

## **2012 Technology and Telecommunications Task Force Annual Report 2012**

### **Co-Chairs**

Nell Bailey - Rehabilitation Engineering & Assistive Technology Society of North America (RESNA)

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### **2012 Task Force Activities**

Following almost two years of inactivity, the task force was much more active during 2012. The task force met nearly every month of 2012 discussing topics of interest and actions the task force should take. Most of the year was spent reintroducing ourselves to the other task forces of CCD and Capitol Hill and making sure that it was known that the task force was there as a resource on technology and telecommunications matters.

The task force spent a considerable amount of time creating a set of core principles to guide the work of the task force. In addition, these principles were presented to Hill staff as points to reference when developing legislation that should include language regarding accessible technology and telecommunications. The task force was also involved in submitting testimony to a number of Hill hearings and comments on proposed regulations.

Additionally, the task force weighed in on funding issues that impacted resources for assistive technology, specifically the Assistive Technology (AT) Act. The task force drafted several letters to the House and Senate pertaining to the Senate proposed increase for the AT Act.

The task force also took action to communicate with PARCC and Smarter Balanced Consortia who are developing the assessments to align with the Common Core State Standards. Given the technology being created to host the assessment is in the nascent stages of development, the task force wanted to reach out to leaders in both consortia to ensure that the infrastructure of the assessments are accessible and follow WCAG 2.0 guidelines.

### **Plan for 2013 Task Force Activities**

There still remains work to be done to make sure that the task force is known as a resource on technology and telecommunications issues within CCD, on the Hill, and in the Administration. This is especially true given the new Members of Congress and other transitions occurring. So, we will continue the work we started last year

throughout 2013 to ensure that this task force and its members are recognized as a valuable resource.

We plan to also increase the visibility of the task force through increased submission of testimony to House and Senate hearings, regulatory responses, and through Capitol Hill briefings for staff. Finally, we will continue to push for full funding of the Assistive Technology Act programs, reauthorization of the Assistive Technology Act, and ensuring accessibility of all aspects of the Federal government to people with disabilities.

We look forward to a busy year and encourage more members of CCD to join our task force.