive environments.

Our mission is to make New Mexico the most accessible state in the nation. We achieve this by conducting accessibility audits of websites, documents, and physical spaces to ensure ADA, WCAG, and Section 508 compliance. Additionally, we offer customized training, workshops, and provide policy and legal guidance. By raising awareness, empowering individuals and families, and collaborating with local organizations, Accessible New Mexico provides practical solutions, measurable results, and lasting change.

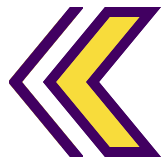
Contact:

Eli Fresquez, JD, MSW, ADAC, CPACC

EliFresquez@accessiblenewmexico.com

917-348-1049 (call or text)





Our Conference Sponsors

The Innovative Executive Quality Solutions, LLC Cornerstone to Excellence



Innovative Executive Quality Solutions, LLC. Cornerstone to Excellence empowers organizations and communities through dynamic conferences, professional trainings, and youth and adult summits that inspire growth, connection, and impact. In addition to hosting engaging events, we provide a full array of professional services, including grant writing, program evaluation, and strategic consulting to help organizations strengthen capacity and achieve their goals.

Whether it's a statewide conference for professionals or an interactive summit for youth, our team delivers high-quality planning, meaningful programming, and impactful experiences that leave participants motivated and equipped for success. Join us at our next event and discover how Cornerstone to Excellence can help you elevate your vision and strengthen your community.

Visit us at cornerstonetoexcellence.com

Governor's Commission on Disability



The New Mexico Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is committed to improving the quality of life of all New Mexicans with disabilities by addressing social integration, economic self-sufficiency, political resolve, physical and program accessibility, and full participation in the benefits of life and rights of all individuals.

GCD addresses physical, sensory, programmatic, and attitudinal barriers to forward its mission. Such barriers may keep a person with a disability from enjoying the full aspects of community living.

GCD works to improve the quality of life of New Mexicans with disabilities through progressive systems advocacy.

GCD promotes community living and access to: employment opportunities; universal access to information; appropriate and available assistive technology; accessible education; accessible, affordable, universally designed housing; accessible and available transportation (rural and urban); available home and community-based services; and access to social and recreational settings.

GCD serves as liaison and advisor to the Governor and Legislature on disability issues.

Phone: 505-476-0412

Email: gcd.mailbox@gcd.nm.gov





Our Conference Partner

Northwest Regional Education Cooperative



The Northwest Regional Education Cooperative #2 aspires to be the premiere provider of choice for comprehensive, specialized, and collaborative educational services for its member school districts with cost effective solutions to current and emerging needs.

We strive to deliver high quality, comprehensive, and responsive services in order to better equip member school districts with the resources needed to enhance learning and increase student achievement. The Northwest Regional Education Center provides a variety of school support programs for member districts within the state of New Mexico including Jemez Mountain, Cuba, Dulce, Chama Valley, Mesa Vista, Penasco, Taos and Questa schools.

Phone: (575) 756-1274

Website: <https://www.nwrec2.org/>



Thank you for attending **ATC25**



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Albuquerque, NM 87102
505-841-4464
www.tap.gcd.nm.gov

NMTAP offers free Assistive Technology services including:

Device Demonstrations
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AT Training for Groups
Technical Assistance
Information & Assistance for AT

