

STORIES OF SUCCESS

Annual Program Report for Assistive Technology Advocates • 2013

Services for the state

Success Spotlight: Kylie Porter and Chele Porter

Kylie Porter and Chele Porter can both confidently say they are proficient iPad users after WATR's 2013 iPad Bootcamp with Therese Willkomm, Ph.D., ATP. Kylie uses the iPad for "everything," including communication, school, and leisure activities. She was excited to learn that she can use the iPad to read a book to her nephew, and can even choose from a variety of voices for communication. Her preference? An Irish accent!

Chele, Kylie's mom said, "The iPad Bootcamp increased our knowledge by 125% and was not scary! We use the iPad every day now. It was very beneficial to learn about some of the assistive technology techniques and especially the iPad mounts. The mounts work for Kylie on the wheelchair and also for the iPad when she sits in her chair in the van."

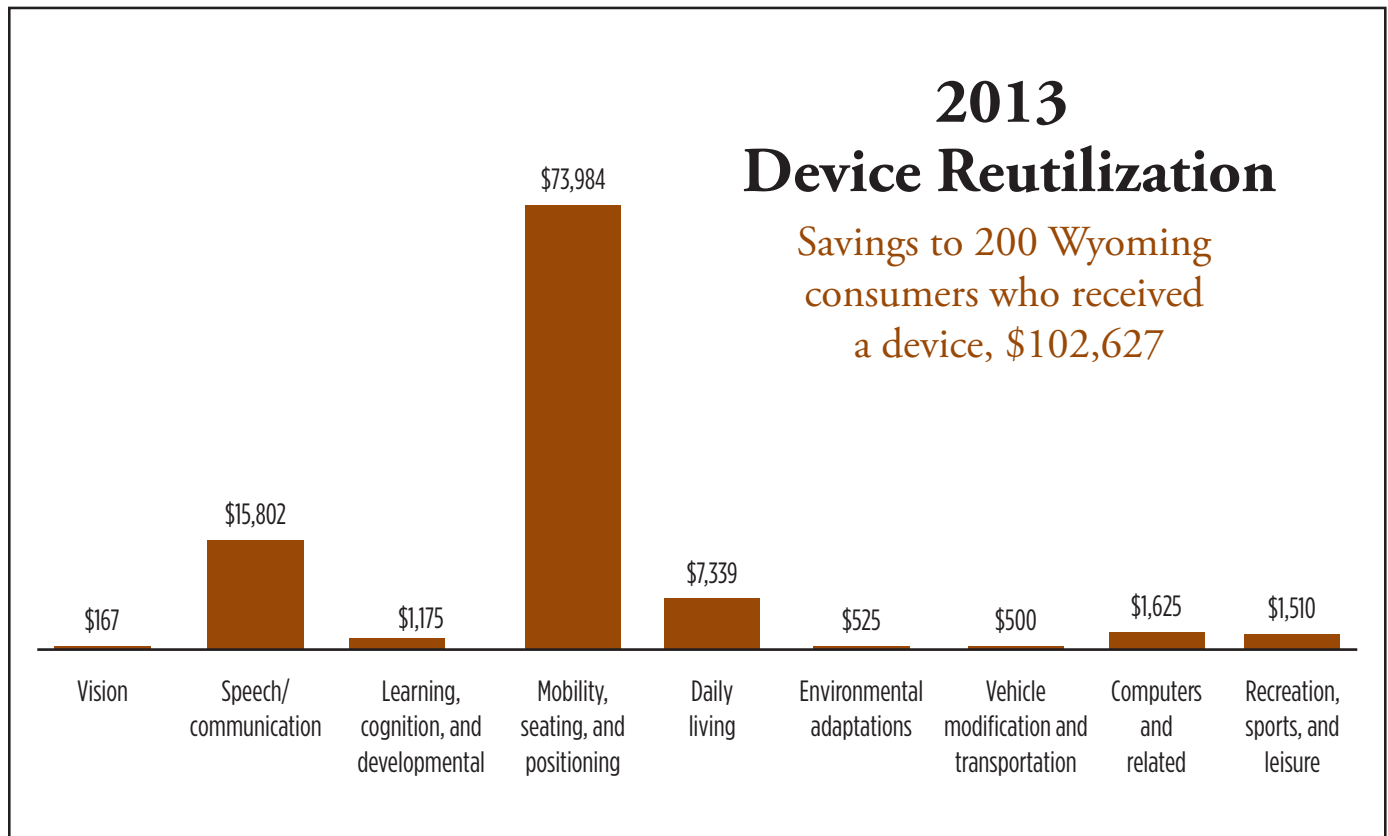
The information Chele learned at the training does not only support Kylie, though. The knowledge reaches other family members and individuals with disabilities. Chele continued, "I didn't go there thinking the iPad would be useful for someone other than Kylie. I have an older child with a traumatic brain injury who is married to a man with a developmental delay. I learned that we can use the iPad for her world too so she can be more independent. I also work in the industry of disability. I can take my knowledge and educate someone else. I would say WATR continues to



spread; when I am touched by WATR it kind of flows everywhere. I am always grateful for the education, and I am excited that you can change people's lives."



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The Quickie S-626 Power Wheelchair will enable us to have a much needed back-up. Nothing is quite as inconvenient as having a power wheelchair that doesn't work.

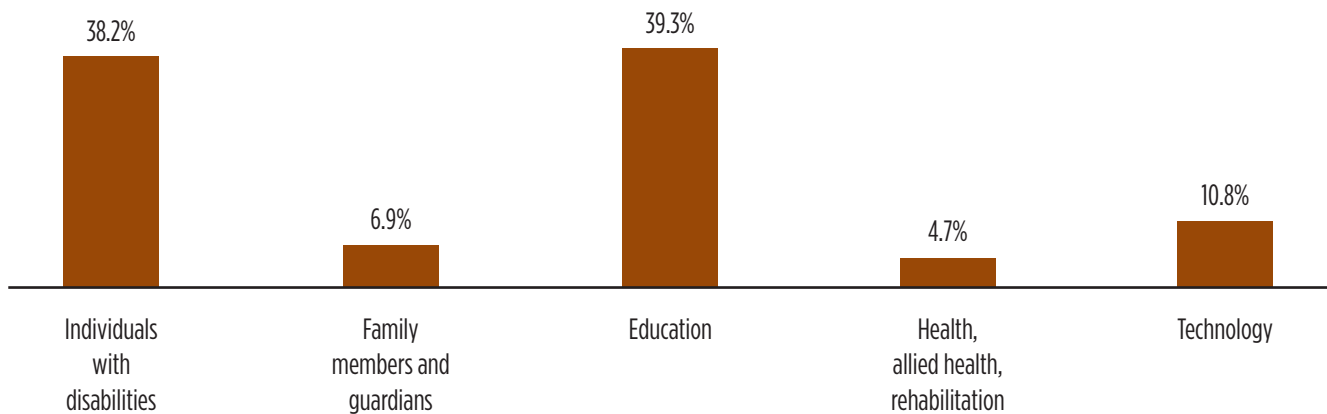
—A Wyoming couple who are both wheelchair users



Services for the state

2013 Device Loans

Number of device loans, 537, by type of borrower



This iPad has been an incredible blessing to all of our family members and beyond! Twelve individuals benefitted from this iPad loan. My two sons with visual perception and tracking issues and dyslexia benefitted from the visual games, puzzle games, etc. My daughter trained our “adopted” grandfather (78) how to use his iPad by showing him on this one. The math and language arts games worked for many of our children! I am amazed at the technological capabilities of young people! Wow! We would love to have one but these are expensive! I was told of your low interest loan for one. I am hoping it works out.

—A Wyoming family member

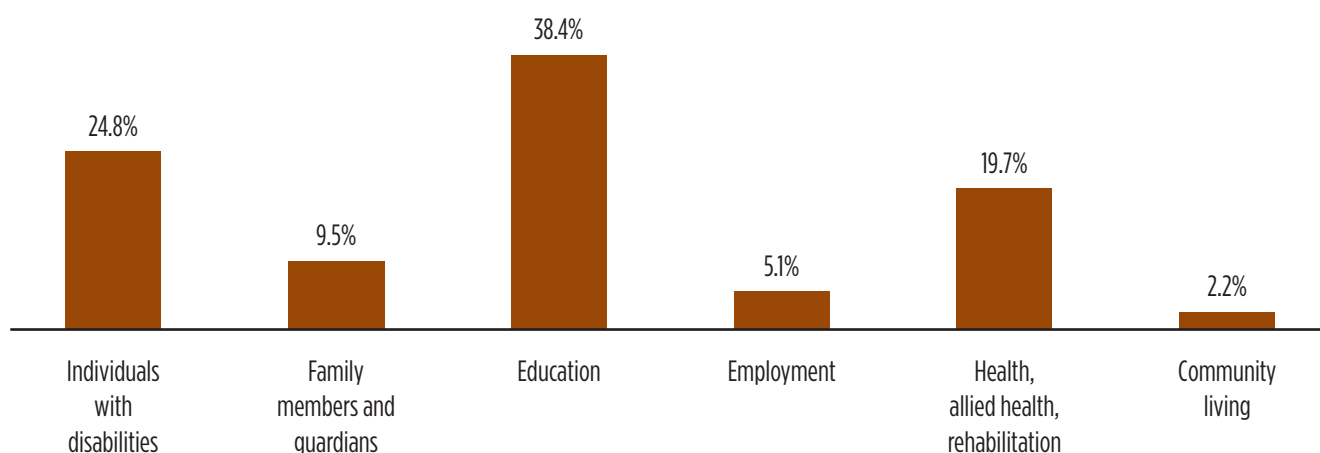
Great program! This is a fantastic way to unlock potential and demonstrate patient abilities for family members to gain support for therapy activities and follow through!

—A Wyoming service provider

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2013 Device Demonstrations

315 device loans by type of borrower



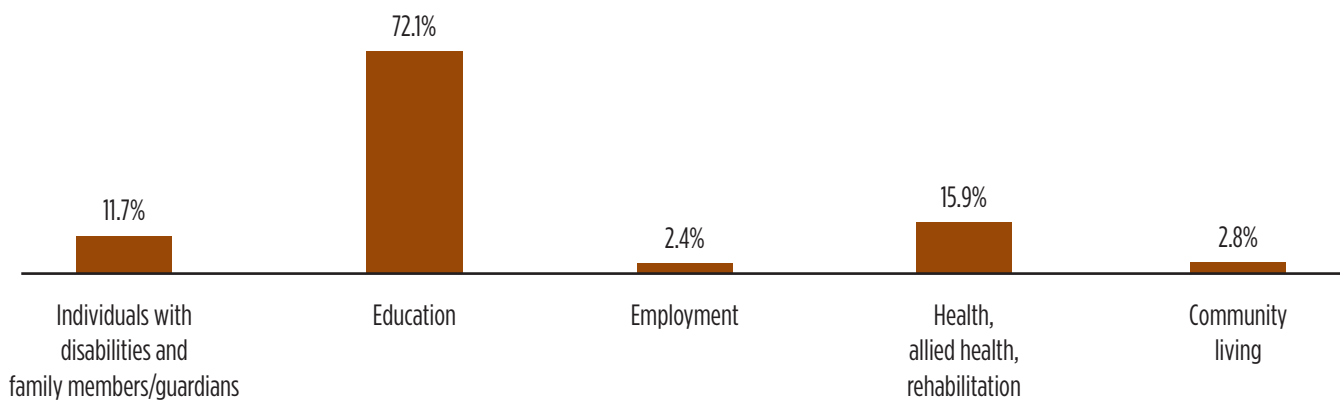
I'm really excited about products that will improve my teaching and make students more successful.

—A Demo Days attendee

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2013 Training and Technical Assistance

567 by type of participant



Success Spotlight: Nancy Draves

Nancy Draves, a parent to child with a disability, came to WATR's iPad Boot Camp to learn how to best utilize the iPad for her son, to see how others were using the iPad, and to learn more about apps.

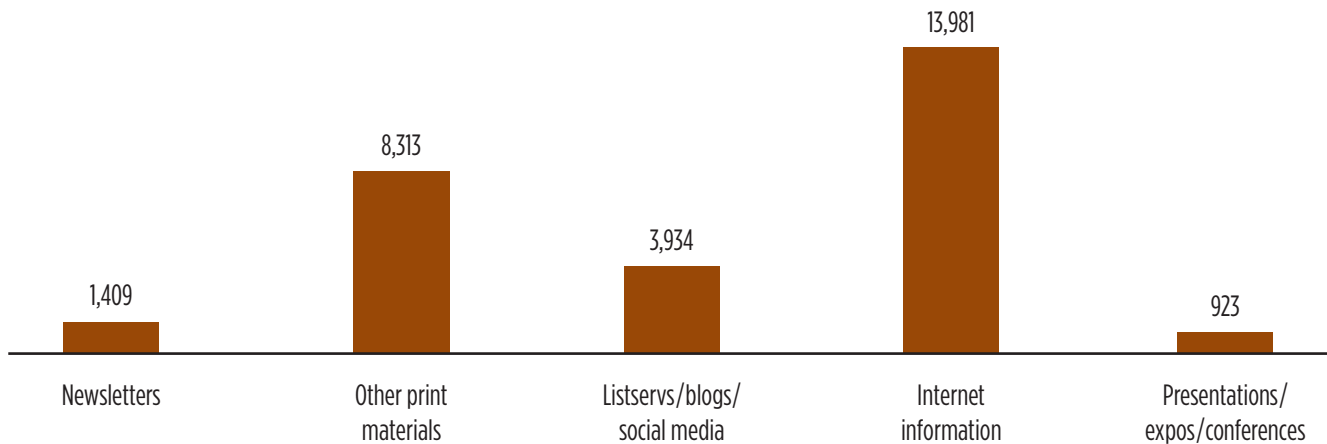
"I learned some special features that would enable the iPad to have voice even when the app does not have voice on it," said Draves.

Draves continued, emphasizing the benefits of an interactive training with knowledgeable trainers, "I am thankful that it was a hands-on-experience. I also enjoyed meeting others and talking with them. I feel like I walked away with a better understanding of how to use the iPad in my situation. I am using the knowledge for myself, my son with special needs, and also my other children for homeschooling. It was well worth the time to attend."

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2013 Public Awareness

Estimated number of individuals reached: 28,560



WATR strives to reach individuals in Wyoming online, in print, and in person. Through our multifaceted approach to information delivery, we are able to reach a large cross-section of individuals seeking information about assistive technology, devices, resources, and trainings. In 2013, WATR was able to provide information and assistance on 2,547 occasions. The majority of this information was provided to individuals with disabilities, their family members, and educators.



Services for the state

Partnerships

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities (WIND)

Wyoming Institute for Disabilities is Wyoming's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), located in the College of Health Sciences at the University of Wyoming. WIND works to assist individuals with developmental disabilities, their families, professionals, and University of Wyoming students through education, training, community service, and information.

Wyoming Technology Assistance Program (WYTAP)

WIND, Wyoming Independent Living Rehabilitation Inc., and First Interstate Bank of Laramie partner to offer a financial loan program for people with disabilities who want to purchase assistive technology devices and services. WYTAP loans make it easy to borrow money for an assistive technology device that will improve mobility, accessibility, or quality of life. Loan counseling and assistance are available at no cost through the application process as well as throughout the life of the loan.

University of North Dakota Occupational Therapy Program at Casper College

Through a partnership with University of North Dakota at Casper College, WATR works with the Occupational Therapy Assistant program to provide instruction to students about specific assistive technologies. Once the students understand the uses and potential application of devices, they demonstrate a select number of devices to individuals in the community.

Wyoming Life Resource Center

WATR collaborates with the Wyoming Life Resource Center and the Anna Marie Weston Lending Library to provide assistive technology devices at multiple sites. The combined collection of technologies is listed

on the WATR reutilization website and are available for long-term lending to any Wyoming resident.

Wyoming AgrAbility

Wyoming AgrAbility is a program of the University of Wyoming's College of Agriculture's Cooperative Extension Service. The program works with WATR to provide on-site assessments, assistive technology expertise, and outreach. Wyoming AgrAbility focuses on promoting independence and success in agriculture, so that individuals with disabilities and their families may continue to ranch and farm.



Services for the state

Partnerships

College of Engineering and Applied Sciences (CEAS)

The College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, through funding from a National Science Foundation grant entitled “Undergraduate Design Projects to Aid Persons with Disabilities,” collaborates with WATR to design unique or low-cost assistive technology devices for people throughout Wyoming. Additionally, CEAS works with WATR to offer hands-on, single switch construction workshops that teach caregivers and professionals how to modify toys or equipment with switches.

Wyoming Department of Education (WDE)

The Wyoming Department of Education provides funding to WATR to sponsor our Demo Days events and our Professional Learning Community in assistive technology. The WDE is committed to working with WATR to ensure students receive the assistive technology they need.

Accessible Media and Materials (AIM)

The Wyoming Clearinghouse for Accessible Instructional Materials coordinates the requests and provision of accessible media and instructional materials for eligible Wyoming students with disabilities. Through a contract with the Wyoming Department of Education, the Clearinghouse works with districts to meet the requirements of the 2004 Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act. WATR assists with the provision of AT devices and strategies to access digital and other specialized formats.

Wyoming Accessibility Center (WAC)

The Wyoming Accessibility Center provides fee-for service training, technical assistance and assessments to improve the access of individuals with disabilities to education, training, and employment. Services include assistive technology assessments, transcription and conversion of conference materials to braille formats, conversion of books and materials to audio and digital text formats, tactile graphics, website and course accessibility review, and conversion of materials to meet Section 508 compliance.

