Hello!

WATAP is currently recruiting consumer members for the Advisory Council! It is WATAP's mission to promote assistive technology to enhance independence for Washington residents with disabilities of all ages.

WATAP provides assistive technology (AT) resources and expertise to all Washingtonians with disabilities, their families, and their support network to aid in making decisions and obtaining the technology and related services needed for employment, education and community living. Specifically, WATAP offers low cost and free services including Device Demonstrations, Device Lending, Alternative Financing, Device Reuse, Public Awareness Activities, AT Training, and Technical Assistance. Through collaborative partnerships, WATAP strives to facilitate communication and knowledge among organizations, and to support services that uphold the missions of both WATAP and our partners to meet the AT needs of Washingtonians. To learn more about WATAP's work visit http://watap.org.

The Advisory Council's role is to provide input and guidance for the activities and priorities of WATAP, and to inform and educate organizations and consumers who benefit from WATAP's resources.

Council Membership:

- The consumer majority Advisory Council has a minimum of eleven members which must include:
    - Six members who are consumers with disabilities or parents of people with disabilities. These members should represent diverse geographic, economic, social, racial and disability populations.
    - Five members who are a representative from each of the following agencies: Office of superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of services for the blind (DSB), the Workforce Investment System, and Centers for Independent Living (CILs). These members are not counted among the consumer representatives described above.
- Membership terms are two calendar years beginning in January. A member can serve two consecutive terms.

Members should have:

- An interest in/experience with assistive technology (AT);
- A connection to the community or organization they represent;
- A desire to commit to and serve on the council.
- Responsibilities of Members
- Commit to the term of service: attend the 1 annual in-person and 5 web conference meetings scheduled each year.
- Become familiar with WATAP services and partnerships.
- Assist in developing the goals and activities of the Advisory Council.
- Act as a communication link to people and organizations in the community.
- Make recommendations to staff regarding program activities including:
    - Assistive technology device acquisition for the demonstration and loan library
    - Outreach strategies including use of social media

- o   Program/partnership expansion
  - o   Effectiveness and comprehensiveness of program's statewide activities
- Encouraged to serve on an active committee.
- With assistance from WATAP, communicate with state government officials regarding the benefits of AT devices and services for people with disabilities.

Individuals who wish to serve on the Council may contact WATAP through written, spoken, or other alternative means (see contact information in the footer of this letter). Applicants should be prepared to describe their interest and experience with assistive technology, their ability to meet commitment and attendance requirements, and the category (consumer, parent, or agency representative) they wish to represent on the Council.

Applications are reviewed by and final appointment is with the consent of the WATAP director and Executive Committee. New members' terms will reflect a January start and they will attend the next scheduled in-person or web conference meeting after joining the council.

We welcome the opportunity to talk with you further. If you have any additional questions you may contact Alan Knue, WATAP Director, by phone at (206) 685-6836 or email at aknue@uw.edu.

Best Regards,

WATAP Advisory Council Executive Committee:

Kimberly Meck, Chair

John Lemus, Vice Chair

Krista Bulger, Member-at-Large

Alan Knue, WATAP Director