I.   TechSpec Assistive Technology Program: An Intensive Training Program for Professionals in Rehabilitation Services with an On-line Option

The University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center (R_2D_2), and the Stout Vocational Rehabilitation Institute at the University of Wisconsin - Stout are pleased to present the TechSpec Program, an Intensive Assistive Technology and Accessible Design (ATAD) Program of Study, with an on-line option, for professionals in the field of rehabilitation. This 2-year part-time graduate study program is designed to meet the increasing demand for assistive technology expertise within the field of rehabilitation. The program builds on your current knowledge and skills regarding disability and technology in the areas of assessment, intervention and leadership.

Upon acceptance to the program, participants will receive will receive a Letter of Acceptance and then an initial travel stipend of $500.00. Participants will be assisted to arrange transportation and hotel for a 2-day introductory overview of program logistics which will be offered at the UW Stout campus, in Menomonie, WI, on Thursday and Friday, January 20-21, 2011. (At the conclusion of the program, on December 11-12, 2012, a 2-day in-person wrap-up will be conducted in Milwaukee. Travel stipends and assistance will be provided.)

The coursework provides disability professionals with theoretical and practical backgrounds in assistive technology, enhancing their work in a variety of settings, including vocational rehabilitation offices, university disability services offices, rehabilitation clinics, schools and other rehabilitation settings. This unique learning opportunity cannot be found elsewhere in the country. Taught by world-renowned faculty members, it offers comprehensive and interdisciplinary online graduate level study with a small group cohort of professionals (or professionals in training). Practical experiences to enhance knowledge and skill will be arranged with participants in their own locale.

This supportive program is designed to offer working rehabilitation professionals or students preparing to enter the field of rehabilitation with access to a competency-based training program, addressing the accommodation and assistive technology needs of individuals with disabilities. Participants who successfully complete the program will have earned15 graduate credits; and will be qualified to prepare for the ATP Certification exam offered by RESNA, and/or to sit for state and national certification examinations as an Assistive Technology Specialist.

A.   The TechSpec Assistive Technology Program Includes:

- January 20-21, 2011 - **TechSpec 2-day Kick-off** at the University of Wisconsin – Stout, Menomonee, WI

Coursework (at UWM or with on-line option):

- *Spring 2011 - **Introduction and Foundations of Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology** (3 credits)
- Summer 2011 - **Assessment and Intervention** (3 credits)
- Fall 2011 - **Design and Disability** (3 credits)
- Spring 2012 - **Assistive Technology Service Delivery – Applications to Rehabilitation Counseling, Case Management & Individual Accommodations** (3 credits)
- **Summer and/or Fall 2012** - Capstone - **Practicum in Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology** (3 credits - to be arranged with cooperation between program, participant, and local organization or vendor)

- December 11-12, 2012 - **TechSpec 2-day Wrap-up**, at the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

    *Classes begin January 24, 2011

    **2 Courses: Introduction to Low Vision and Vision Impairment and Interventions for Low Vision and Vision Impairment are available on the UW Milwaukee campus, and can be included in the program during the summer and fall semesters of 2012, if interested. (Vision class participants will complete the Capstone Course in the Milwaukee area.)

We're starting soon! We are limited to 8 participants. Interested participants can complete an Application Kit (attached) and return it to Aura Hirschman by Fax (414) 229-6843. Contact information: Phone (414) 229-1139 or email hirschma@uwm.edu.

TechSpec Program
Assistive Technology Certificate Program

Application Kit

(Note: Persons who are currently enrolled in a UWM or UW Stout Rehabilitation-related graduate degree program must also complete this application to receive a TechSpec stipend.)

I.   Personal Information

Name: _____

Permanent Address:
_____

Mailing Address (If different):
_____

Phone: _____

Email address: _____

II.   Educational Background (Fill relevant sections)

A.   Undergraduate Education

Where completed: _____

Year Completed (or anticipated): _____

Major(s) and Degree(s): _____

B.   Graduate Education

Where completed: _____

Year Completed (or anticipated): _____

Degree(s): _____

III.   **Professional Experience** (Please keep your responses short but complete)

Please describe your experiences with *persons with disabilities*. In what capacity do you have this experience, for how long and what is your role?

Please describe your experiences and any education or training in *computer applications.* In what capacity do you have this experience, for how long and what is your role?

Please briefly describe your current knowledge of Assistive Technology, Universal Design and Accessible Design (previous and ongoing), including any education, training or experiences.

How do you anticipate the TechSpec Program completion will impact your practice (approximately one paragraph)?

How does Assistive Technology impact the population you serve (approximately one paragraph)?

IV. Please read and check each item, and then sign below:

___ I have completed the Application Kit questions and I am attaching a CV or Resume. With my signature below, I understand that my application will be reviewed to participate in the TechSpec Program. If I am found eligible, I will receive a formal letter of acceptance to the TechSpec Program. (My information will not be shared with anyone who is not involved with the administration of the TechSpec Program.)

___ I understand that the program is a full 2-year course of graduate study, including 15 credits of coursework to be completed within the 2 year scheduled time period.

___I understand that I will be required to attend both the 2-day Kick-off and the 2-day Wrap-up sessions, as scheduled.

___I understand that I will be receiving a stipend for my participation and completion of the full program and that failure to complete any portion of the TechSpec Program will result in my having to pay back the cost of the tuition and other expenses which would have covered the course completion.

I have read all of the above expectations and am indicating a commitment to complete the full TechSpec program by signing here:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Regarding **Accommodations** and the **Accessibility** of the TechSpec Program:

We will work to provide a universally designed and fully accessible program.

Please inform us if you will need any accommodations for the TechSpec Program Kick-off (at UW Stout) or Wrap-up (at UW Milwaukee).

___ Yes, *I will need _____.
___No accommodations are needed.

*In order to ensure timely provision of requested services, participants are encouraged to provide requests for accommodations as early as possible.

TechSpec

V. Please attach a copy of your CV or Resume.

*Please be aware that the completion of other forms may be required from our funding agency to insure that you understand your obligations regarding the stipend for the program. We will provide these forms to you upon receipt of this completed Application Kit and following initial contact with program staff.

Questions? Please contact Aura M. Hirschman,
R2D2 Center, Enderis Hall, Room 135
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
P.O. Box 413
Milwaukee, WI 53211-0413

(414) 229-1139
Fax (414) 229-6843
TTY (414) 229-5628
Email – hirschma@uwm.edu

Forms can be returned by fax or scanned and sent by email, or original can be mailed - Attn: Aura. Thank you for your interest in the TechSpec Program!