AAC-RERC

Writers Brigade

Sarah Blackstone, David McNaughton, Pamela Kennedy, Johanna Schwartz

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

- Program Manager, 7 individuals with CCN, Project Director, Advisory Board, RERC partners

Writers Brigade (2004-2008)

- Johanna Schwartz and Sarah Blackstone, 12 individuals with CCN

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

1. Increase active participation of individuals who use AAC in the dissemination activities of the AAC-RERC
2. Develop technical writing skills of individuals who use AAC
3. Build employment skills and networks of individuals who use AAC
4. Increase public awareness and knowledge of AAC-RERC activities
1. Increase active participation of individuals who use AAC

Writers Brigade is managed by, and comprised of, individuals who rely on AAC.

Members of the Writers Brigade are paid to write articles about the AAC-RERC for both electronic and non-electronic media.

2. Develop Technical Writing Skills of Individuals who use AAC

Writers Brigade participants have had a variety of educational experiences.

Manager (Pam Kennedy) provides scaffolded instruction to build the technical writing skills of participants.
Pam Kennedy

- Program Manager and Editor
- Uses a variety of AAC technologies
  - Co:Writer, Vmax with Series 5
  - Co-Vice President of USSAAC
- Meets regularly (via internet) with participants
  - Teaches writing skills
  - Builds employment skills

Scaffolded Support for Technical Writing

- Identify a topic
- Gather information
- Write with an audience in mind
  - Multiple drafts
  - Multiple edits
- Maintain a positive attitude

Google Docs & Google Chat

- PreWrite
- Draft for evaluation
- Revisions
- Post Write
- Publish
- $$$

AAC-RERC Writers Brigade

- Write/submit

Google doc

- A Google Document
- Edit
- Save
- Share

- $$$$
Being a part of the WB has given me the opportunity to achieve my dreams and gain a stronger voice in the augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) industry.

Article accepted for publication in ConnSENSE on the Patient-Provider Communication website

I am committed to advocating for people with disabilities and sharpening my writing skills... I hope to assist manufacturers in developing user-friendly guides. This would allow others with speech disabilities to discover the power of writing and speaking themselves.
Alumni: Lateef McLeod

Life post AAC-RERC Writers Brigade
- Free-lance writer for AT network
- Consultant for Dynavox technologies
- Spoke at Bridge School’s AAC by the Bay conference
- Published second edition

www.aac-rerc.com

Writers Brigade (2004-2008)

- Johanna Schwartz and Sarah Blackstone,
- 12 individuals with CCN

www.aac-rerc.com

A Declaration of a Body of Love
Lateef McLeod

www.aac-rerc.com
Writers Brigade (2004-2008)

3. Build Employment Skills & Networks (Writers Brigade ‘04-08)
- Employment Skills
  - Improved writing skills
  - Improved confidence
- Employment Networks
  - Employed Full Time = 1
  - Employed Part Time = 5
  - Unemployed = 6 (5 not looking)

4. Increase public awareness and knowledge of AAC-RERC
- Publications in
  - Magazines
  - Newspapers
  - Journals
  - Newsletters

Over 130 publications to date
Internet Publications

Writers Brigade Manual

- Step-by-step guide to setting up a Writers Brigade

Free download at:
Some available here

Augmentative Communication News and Alternatively Speaking are now free

- http://www.augcominc.com/newsletters/

To find out more ...

http://aac-renc.com
http://aac-renc.psu.edu/index.php/projects/show/id/16
Email Pam Kennedy at pamkennedywb@gmail.com
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Please visit our website at AAC-RERC.COM for more information