PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Thursday, November 21, 2002
(2:45 pm to 4:15 pm)

HIBISCUS ROOM - A

Guam System for Assistive Technology: Your Resource, Information & Training Center - Kurzweil Program

Michael Terlaje; Assistive Technology Specialist, Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT), Guam CEDDERS

Abstract

The Guam System for Assistive Technology, GSAT, a project of the Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service, better known as Guam CEDDERS located at the University of Guam, is charged with increasing public awareness of the availability and benefits of a broad range of assistive technology. GSAT will be demonstrating the use of the Kurzweil 2000, a highly versatile software that has unlimited potential to positively impact the quality of life for individuals with disabilities with its educational, vocational, and personal uses.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Learn the services offered by Guam System for Assistive Technology.
2. Learn the new AT device that is very useful for people with visual impairment.

HIBISCUS ROOM - B

Self-Advocacy

Brian Shaughnessy (Attorney-at-Law), Honolulu, Hawaii

Abstract

"You Don't Have To Be a Lawyer to Scare People and/or Get What You Want," I discuss the many avenues for self advocacy. Again utilizing a power point presentation, I explain the importance of knowing one's own needs, what is available for those needs and what is unavailable, calmly and emphatically making your needs known to the appropriate individual/agency, the importance of the, "gimpvine," being a, "squeaky wheel." Through example, I teach others to utilize persistence, mass mailings, moderate haranguing media blitzing and asking others with disabilities to help and problem solve. This is just the tip of the proverbial iceberg in instilling in individuals the desired to reach their highest potential and never to settle for the answer, "No," when they know that answer is wrong. With this presentation I try to challenge the traditional mindset and beliefs that are more disabling to the individual than the disability itself. I try to persuade my audience to try to generate new methods of self advocacy in addition to the time tested effective methods.

Learning Outcomes

Participants will be able to:

1. Learn new methods of self-advocacy for individuals with disabilities and their families.
2. Learn the importance of knowing the needs of individuals with disabilities.