Roads to Community Living

Technology Conferences and iPad Learning Cohort Report conducted by WISE

Projects through WISE – July 1, 2013-June 30, 2014

GO AT/IT   GO WISE

Roads to Community Living Technology Report from WISE, submitted July 2014

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iPad Learning Cohort

Technology Conferences

There were two Assistive Technology Conferences held in two separate locations: March 12 in Seattle at the North Seattle Community College and March 13 in Moses Lake at the Big Bend Community College. WISE secured contracts with each conference location, and worked with the community colleges to order coffee and refreshments.

Each conference site presented the same agenda and speakers, and interested parties had the choice of which to register for. However, the March 12th Conference in Seattle filled rapidly and many people were turned away. There were 159 people registered at the Seattle Conference and 135 people at the Moses Lake Conference. There were additional people in attendance as well, as some presenters, necessary volunteers, and staff did not register but attended.

The registration announcement went to residential and employment providers, teachers, Voc Rehab staff, State and County DD staff, families, and individuals. The conferences were free of charge and registration was held online through WISE.

WISE worked to organize sign language interpreters and assistive listening devices for the Seattle conference location. We could not locate a sign language interpreter for Moses Lake, and so one participant switched and attended in Seattle instead, and another person requesting an interpreter choose not to attend. The interpreters in Moses Lake also work with the school district and community college and all were booked for the March date. Attempts were made to book interpreters from elsewhere.

WISE worked with State DD Roads to Community Living staff to create an advisory group to the conference. The group convened over the phone to address issues of location, agenda, topics, and speakers. The advisory group was composed of Maria Kelley and Samantha Murphy from WATAP, Corky Lynn Speech Pathologist, Bill Youngman and Vicki Gilleg from DVR, Carolyn Carlson from State DD Roads to Community Living, and Cathy Sacco and Marsha Threlkeld from WISE.

This year the committee decided to have all attendees together for the morning, and in breakout sessions in the afternoon, ending with everyone coming back together for final comments.

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The agendas for first the Eastern, and then Western Washington Conferences follow:

Agenda Eastern Washington Assistive Technology Conference
March 13, 2014
Funded by WA State Developmental Disabilities Administration
Roads to Community Living

All morning we are in Room: Masto 1870 C/D
9:00 – 9:30   Morning Welcome, Technology for All, Marsha Threlkeld
9:30 – 10:30   **Ron Ustach, Senior System Engineer, with Apple's Government Team**, customers in DOE, NASA, and state and local government in the 26 western states. And by the by, Ron owns a home in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, but lives out of Southwest Airlines terminals. Enjoys spending time with his wife, Karen, four children and two grandchildren. Model railroader and rail fan 8with his son, son-in-law, and grandson. Hopes to build a backyard railroad one day.
10:30 – 10:45   Break
10:45 – 11:45   Via Remote Connection: **Gordon Harris, Founder and President of Gus Communication Devices INC**, a world leader in the field of AAC/speech software solutions since 1992. Mr. Harris is the lead designer of TalkTablet for iOS, Android and Kindle, a speech app for communication disorders resulting from autism, aphasia, stroke, head injury, ALS etc. In April, Mr. Harris's company is releasing ShowMeQR, a new app specifically designed for vocational rehabilitation for iOS and Android devices. ShowMeQR was created with input from the US Dept of Veterans Affairs and WISE.

11:45 – 12:00   Wrap-up from morning sessions. Introducing the afternoon.
12:00 – 1:00   Lunch on your own
1:00 – 2:15   Breakouts

Masto 1870 A/B	Masto 1870 C	Masto 1870 D
Creating Assistive	What Does it Take?	How do I choose the right

Technology Solutions in Minutes. Presenters Maria Kelley, OT, ATP & Curt Johnson Rehab Counselor II, MS, CRC, ATP

Bringing Technology Projects to Scale within your organization, Discussion with Ron Ustach of Apple and Marsha Threlkeld, Cathy Sacco of WISE

Assistive Technology – and who can help me? An Assistive Technology Assessment Tool and more: Bill Youngman and Francisco Felan, WA State DVR Assistive Technology Coordinators for Western WA

2:15 – 2:30   Break
2:30 – 3:40   Breakout Sessions

Masto 1870 A/B
REPEAT: Creating Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes. Presenters Maria Kelley, OT, ATP & Curt Johnson Rehab Counselor II, MS, CRC, ATP

Masto 1870 C
Unsession: Participants gather around topics, discuss and share: Funding, resources, employment environments, residential settings & more. Cathy Sacco facilitator

Masto 1870 D
Communic8!! Eight points to consider when contemplating a communication system. Presenter Corinne "Corky" Lynn Speech/Language Pathologist

3:40 – 4:00 Masto 1870 C/D Gather back, hear final thoughts from presenters, Clock hours and Credit Unit forms. **Thanks for coming and sharing**

Agenda Western Washington Assistive Technology Conference
March 12, 2014
Funded by WA State Developmental Disabilities Administration
Roads to Community Living

All morning we are in Room LB1141
9:00 – 9:30   Morning Welcome, Technology for All, Marsha Threlkeld
9:30 – 10:30   **Ron Ustach, Senior System Engineer, with Apple's Government Team**, customers in DOE, NASA, and state and local government in the 26 western states. And by the by, Ron owns a home in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, but lives out of Southwest Airlines terminals. Enjoys spending time with his wife, Karen,

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son-in-law, and grandson. Hopes to build a backyard railroad one day.

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Android devices. ShowMeQR was created with input from the US Dept of Veterans
Affairs and W.I.S.E.

11:45 – 12:00   Wrap up from morning sessions. Introducing the afternoon.

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1:00 – 2:15   Breakouts

Room LB1141	**Room LB1131**	**Room CC1161**
Creating Assistive Technology Solutions in Minutes. Presenters Maria Kelley, OT, ATP & Curt Johnson Rehab Counselor II, MS, CRC, ATP	What Does it Take? Bringing Technology Projects to Scale within your organization, Discussion with Ron Ustach of Apple and Marsha Threlkeld of WISE	How do I choose the right Assistive Technology – and who can help me? An Assistive Technology Assessment Tool and more: Bill Youngman and Vicki Gilleg, WA State DVR Assistive Technology Coordinators for Western WA

2:15 – 2:30   Break

2:30 – 3:40   Breakout Sessions

| **Room LB1141**	**Room LB1131**	**Room CC1161**
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3:40 – 4:00 Room LB1141 Gather back, hear final thoughts from presenters,

Clock hours and Credit Unit forms. **Thanks for coming and sharing** 🟤GO WISE

Conference Survey Results

Western Washington Conference, March 12


Keynote Speaker: Ron Ustach of Apple
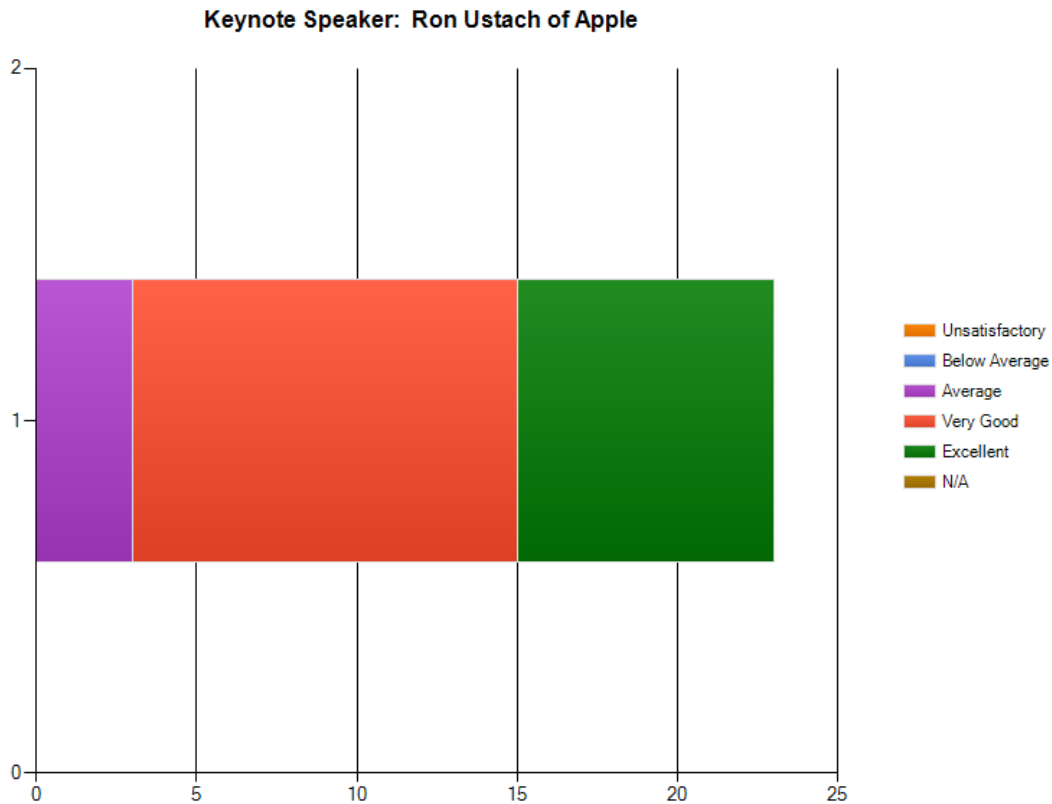
Comments Ron Ustach
1. Good to know that Apple is stepping up its commitment to people with disabilities who can be helped by mobile apps
2. I wish he had more time and more info for school districts.
3. So many exciting changes happening. It was great to hear directly from an employee of Apple.
4. Annoyed that he was late and the tech aspect of presentations was not set up and ready to go. A tech conference should not have technical glitches, bad speakers (the actual speakers...not the people). It seems things should have been tested and ready to go without working out the glitches, internet access etc. on the spot.
5. a list or link to a reference site of relevant links. Hard to follow presentation and he often named apps very quickly and there wasn't a handout or a presentation forwarded we could follow. He mentioned Apple doesn't allow him to share his but he could have provided some way for us to follow up later.

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6. very informative . There is so much to know and Ron included as much as he could into the time allotted. I came away with enough info to continue learning about appropriate applications for my students.
7. Honest, informative and support was genuine
8. Enjoyed learning about some of the things that the Iphone/Ipad can do.

Keynote Speaker: Gordon Harris of Gus Communications (TalkTablet)
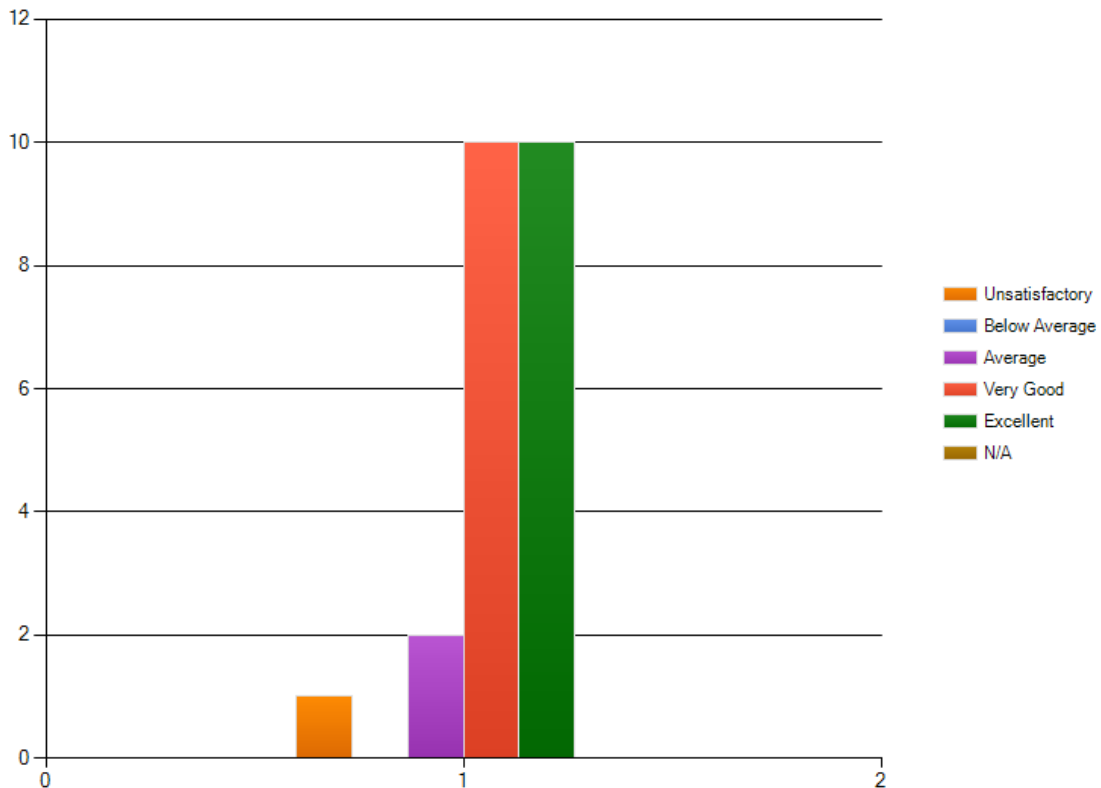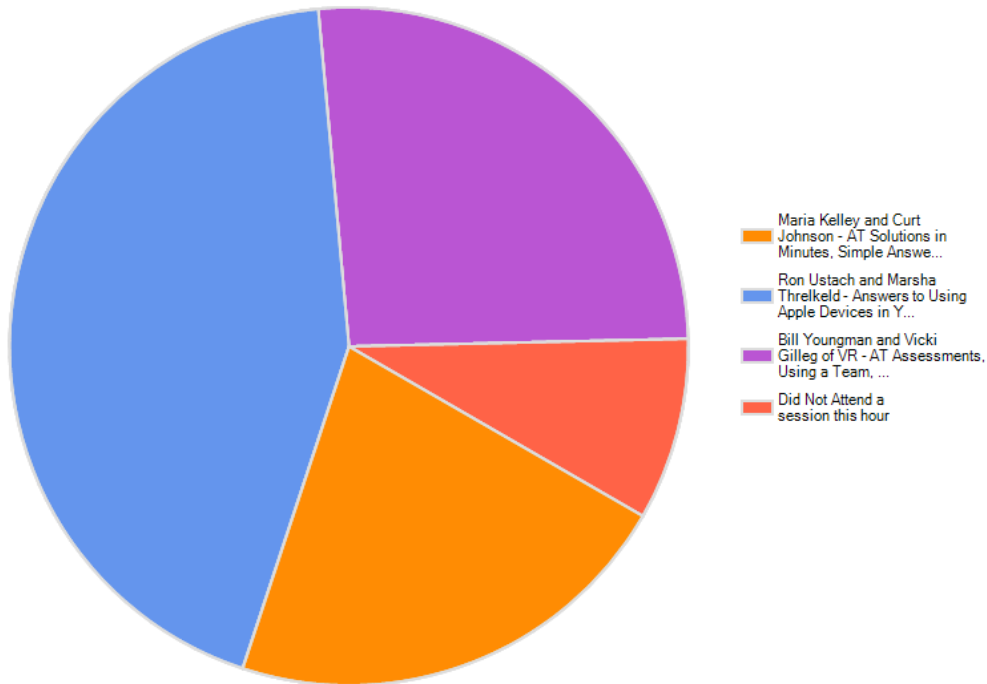

Comments Gordon Harris Keynote
1. Great info on affordable, innovative apps
2. Good info but could have been a break out session
3. This communication app is one of the most exciting and useful apps I have seen. The fact that it works on Android, Apple, or Kindle devices is HUGE news and a great benefit for people with communication issues. This was a tremendous presentation.
4. He assumed everyone knew what TalkTablet does - I had never seen it and he never showed what it actually DOES - he only talked about the new look and features. The people sitting next to me were in the same boat - I did raise my hand to ask the question but never got called on.
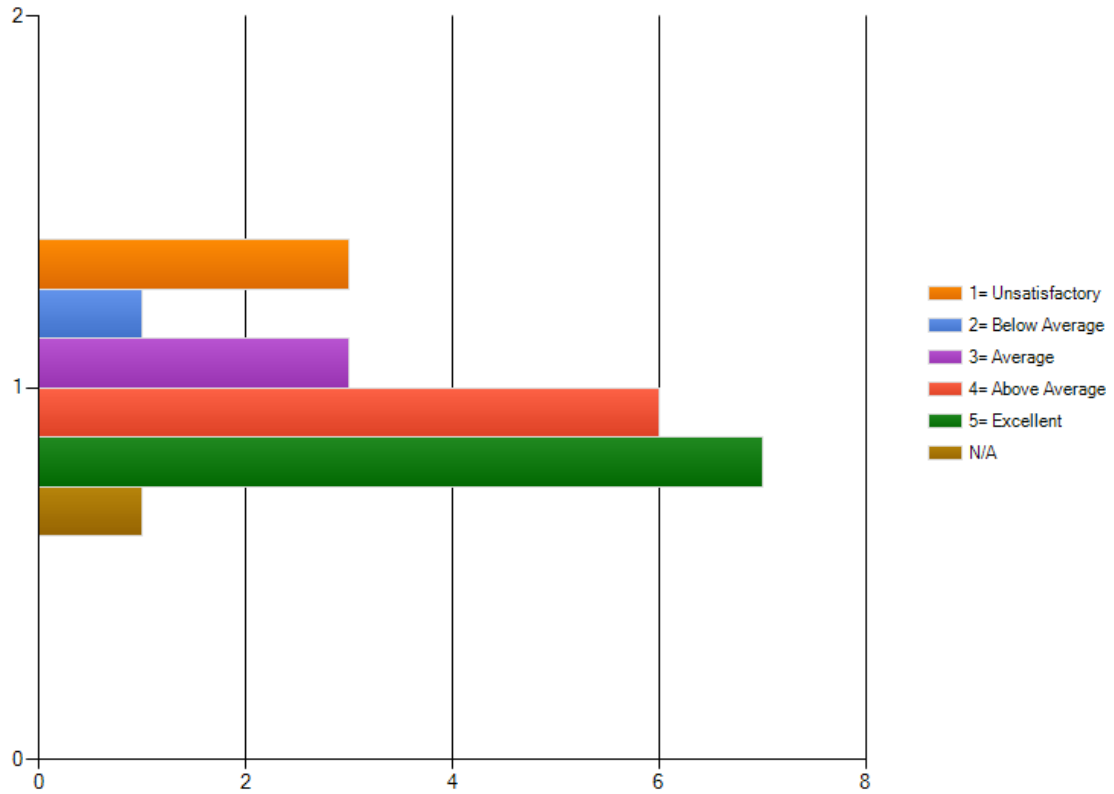
5. Very well informed presenter. Thanks for the information that helps me with my students.
6. great information and comparisons honest and genuine
7. This seemed like a sales pitch!

Which Block A Session did you attend? (after lunch, 1 - 2:15)

Maria Kelley and Curt Johnson - AT Solutions in Minutes, Simple Answe...

Ron Ustach and Marsha Threlkeld - Answers to Using Apple Devices in Y...

Bill Youngman and Vicki Gilleg of VR - AT Assessments, Using a Team, ...
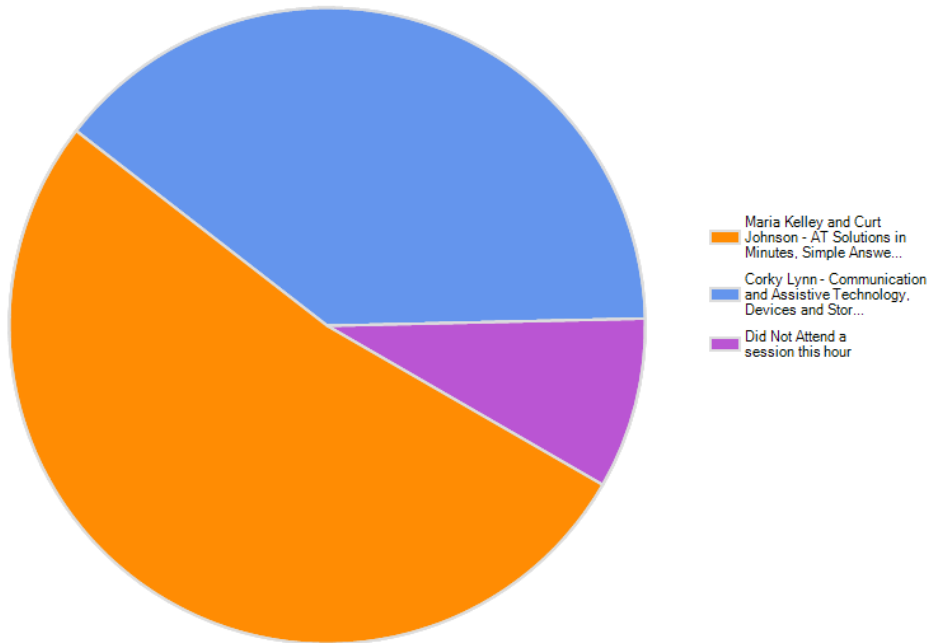
Did Not Attend a session this hour

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Rate the Block A Session you attended: (Thurs. 10:00 - 11:30am)

Legend:
- 1= Unsatisfactory
- 2= Below Average
- 3= Average
- 4= Above Average
- 5= Excellent
- N/A

Which Block B Session did you attend? (Last session, 2:30-3:40)

- Maria Kelley and Curt Johnson - AT Solutions in Minutes, Simple Answe...
- Corky Lynn - Communication and Assistive Technology, Devices and Stor...
- Did Not Attend a session this hour

Rate the Block B Session you attended (2:30 - 3:40)

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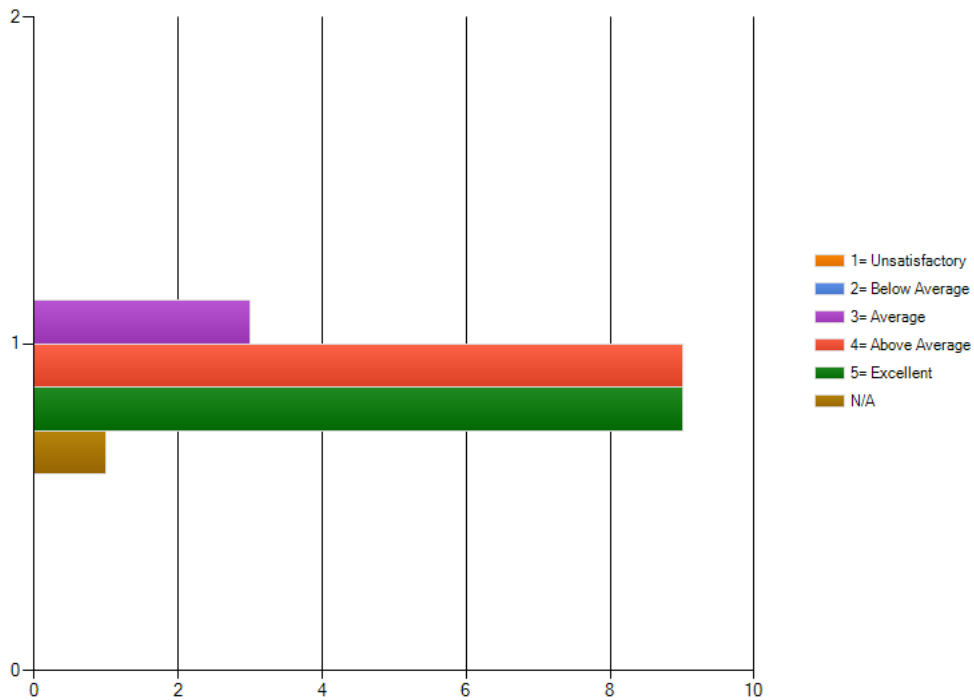
What did you find to be the most beneficial part of the conference?

1. Apple access information - wish he had more time to talk further

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2. Info on Talk Tablet and ShowMeQR apps - exciting to know there are quality, affordable apps which are user friendly and can make a difference in a life
3. None of it. It was not what I expected of needed. The sessions were basic AT info. I needed more helpful AT info like high tech info and how to know what AT to choose for students. It was not based for schools.
4. It was all great! I learned so much.
5. Finding out about Talk Tablet app. I was able to show a cost effective way to get additional communication devices (using an Android tablet which is less expensive than an Apple or Kindle device) to my supervisor at the School District. We ordered 4 Android Tablets and will get the Talk Tablet app this week. This will have an immediate effect on the students I serve.
6. I loved listening to Ron talk about the available apps that Apple has for our clientele- very beneficial! Amazing to hear about upcoming technology and how it will impact the lives of the people we serve!
7. It was helpful to learn about the features already on IPads.
8. Variety of topics, it was nice to see information related to Android tablets as we have been getting so much Apple information. I was encouraged to see so many options and resources.
9. individual stories of achievement
10. IPad apps. This is not shared at my daughters school.
11. Seeing the application of the technology. The QR was really exciting.
12. The information on the applications that are available and how as a teacher I can use these to help my students.
13. Learning about upcoming products and future direction of Apple and Gus. Also practical applications and solutions available for little cost. As always Curt and Maria's information on making your own solutions.
14. Learning that DVR has consultants to assist w/ evaluating needs of client.
15. The entire morning session was great.
16. Collaboration with other professionals and implementation ideas.
17. I really enjoyed hearing about all of the programs and new technology that is coming out. I also really enjoyed hearing from Maria Kelley and Curt Johnson.
18. The technology sections. I felt that the Apple and Gus presentation fit my needs best.
19. I enjoyed the fact that you had information on newer technology, but also had a breakout session that focused on novel, quick solutions to AT issues.
20. Corky Lynn's session. It was great. I would love to attend another training where she spoke.
21. Learning about the different applications

What types of information or sessions should we offer in the future?
1. How to decide what AT a student needs. How to get money or grants for AT. Anything to support school age students with AT
2. They were good but I could only choose one each session.
3. Technology changes so fast that it is important to offer this type of workshop every year.
4. Please be clear on who the intended audience and make sure the speakers understand.
5. Bring up an Android person following the apple person. Please give us more choice. It would be cool to have a small exhibitor space for people unfamiliar with either devise.
6. more simple solutions, less funding information
7. More info that the schools don't share.
8. more tech as this is such a vast topic
9. Loved the DVR piece... real info to take back and use!
10. Similar information to what you offered today; maybe a bit more diverse information on different kinds of products.
11. I would really enjoy hearing more about the AT Solutions in Minutes, Simple Answers to AT.
12. Would be great to have more information on purchasing technology with discount programs or incentives for state and school programs.
13. Corky Lynn? :) I also appreciated learning more about the TalkTablet app and other Apple apps.
14. hands on training

Did this location and city work for you?
1. Yes.
2. Yes, although we had to spend the night before to make the opening - couldn't get there by 9am. This gets expensive.....
3. No, it was not well marked and the chairs were not easy to sit in. We were given a map of the school after we got there, which means we got a map after we got lost. We were told where to park after we got there, which means I had to move after I initially parked.
4. Yes it was a good location once we figured it out!
5. I work in Pierce County so north Seattle was more difficult to get to. Renton, Federal Way, or Tacoma are great for me. Bellevue is better than Seattle because the traffic is less on I-405. Going through downtown Seattle is more difficult. But I have attended several of the GoWise workshops and found them to be informative so I will try to go wherever they are held.
6. Yes
7. No - since so much was reliant on the technology of the lecture hall - that aspect was poor. Bad sound system and limited ability for audience to follow along with presenters on their own computers.

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8. Location was fine, but traffic was very challenging. Lunch option was difficult (would have been nice to have a list)
9. yes
10. Yes
11. Yes, this location worked well for our staff.
12. yes
13. Building was hard to find initially without signs. I did have the map and other students were helpful.
14. Yes
15. Yes.
16. Yes, nice campus and easy to find.
17. Yes
18. Yes
19. Yes
20. North Seattle was a bit further and traffickier than I like.

Affiliation (Please check all that apply):
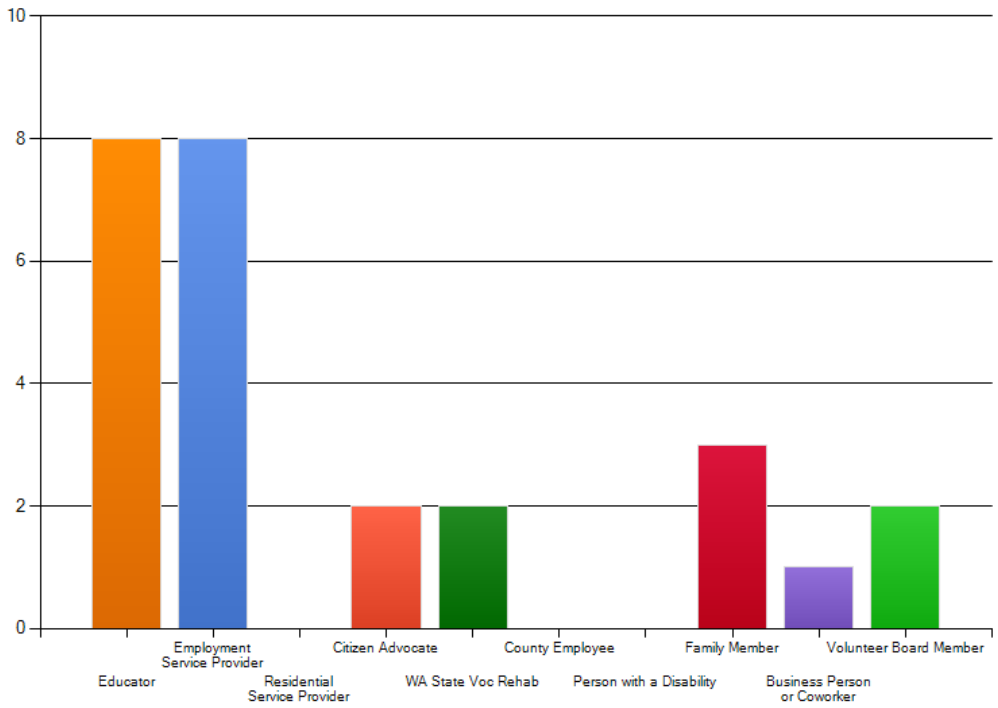
**Eastern Washington Technology Conference Survey Results**

Keynote Speaker: Ron Ustach of Apple
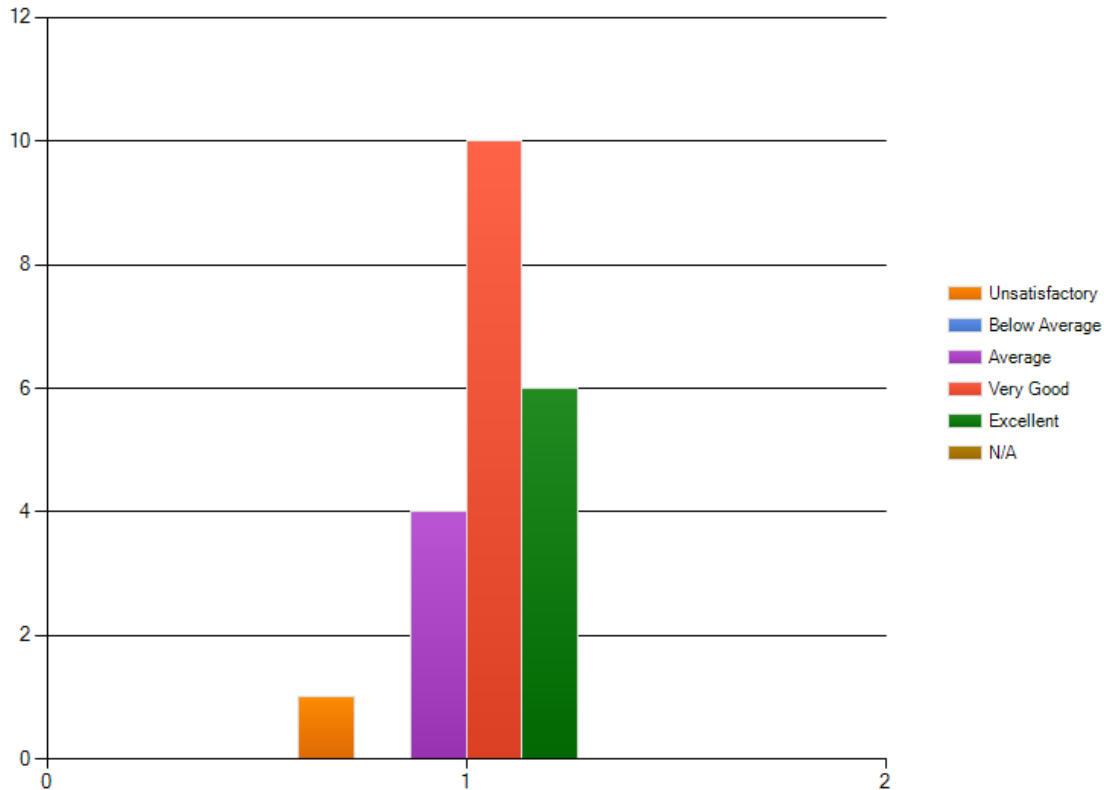
1. Shared a wealth of information
2. Ron took the time after his presentation to answer some questions I had and was very patient considering I am not 'Apple literate' and just fired up my new iPad that morning.
3. I liked Ron, though it came off very much like a sales pitch for Apple
4. Lots of valuable info
5. Was not able to be at his break out because of all the great choices so I would have loved more info.
6. Too much pro Apple. Seemed to try to come across as non partial, but obviously pushing Apple. Seemed too much like a sales pitch to me.
7. It was informative but I felt it was more like a sales pitch.
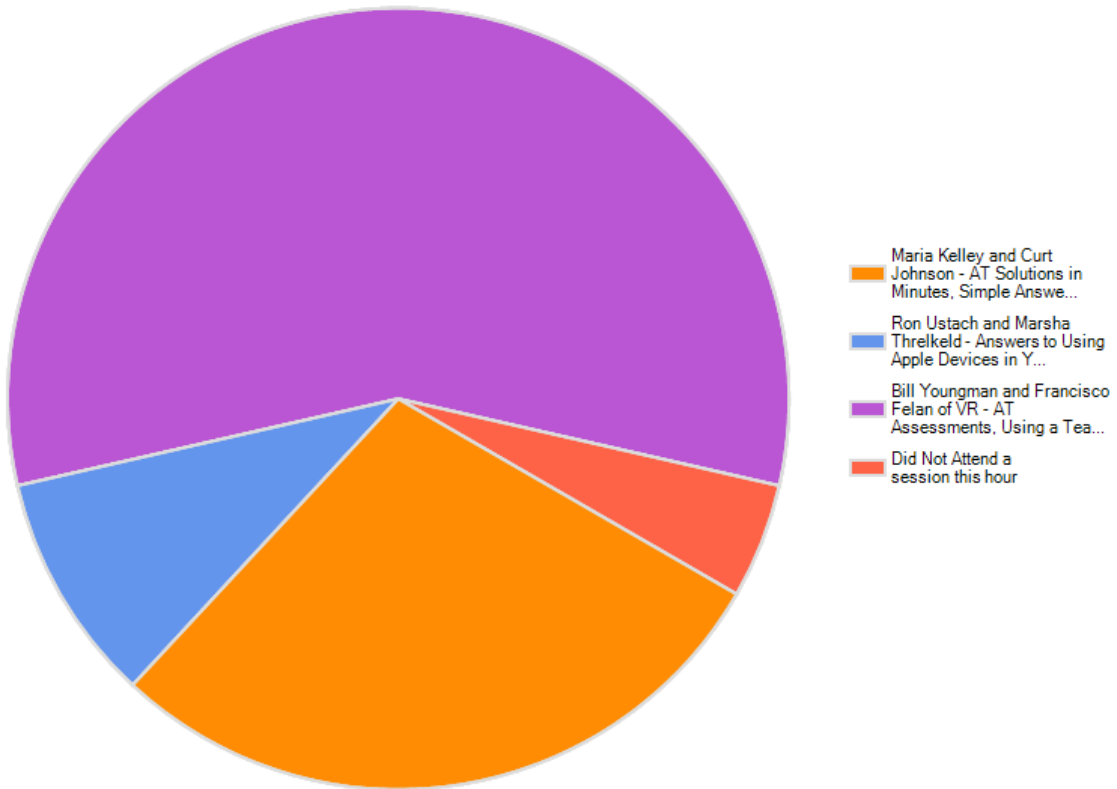8. Lots of helpful information

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**Keynote Speaker: Gordon Harris of Gus Communications (TalkTablet)
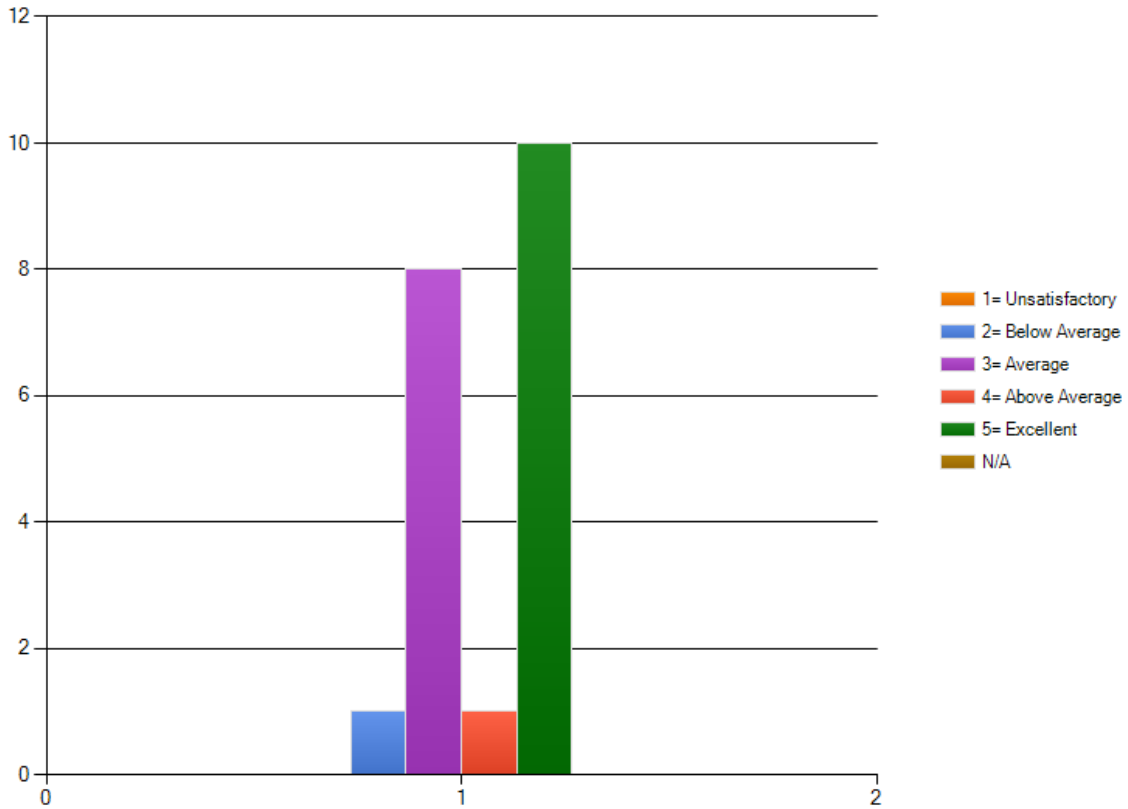joining us remotely through the web platform**
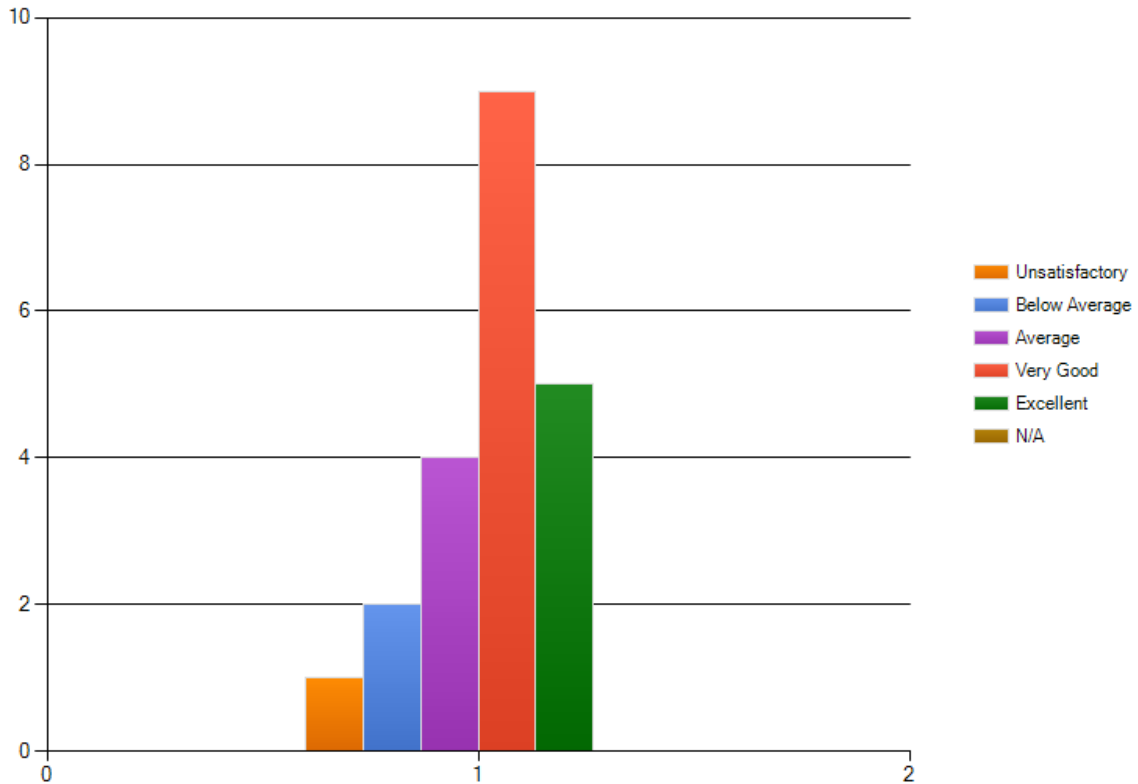
1. Well thought out presentation, easily understood and informative
2. The information he provided was very good an informative, was a good speaker and his product will seem to do big things for a lot of clients. How ever it was very awkward to have Gordon speak about Android devices vs apple right after Ron ustach spoke about able. And Ron was sitting at my table during the long discussion about device trends.
3. the beginning was hard to understand with the phone issues.
4. It was difficult to hear Gordon, and the video quality wasn't great, but it did not take away from his message which was good.
5. Appreciated his information about tablets other than i-pads AND looking forward to the new app.
6. Obviously pro Android. I'm an android user myself, but I was not there to receive a sales pitch in either direction. He began by pushing android and slamming Apple. The cherry on top was the obvious sales pitch of his own App. I did not attend this conference to be thrown a sales pitch.
7. It was nice to learn about the software they have developed for all devices. Still rather like a sales pitch.
8. very realistic and helpful

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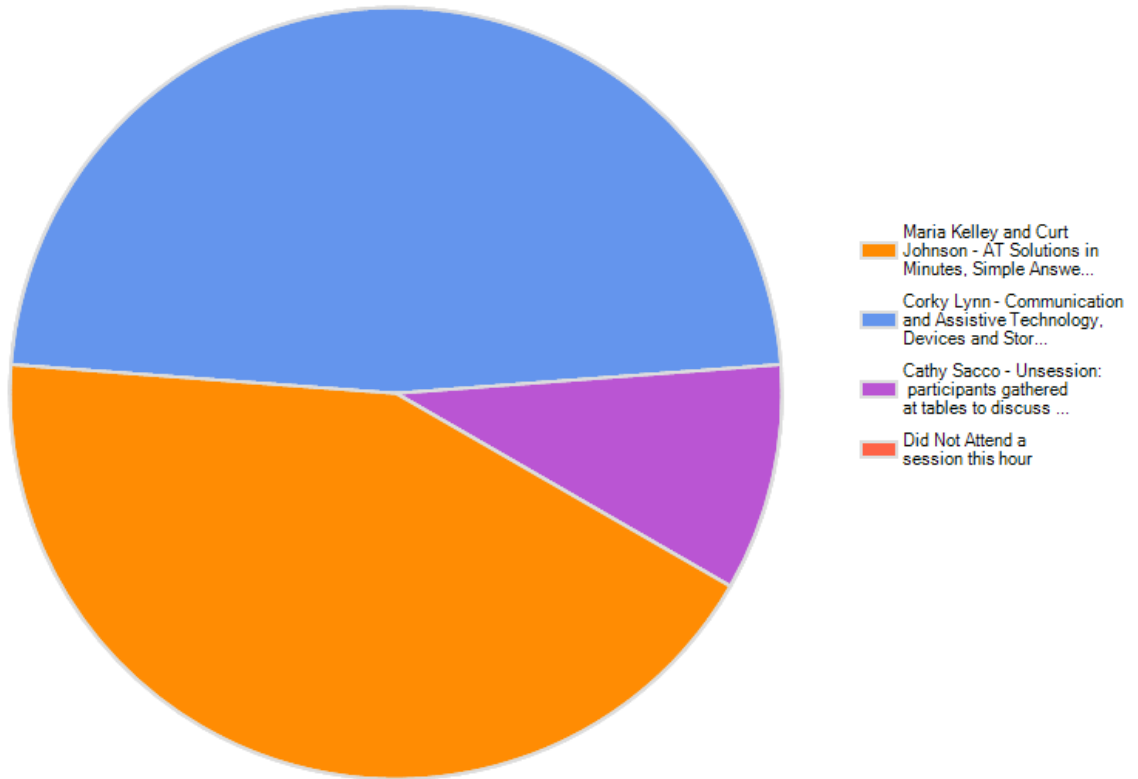
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1. Very informative - I had no idea there were some many resources available
2. very eye openings stuff, hope to apply at my program!
3. Good resource information
4. This was exactly what I needed, an opportunity to ask very specific questions and get answers from an expert. This an the other blocks could have been better explained in the literature so we would have been more prepared to decide which one to go to.
5. Lots of good ideas to use for those who don't have a lot of money
6. This was an amazing reminder to be creative and sometimes simple is best.
7. I attended this conference in hopes to see what was to come in the future of technology in regards to the care field. Not to go over what's been around for years.
8. Good reminders that accommodations are not always expensive or high tech. thought provoking

Which Block B Session did you attend? (Last session, 2:30-3:40)

Maria Kelley and Curt Johnson - AT Solutions in Minutes, Simple Answe...

Corky Lynn - Communication and Assistive Technology, Devices and Stor...

Cathy Sacco - Unsession: participants gathered at tables to discuss ...

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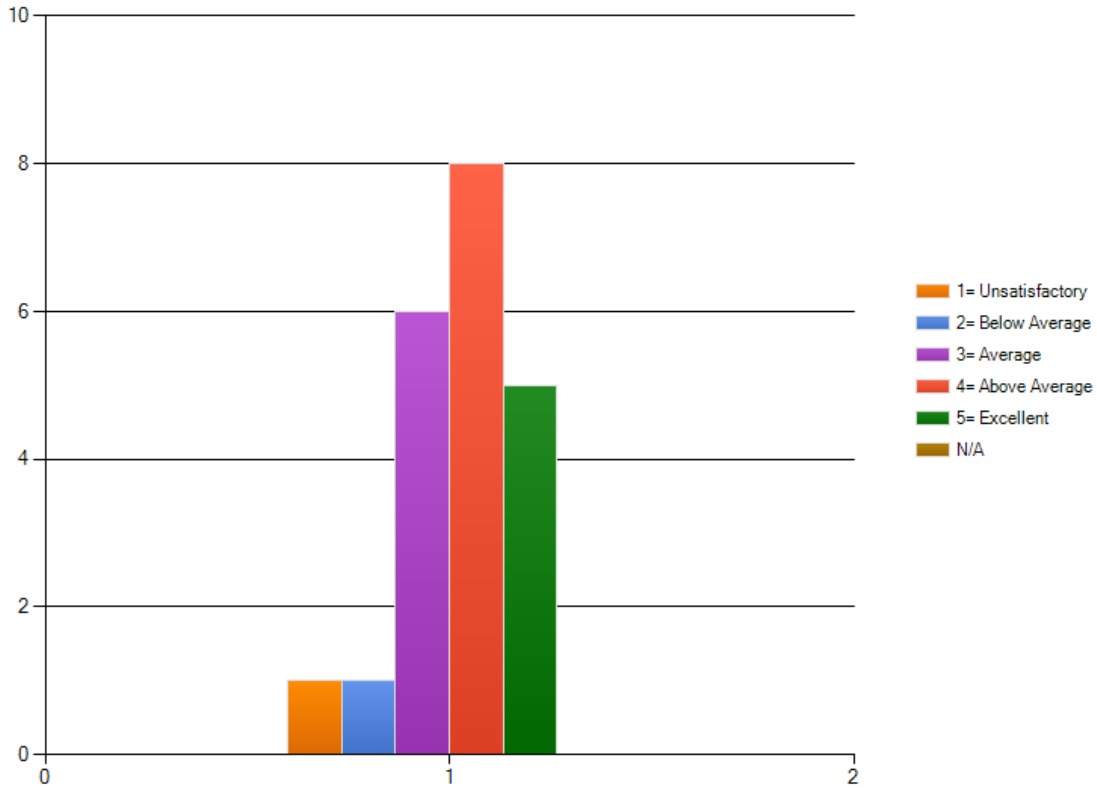
1. Handy out of the tech box info to have
2. Had a lot of good stories, but wasn't the best choice for me since i have clients that already chosen a communication device. I could of chose a different block class for this session however.
3. Did not use People First Language
4. Good information that helped get the 'how can we make this work for our customer' juices flowing.
5. Enjoyable, though not terribly useful for me and what I do. I could have used an afternoon session more for advanced or managerial level users. The room set up took away from it as well, we were all distracted passing items from table to table.
6. Lots of information for a short amount of time
7. Again, I was hoping to discuss the future of technology as it relates to the care field. Not to go over things that have been outdated for years. They had a number of devices for us to look at at this panel, but none were new or of interest to me. They actually had a acoustic coupler on display! A device that even in their own words does nothing in their offices but collect dust!
8. memorable stories, real life application.

What did you find the most beneficial?
1. Sharing of resources
2. The session with Maria Kelley and Curt Johnson was most helpful as it provided ideas for use in real life applications. They were very hands on allowing participants to feel and see different devices as well as showing various items over a power point.
3. exploration of new technology using tablets and aps
4. Bring up the point, or asking if connecting with others online is a human right.
5. Hearing from others how they were able to get the appropriate assistive technology funded. (Every entity is touting that they are for the technology but no entity is directly offering to fund in an easy to navigate manner.)
6. Curt Johnson's presentation of Low Tech accommodations
7. I attended in order to hear about phone and tablet apps, and was very pleased with the info presented.
8. networking with other people and getting their input was very valuable. Valuable for me to take away from the conference was a review of the apps available out there.
9. All, we are just now adding iPads into our field work.
10. Location... I liked that people are trying to get others together to discuss this topic. There is a lot of info out there, and it's difficult to sort through it.
11. The information from Ron Ustach, both in his presentation and block session, specifically the information about institutional licensing of apps from Apple.
12. I was able to gain something from all sessions
13. The information from Gus: because it can be so easy to focus on I-pads and what they do but we really do want to help families with lower cost technology if that is what fits a need. Low Tech/No Tech session: creativity abounds and it was great for me because sometimes I struggle with more high tech solutions (even when simple) because they don't seem as tactile and real as sticky tape and pvc pipe if that makes sense.
14. It gave me a good opportunity to brainstorm and think outside the box for assistive technology.
15. In the first panel someone discussed a program that's in place to help low income individuals with assistance they may need to get their homes set-up in ways to help them with their disabilities. I was not aware of this program. I believe it's the WAF program. I would have to check my paperwork to make sure that's correct. I was not aware of that program and appreciated the information about it.
16. Programs/apps for various tablet set ups.
17. Info on how to find funding for customers to buy a device.
18. Show me QR
19. The technology information
20. Apple's accessibility features/apps

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**What information or sessions would you like at any future conferences?**
1. Assistive technology evaluations and examples. Demonstrations of different devices, apps, programs, etc. and their practical applications in the real world.
2. I would like to see more case studies and exploration of resources for funding.
3. Possibly more hands on iPad training to help our clients that already have a device. Tablet
4. Navigating funding. The best ways to maintain up-to-date on new technologies. (No matter what is out "today," there will be something new again within a few months.)
5. Ipad, IPhone specific training on AP's, video resume preparation
6. technology updates, resource updates
7. For the family it would be nice to have someone go thru the process from school to work. Teach the parent/teacher to ask the right questions.
8. Maybe a session that covers looking at different apps and how they have been used to support customers in the field and in job sites.
9. Help with making the decision to go with one device over the other, when evaluating technology. How to pick what is right for the user.
10. More networking, compare notes time. More advanced user options. Everything was a little 101 for our group, 200 or 300 level would be desired.
11. I think additional stories and panels with individuals that are using either high tech or low tech solutions to support at work. I always love hearing from the person themselves about how they are empowered towards independence, skill, and success.
12. Teaching more application of the examples, rather than simply showing what technology is available
13. Actual future tech. I would of loved to have seen or heard where the tech side of health care is headed vs. where's it's been.
14. I think it should be more geared to the client and not the device.
15. More applications that work with droid devices.
16. Same information

Did this location ion (Big Bend Community College) work for you?
1. Yes
2. Yes. It was nice to have something close to home/work. The facilities were very accessible and easy to move around in to get from one class to another.
3. great location. It was easy to access and the facilities were good,
4. Great! We had to drive an hour and half, but it beats always driving 2.5 hours or more (and then funding a night's accommodations a d per diems) to Seattle or Spokane (or Tri-cities), where so many events are.

5. Yes
6. perfect
7. yes, I'm from Moses Lake.
8. I registered too late for the Seattle conference and drove over 5 hours to attend.
9. Perfectly.
10. The building was amazing. Great set up. It certainly would have been more convenient for us, and probably the majority if it was held in Spokane, but it's good to move things around. The 2 hour drive to Moses Lake was about the max we'd be willing to put in though.
11. Moses Lake---was an okay location. I live near Spokane.
12. Yes, it was fine, though I prefer rooms that have windows. it's hard for me to focus when I don't have natural light.
13. It did, but Spokane would have been much nicer.
14. Yes. Moses Lake is only 1.5hrs. from my location, and the college was a very nice atmosphere. The people in the college were very friendly and helpful, especially during lunch break and considering what a big nuisance we must of been crowding into their cafeteria.
15. yes
16. yes
17. Yes
18. Lovely venue

Affiliation (Please check all that apply):
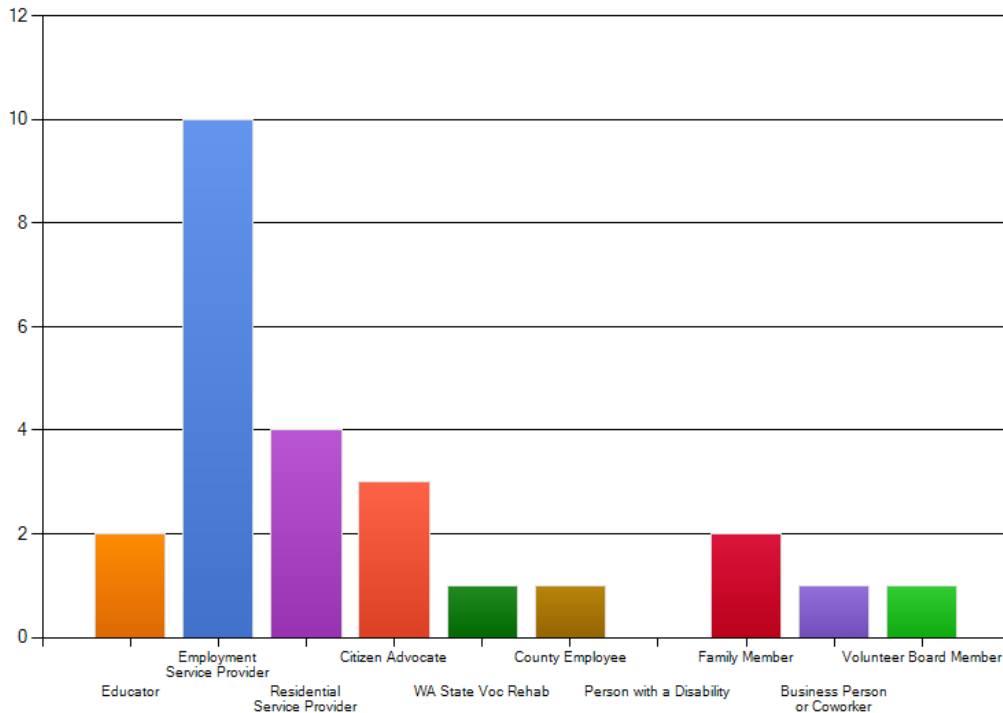
Roads to Community Living Technology Report from WISE, submitted July 2014
Findings and Recommendations: Technology Conferences

1. There were many potential attendees turned away in Western Washington, I think we need to address the interest in the information versus the space available. As a training entity, WISE has noted that lower cost spaces that have good technology and equipment which does not cost anything in addition to the space rental, is usually found at community colleges or universities. If you go to larger venues that may hold up to 250 people, the cost goes up. There are two ways to address this: 1. Pursue a larger venue such as a hotel conferencing space, convention center, or perhaps a university or hospital. This requires additional funding to do so. 2. Pursue conferences in each region, thus dividing the western Washington audience into two separate groups. This also cost extra money as we add an additional location and additional time to organize, promote, and register for it. The recommendation is to find additional funding to support the technology conferences, with a larger venue to hold 250 in Western Washington, or one conference in each region. However, it is important to note, that having three separate conferences is a hardship on presenters.

2. Consider having CART services provided at each conference. Additional resources would need to be realized to include this service. It is approximately $1,000 per day or site. However, if the conference includes breakout sessions, you will probably need to change to live interpreters in each breakout room, versus CART in each breakout room. This is an increase over the cost of interpreters from last year.

3. Consider adding a presenter on Smart Home Technology to the conference. This may be an additional cost. To date, in considering both the 2013 and the 2014 conference, there were only travel expenses paid to a self advocate and school personnel who were presenting and no other travel or presentation fees paid. If we add more complex topics and presenters, the cost of bringing people in from out of state will increase the overall budget.

4. To reduce costs, consider going paperless, and making handouts available online prior to and following the event.

5. To increase funds available for the conference consider charging a registration fee.

6. To increase funds available, look for partners to fund the Technology Conferences.

7. I would recommend holding the conferences in the fall because there are too many conflicts in the spring and people must then choose which they can get away from the office for, and which to attend. I would suggest having the conference in late October or early November.

8. Things which worked very well and I would look to continue or expand are:
    * Using some instate experts who are an ongoing resource to clients and service providers
    * Bringing together people from different parts of a person's life or service delivery system
    * Convening an advisory group to the conference

9. Things that did not work well and I would not continue:
    * The "Unconference or Unsession" model for a breakout session option. This was not well attended.
    * Finding live sign language interpreters in the Moses Lake area during the school year
    * In 2013 we had demo stations all within one space or room, and people reported this was chaotic. If we have demo stations, they should be spread through hallways or different spaces.

iPad Learning Cohort

The iPad Learning Cohort was composed predominately of residential providers, with a very small number of employment providers joining as well.

Meetings were held in the Tacoma area from 9:30 AM till 12 Noon on:

* October 23
* November 20
* January 13
* February 12
* April 23

Members were encouraged to attend the March Technology Conferences. Some attended and some did not. Three members of the cohort drove from Long View/Kelso to Moses Lake to attend. Their commitment was noted and appreciated.

Participants in the cohort provided their own iPads or ios devices to use in the meetings and with individuals they serve, with two providers borrowing an iPad from DDA Roads to Community Living. Most of the iPads were owned by the organizations represented rather than the individuals. Some of the organizations reported only having one iPad to use across the entire organizations and with many

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individuals. This made it difficult for individuals experiencing disabilities to have
enough time with the devices or exclusive use of devices.

People experiencing disabilities owning their own devices is an ongoing challenge.
It is difficult for individuals to obtain a device though Medicaid because it is not
dedicated to one function, but rather can provide many services. Medicaid generally
pays for devices dedicated solely to communication. This is an ongoing issue and
something requiring our attention and advocacy.

Information was shared on using Individual Development Accounts through
Washington Access Fund, Social Security Work Incentives, Family Support Funds,
and Apple store payment plans such as Bill Me Later.

Topics Covered:

The premise of the iPad Learning Cohort was to learn to use the iPad, its features,
and apps individuals with disabilities are finding helpful, to promote independence,
inclusion, productivity and communication in the community. Participants
committed to regular attendance, trying the devices and apps with individuals they
served, and bringing ideas and issues back to the cohort.

Topics covered in the cohort: The basics of operation, general options, accessibility
options, introducing devices to individuals, specialized cases, apps for alarms,
scheduling, calming and centering or redirecting, communication, self determination
and career portfolios, goal setting and tracking, fun, and socializing.

Participants voiced the most interest in communication apps and self-determination
or All-About-Me portfolios. These are good starting points for residential staff to
work with individuals on the devices and put them to immediate use in the
community.

One residential provider told a wonderful story about a man who was not using
words and had no means to communicate, and then began using TalkTablet on the
iPad. He first used the iPad to begin to relay preferences, and went on later to
speak, using a voice very similar to that of the automated voice in TalkTablet. This
was transformative for the individual and enabled the staff to understand the man's
preferences and ability to be more independent.

Another provider said there was someone in their program who regularly
experienced large upsets in behavior, typically in the middle of the night, where
multiple staff would be called in. They then began giving him the iPad when these

times came up, and he would use the iPad to calm down, and get himself back to center.

Findings and Recommendations

1. Because paying for devices is an ongoing issue for people experiencing disabilities, the system might want to look at long term loaning of equipment, matching or full funding through grants from business or endowments, or additional devices to go to organizations, who in turn, have the devices on long term loan to individuals. WISE as a non-profit could be involved in pursuing this.

2. Having one, stable locations for the cohort would have been preferred. We changed between three different free locations in the Tacoma area in order to stay with our scheduled days. There was not availability for all dates at a single location. Good wireless connectivity is a must for the training location, which limits options. We used public library meeting rooms on all but one occasion. On the exception we were hosted by Pierce County Developmental Disabilities in a county location.

3. Initially everyone starts the group with a different knowledge base. I would suggest having an initial training at the Apple store on basic use of the devices if there is an Apple store in the area, followed by regular cohort meetings centered on use for the devices by people experiencing development disabilities. If there is not an Apple store in the vicinity, I would suggest one, large training on the basics of using the devices open to anyone and lead by WISE. Thereafter, the specific cohort members could meet and learn and share over time about using the devices with people experiencing intellectual disabilities. I would suggest starting any new cohorts in this manner.

4. I also suggest having the option of individual technical assistance for use of the devices with individuals experiencing disabilities if a provider of service and individual feel this would be helpful. Perhaps ITA funding could be used for this purpose. Marsha Threlkeld and others at WISE are set to offer ITA services. There is also the option of doing a Person Centered Plan focusing on devices, acquisition, and support to use them. This takes the work more directly with individuals, but providers of service would benefit by participating as well.