



National Center for Technology Innovation
Advancing Technology Innovations for All Students

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“Tech in the Works 2010” Competition Makes 4 Awards to Promote Collaborative Research on Innovative Technologies for Students with Disabilities

Washington, DC — The National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI) at the [American Institutes for Research](#) (AIR) today announced the winners for the **Tech in the Works 2010** competition, which promotes collaborative research in developing innovative and emerging assistive technologies. This competition promotes excellence in research on educational and assistive technologies (AT) to improve educational outcomes for *all* students, with a particular focus on students with special needs. Awards of \$20,000 each were made to 4 researcher-developer teams, each of which has pledged matching support to facilitate their research projects.

2010 Tech in the Works Awardees:

Touching Lives and Creating Abilities: Social and Communication Skills with the iPad. *Researchers* Scott Renner and Margaret Flores, Auburn University; *Vendors* Lloyd Cooper and Foster Phillips, PUSH Product Design

Efficacy of the GoTalk Express 32 for Increasing Communication. *Researchers* Susan M. Bashinski, Melissa Darrow Engleman, and Alana Zambone, East Carolina University; *Vendors* Carol Stanger and Don Severson, Attainment Company

Interactive Storybooks for Deaf Kindergarteners. *Researchers* Becky Sue Parton and Robert Hancock, Southeast Louisiana University, Dan Hoffman and Curt Radford, Lamar University; *Vendor* Mike Burton, Burton Vision

Seeing the Possibilities with Videophone Technology. *Researchers* Judith Emerson, John Bishop and Linda McDowell, University of Southern Mississippi, Toni Hollingsworth, Mississippi DeafBlind ; *Vendors* David Hale and Paul Kershisnik, Sorenson Communications

The annual competition calls for “quick turnaround” collaborative research to inform the development of innovative and emerging assistive technologies. This competition encourages developers and researchers to work collaboratively to study the effectiveness and feasibility of a particular technology intervention.

“This competition is an exciting opportunity for NCTI to foster collaboration between researchers and developers across a wide range of disabilities,” commented Dr. Tracy Gray, Director of the [National Center for Technology Innovation](#). “Through this effort, we are able to enhance the evidence base while contributing to the pipeline of scholars with the involvement of graduate student researchers.”

The Tech in the Works winners join 16 other developer-research teams that have received support through this competition in previous years. Teams will be highlighted in upcoming NCTI case studies. They will also share preliminary findings at the 2010 Technology Innovators Conference in



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Washington, DC November 15-16. Additional information about Tech in the Works 2010 and past winners can be found on the [NCTI Web site](#).

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About the National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI)

The National Center for Technology Innovation (NCTI) (www.NationalTechCenter.org), at the [American Institutes for Research](#), advances learning opportunities for *all* students, with a special focus on individuals with disabilities, by fostering technology innovation. NCTI offers technical guidance to facilitate growth and sustainability of learning and assistive tools. The Center is funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).