

Connecticut State University System
Board of Trustees

BR#96-51



RESOLUTION

concerning

CENTER FOR ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

AT

SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

July 19, 1996

WHEREAS, The Center for Adaptive Technology Laboratory was established at Southern Connecticut State University by Trustees Resolution #89-76 and reauthorized by Trustees Resolution #92-83 with a sunset date of June 30, 1996, and

WHEREAS, The President of Southern Connecticut State University has evaluated the work of the Center for Adaptive Technology Laboratory and has recommended its continuation, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the Connecticut State University System authorizes the continuation of the Center for Adaptive Technology Laboratory at Southern Connecticut State University and requires that the President of Southern submit a report to the Chancellor of the Connecticut State University System evaluating the performance of the Center and recommending continuance or discontinuance by September 1, 2001, and be it

RESOLVED, That the Center for Adaptive Technology Laboratory at Southern Connecticut State University shall go out of existence on December 31, 2001, unless the Board of Trustees acts to the contrary.

A Certified True Copy:

William J. Cipes, Jr.
Chancellor



Southern Connecticut
State University

501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515 -1355



Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs

Telephone: (203) 392-5350 FAX: (203) 392-5355

July 3, 1996

Dr. William J. Cibes
Chancellor
The Connecticut State University
39 Woodland Street
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Center For Adaptive Technology Report

Dear Dr. Cibes:

Please find enclosed the report of the Adaptive Technology Laboratory for the period from the Fall of 1992 to June 30, 1996. President Adanti has reviewed this report and has recommended to Mr. Larry McHugh, Chairperson of the Board of Trustees that this Center be continued until June 30, 1999. A copy of President Adanti's letter is attached for your information and for subsequent transmittal with this report to the Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees.

I would be most appreciative if this report could be placed on the agenda of the meeting of the Academic Affairs Committee scheduled on Friday, July 19, 1996.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony V. Pinciario, Ph.D.
Vice President for Academic Affairs

AVP/im
Enclosure

cc: President Michael J. Adanti
Dr. Barbara Heinisch, Director, Adaptive Technology



A Campus of the Connecticut State University System
An Equal Opportunity University



Southern Connecticut State University

501 Crescent Street
New Haven, CT 06515 -1355



Office of the President

Telephone : (203) 392-5250 FAX: (203) 392-5255

July 3, 1996


Mr. Lawrence D. McHugh
Chairman, CSU Board of Trustees
Middlesex Chamber of Commerce
393 Main Street
Middletown, CT 06457

Dear Chairman McHugh:

I have completed my evaluation of the activity of the Center for Adaptive Technology Laboratory of Southern Connecticut State University for the period from the Fall 1992 to June 30, 1996. During the past four years, this Center has conducted many major conferences and workshops for both our students enrolled in our School of Education as well as practicing elementary and secondary teachers. In addition, this Center has served as a valuable resource for disabled students currently enrolled at Southern. The ATL has established itself as a major resource to agencies and corporations seeking to use adaptive technology to provide employment opportunities for the disabled.

Based upon the established record of achievement, as well as the proposed plans, I enthusiastically recommend continuance of the Center for Adaptive Technology. I suggest June 30, 1999 as the new sunset date.

Sincerely yours,


Michael J. Adanti
President

MJA/bhj
Enclosure

cc: William J. Cibes
Anthony V. Pinciario
✓Barbara Heinisch



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REPORT
to the
CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ON CENTERS AND INSTITUTES
AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY LAB
SOUTHERN CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

May 31, 1996

**REPORT TO THE CSU BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ON CENTERS AND INSTITUTES AND RELATED ACTIVITIES**

ADAPTIVE TECHNOLOGY LABORATORY

Southern Connecticut State University

May 31, 1996

1. Period covered by this report: Fall 1992 to Spring 1996

2. General description of programs undertaken:

The Adaptive Technology Lab (ATL) enables people with physical, visual and learning disabilities to gain access to computer technology for the purposes of increasing productivity and increasing independence in educational and vocational goals. This is accomplished through the use of specialized hardware and software modifications and specific training methods. The staff of the lab has evaluated and trained students and staff on campus as well as clients referred from state rehabilitation agencies (Board of Education and Services for the Blind and The Bureau of Rehabilitation Services) Gaylord Hospital, the Veterans' Affairs Hospital and school districts statewide.

The move to a newly designed and renovated facility in Engleman Hall in October 1994 allowed the ATL to increase its ability to offer training events. The well-appointed lab contains 16 computers supporting DOS, Windows, Windows 95 and Macintosh operating systems. There is a variety of adaptive hardware and software. Some of the computer desks are height adjustable. Networking allows printing from any computer, as well as access to the Internet. (More information about the lab can be found on the ATL home page at <http://www.scsu.edu/scsu/atl/index.html>)

The ATL has sponsored faculty development workshops for SCSU faculty and staff and has presented inservice sessions for public school teachers statewide. Teachers, administrators and staff from 20 school districts around the state have attended teacher training workshops in the lab. Other attendees have come from Massachusetts and New York. The ATL is still the only such training and evaluation facility in the state of Connecticut.

The ATL is committed to providing information on the innovative and rapidly growing field of assistive technology to the University community as well as to the community at large. The ATL works with students and faculty of many departments to enable them to include information on

assistive technology in their curricula. Lab tours are given for entire classes with a specific educational focus. A tour for library science students, for example, has a different focus than one for computer science majors.

To provide information on assistive technology for people in the SCSU community as well as for the general public, an Open House is held on the first Friday of the month during the semester. People who are curious about assistive technology visit the ATL to see demonstrations of computer adaptations for people with disabilities. Open Houses frequently include demonstrations by vendors of assistive technology equipment not currently owned by the ATL. A special Open House event was held in the Fall of 1995 for invited representatives of the business community in hopes of establishing a relationship with businesses needing consulting about adaptive technology issues for employees.

Staff members of the Lab have traveled to professional conferences to present papers on aspects of adaptive technology; the initial presentation focused on teaching others how to start an adaptive technology lab. This presentation was made at conferences in six states, and established the ATL at SCSU as a model for service delivery of adaptive technology at the postsecondary level. In addition, the ATL published the **Adaptive Technology StartUp Kit**, which is sold to other Universities developing a lab following the SCSU model. In recognition of the work done by the Adaptive Technology Lab SCSU has received an award from the American Association of State Colleges and Universities. The ATL was included in **Centers of Energy**, a report on the fifteen exemplary assistive technology labs in the country recently published by the National Council on Disability. Staff members of the lab have published articles about assistive technology in the literature.

The ATL has worked to establish collaborative relationships with other agencies in the state providing adaptive technology services. Recently, the ATL worked with Sacred Heart University to help them acquire and learn to use adaptive equipment for their computer labs. The ATL has recently begun a formal collaboration with Area Cooperative Educational Services (ACES) and Quinnipiac College to develop a service delivery system for clients in the southern part of the state who need adaptive technology evaluation and training. The ATL has served as a training facility for interns from Quinnipiac's Occupational Therapy program as well as for a teacher from the Greenwich School System. The lab continues its association with Gaylord Hospital, acting in a consulting role. Statewide, staff of the ATL serve on the Adaptive Technology Task Force for the State

Department of Education. This is an advisory committee looking at the service delivery system for special education technology for the state. On campus, lab staff serve on the Educational Technology Advisory Committee and are working with the administrators in the Academic Computing Department to begin to include adaptive technology options in general computing labs.

The ATL has begun a working relationship with the Department of Communication Disorders at SCSU. Faculty from that department have begun to work in the lab with their students exploring ways that computers can be used for communication with individuals who are nonverbal. The lab figures prominently in a training grant application submitted by the Department of Communication Disorders to the U.S. Department of Education.

A current project of the lab is to use funds provided by the CSU system to produce an informational video about the lab. The script has been written and shooting should begin in the summer of 1996. This video will be used to inform people statewide about some of the highlights of the CSU system and especially, about the resources available in the lab.

Staff from the lab recently participated in CSU Day at the State Capitol, which focused on technology and higher education. Highlights of programs in the CSU system were demonstrated for state legislators. Some of the staff members were featured on a WVIT News report of the event. Another publicity event for the lab was an article about the lab in the November 28, 1995 *New Haven Register*.

3. ATL activities:

<u>Program</u>	<u>No. Students</u>	<u>No. Others</u>
Evaluation and training		
1992-1993	29	18
1993-1994	33	15
1994-1995	20	19
1995-1996	42	20

Open Houses and Lab Tours	total attendees
1992-1993	60
1993-1994	180
1994-1995	170
1995-1996	180

Conference Presentations:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title of presentation</u>
Technology & Persons with Disabilities	3/92	California State U., Los Angeles, CA	PreConference session- How to start a Technology Center inLARGE 2.0 and Beyond: Resources for Macintosh Access for Persons with Low Vision

Conference Presentations (continued):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title of presentation</u>
Closing the Gap Conference on Computer Technology and Persons with Disabilities	10/92	Minneapolis, MN	A Comparative Review of Word Prediction Software inLARGE 2.0 and Beyond: Resources for Macintosh Access for Persons with Low Vision
Technology and Media Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children	1/93	Cromwell, CT	Word Prediction Software: A Comparative Review
Closing the Gap Conference on Computer Technology and Persons with Disabilities	10/93	Minneapolis, MN	What's New in Word Prediction Software?
Technology & Persons with Disabilities	3/94	California State U., Los Angeles, CA	Why not Recommend a Macintosh? Tools and tips for providing Access for Blind and Low Vision Users
ConnSense Conference UCONN	7/94	Cromwell,CT	Word Prediction and Word Processing for Everyone
Closing the Gap Conference on Computer Technology and Persons with Disabilities	10/94	Minneapolis, MN	Macintosh Solutions for Students with Learning Disabilities

Conference Presentations (continued):

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Title of presentation</u>
Connecticut Educational Computing Conference	10/94	Waterbury, CT	Introduction to Adaptive Technology
			Macintosh Solutions for Students with Learning Disabilities
ADA Seminar Connecticut Department of Higher Education	2/95	CCSU New Britain, CT	panel on Adaptive Technology
Closing the Gap Conference on Computer Technology and Persons with Disabilities	10/95	Minneapolis, MN	Writing Without Worry: Integrating the Macintosh with Writing Instruction for Students with Learning Disabilities
Digital Video Expo XVI	5/96	Quinnipiac College Hamden, CT	Equal Access for Students with Disabilities

4. University Staff time assigned by semester to this activity:

Full-time Faculty

<u>Name</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Semester</u>	<u>% of time</u>
Barbara Heinisch	Special Education	Fall 1989 to present	50%
Marianne Kennedy (This was a one-time activity based on three credits of reassigned time for research)	Communic. Disord.	Spring 1996	25%

Administrative Faculty

none

Other Staff

<u>Name</u>	<u>Hours/week</u>	<u>Time Period</u>	<u>Source of Funds</u>
Janice Hecht (University Assistant [UA])	19	Fall 1989- present	Extension Fund (EF)
Hale Thomas (UA)	19	April 1994- present	EF; 368010 (ATL account)
Kimbrow Kalayjian (Grad. Ass't [GA])	18	Fall 1994- present	Tuition fund
Kelly Smith (U. Student Worker)	10-18	Fall 1994- Spring 1996	Tuition fund and 368010
Mallory Buckingham (GA)	20	Fall 1992- Spring 1994	Tuition Fund
Deborah Brom (consultant)	4	Fall'95-Spr.'96	368010
(GA)	20	Fall'94-Spr.'95	Tuition
(volunteer)	6	Fall'93-Spr.'94	----
(UA)	6	Summer 1993	Extension
William O'Donnell (UA)	19	Fall'92-Spr.'93	Extension
(USW)	10	Summer 1993	Tuition
(UA)	12	Fall'93-March'94	Extension
Dewitt Zuse (consultant)	4	Fall'93-Spr.'94	Extension
Rebecca Stillwell (USW)	10	Fall'93-Spr.'94	Tuition
Nancy Zychek (USW)	10	Fall'92-Spr.'93	Tuition

Explanation of Staffing Changes:

The changes in the way positions for the Adaptive Technology Lab are funded are due to the cutbacks in financial support provided to the lab by SCSU. As some of the positions have lost funding, funds have been used from income earned from teacher trainings and client evaluations to pay workers in these positions. These are funds which would otherwise have been used to increase the holdings of adaptive hardware and software in the lab. The reason for so much staff turnover is that so much of the staff consists of students. After a large time investment in training these workers, they go on to other endeavors. Some of the people hired as University Assistants have left when they received jobs offering better pay. The lack of a full-time administrator for the lab has resulted in staff members juggling administrative responsibilities with direct service, and a frustrating lack of time for pursuing additional granting opportunities or projects. The decrease in staff support has also resulted in an under-utilization of the lab facility.

5. Financial Schedule for reporting period

Beginning balance	<u>\$6,092.00</u>
Income/Receipts	
Grants/Contracts	<u>0</u>
Student fees/charges	<u>0</u>
Other (identify source)	
Consultation fees	<u>\$3,000.00</u>
Outside evaluations	<u>\$26,553.00</u>
Sale of StartUp Kit	<u>\$1400.00</u>
Workshop Reg. fees	<u>\$10,300.00</u>
Inservice trainings	<u>\$4,250.00</u>
Total	<u>\$51,595.00</u>

Expenditures

Personal services (Contractual)	<u>\$23,083.00</u>
Equipment and supplies	<u>\$23,137.00</u>
O/E	<u>\$0</u>
Total	<u>\$46,220.00</u>
Ending Balance	<u>\$5,375.00</u>

SCSU In-Kind Support:

Staffing: 48 load hours reassigned time for Barbara Heinisch; 3,952 University Assistant Hours for Janice Hecht; 418 University Assistant hours for Hale Thomas; 1084 University Assistant hours for Bill O'Donnell; 1280 Graduate Assistant hours for Mallory Buckingham; 724 Graduate Assistant hours for Deborah Brom; 576 Graduate Assistant hours for Kimbro Kalayjian; 1280 student helper hours total.

Other: Physical facilities, computers and software, furniture, telephone, photocopy services, mailing, security, custodial services, miscellaneous office supplies, computer repair and maintenance.

6. Current authorizing resolution establishes sunset date at: JUNE 30, 1996.

7. Campus president's evaluation of the activity and recommendation for continuance or discontinuance.
(please see attachment)

Future plans for the Adaptive Technology Lab:

Student Services for students with disabilities:

Staff of the ATL will continue to evaluate and train SCSU students in the uses and applications of assistive technology. Students with disabilities are choosing to attend SCSU in greater numbers because of the support system already in place at this university. It is anticipated that the numbers of students needing adaptive technology solutions will continue to increase. The ATL sees a need to work more closely with high schools in transition planning for students with disabilities.

Student Services for students in professional programs:

The Adaptive Technology Lab will continue to play a vital role in the training of students in programs such as special education, communication disorders, computer science and others. As these students enter their chosen fields they possess a body of knowledge about the use of computers for people with disabilities. This not only enhances their employability, but enables them to advertise to the employers of this state that this university is on the cutting edge of technology applications in education.

Information Dissemination:

Open Houses will continue to be offered on the first Friday of the month between the hours of eleven and two to accommodate visitors from on and off campus. Vendors will continue to be included, and the Open Houses

will be advertised to those people who will derive maximum benefit from the vendor demonstration. Staff members will continue to encourage local newspapers and publications to include articles about the ATL. A video featuring the lab will be produced in the coming year and hopefully, will be aired on a public television station.

Staff members of the ATL will continue to make presentations at some of the major national conferences in the field of assistive technology, as finances permit. Additional presentation topics will continue to be developed. Topics currently under development include a session in methods for training new staff members of a lab in the uses and applications of adaptive technology; using new software adaptations in teaching writing skills to students with learning disabilities; and using software designed for preschool children as teaching tools for students in special education programs. Staff members will continue to submit articles for publication in the professional literature.

Direct Services to people who are not SCSU students:

The Staff of the Adaptive Technology Lab will continue to evaluate and train clients referred from the Board of Education Services for the Blind, the Bureau of Rehabilitation Services, school districts throughout the state, as well as those people with disabilities who seek services independently. The ATL charges a fee for the evaluation and training of these clients. Clients referred to the ATL usually have multiple disabilities and challenge the staff to keep current on the latest evaluation and training techniques.

Financial Development: The staff of the ATL will continue to pursue federal and private grants which will allow the expansion of services and programs through the acquisition of equipment, software, and staff resources. Teacher training and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act will continue to be areas of priority. The lab will continue to pursue relationships with the business sector which could result in some financial support. Additional income will be generated from increasing the number of teacher training workshops being offered.

Software Development: Staff of the Adaptive Technology Lab have been working with developers of software for people with disabilities to improve their products. At times, the lab has been involved in beta testing these software products. It is anticipated that these relationships will continue.

Workshops and Training Opportunities: The ATL will continue to offer teacher training workshops on a regular basis. Future plans include increasing the number of workshops offered from two a semester to four a

semester. Additional events will be planned for individual school systems as requested. Outreach efforts will generate new populations of professionals for whom workshops can be designed, such as parents or school administrators.