

What's the MATR?

The need for appropriate accommodations to help students access instruction and assessment continues to increase dramatically. One way to help students is through assistive technology (AT). Unfortunately, many people are not familiar with AT and how it can be used in the classroom and during assessment.

Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource (MATR) is available to assist districts, schools, and IEP Team members with expanding their knowledge of AT. The overall purpose of MATR is to provide information services, support materials, technical assistance, and training to local and intermediate school districts in Michigan to increase their capacity to address the needs of students with disabilities through AT. For more information or inquiries, contact MATR at Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource, 1023 South U.S. 27, St. Johns, MI 48879, 800-274-7426, e-mail: matr@edzone.net.

Below is information about the MATR Summer Institute, an excellent opportunity to learn more about this important organization and their work.

MATR SUMMER INSTITUTE

June 14-16

Traverse City, MI

Reaching and Teaching Every Student: Universal Design for Learning

During this full day seminar, Skip Stahl from the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) will present an overview of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) in K-12 instructional settings.

Drawing from the CAST book, *Teaching Every Student in the Digital Age*, ASCD, 2002 (which is available online at www.cast.org/tes), this session will review the neurological foundation of UDL, emphasizing learner differences within the framework of neural networks. Building on a research-based understanding of brain function, the session will link what is known about how the learning brain works to cognitive psychology and, ultimately, to the tools of learning—the curriculum.

From this conceptual framework, the session will present a range of practical technology-based strategies and universally-designed learning supports for struggling students in grades K-12. In addition, the session will explore the resources available on CAST's Teaching Every Student Web site. A guided tour of the links, sections, and sharing opportunities will be provided. Through an investigation of technologies that support UDL in the general education

classroom, session attendees will gain a broader understanding of the ways in which digital media and tools can enhance the possibility of success for students with diverse learning needs. For additional information, please visit our website at www.cenmi.org/matr.



Michigan's Assistive Technology Resource is an IDEA Mandated Activities Project awarded by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services.