Midwest Teachers Institute
Teachers Helping Teachers

MTI 544 The Changing Role of AT (Assistive Technology) Teams

Website: Once you register you will be receiving an invitation from your instructor with sign-in information. You will need an *Engage* account for this course.

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Credits: 3 hours from Calumet College of St Joseph
Calumet College of St. Joseph is an independent co-educational, liberal arts institution, fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, a member of the North Central Association. CCSJ is accredited to offer master's, baccalaureate and associate's degrees, certificates, and diplomas by the Higher Learning Commission, a member of North Central Association (NCA) 30 N. LaSalle St., Chicago, IL 60602-2504, (800) 621-7440. Grades: K-12

Credit Limits:
All students taking graduate courses through Midwest Teachers Institute are limited to the following maximum number of classes:

Fall Semester	9 credit hours
Spring Semester	9 credit hours
Summer Semester	12 credit hours
Total maximum for year	30 credit hours

Requirements for Taking Courses through Midwest Teachers Institute
All MTI courses are designed for educators who have a minimum of a bachelor's degree. Prior to beginning the course, check with your district office to ensure that credit will be accepted for salary increase and professional development.

Course Description
If you are part of a team that provides AT (Assistive Technology Services) in public school settings, then this course is right for you. We will challenge you to move forward to meet the changing role of AT teams. Course activities will give you an opportunity to analyze your current service model, focus on improving service delivery, use more online tools to increase efficiency and data collection, build agency-wide capacity, and plan effective outreach. Course discussions will provide time to share thoughts and ideas. You will identify areas of need, rethink the vision for your AT services, and create a multi-faceted 3-year plan. AT specialists are encouraged to attend in teams, develop team objectives, and discover practical ways to ensure the viability of your team. Whether you are an individual AT practitioner or part of a local school-based AT team, you will leave with a clear, detailed plan to move into the next decade of AT services.

NBPTS standards represent the highest level of professional achievement in the continuum of teacher professional development. There are five core principles (standards), which cover five aspects of professional educational practice: (1) commitment to students and their learning, (2) knowledge of subject matter and instructional strategies, (3) management and monitoring of student learning, (4) systematic reflection about the teaching profession to learn and grow from experience, and (5) collaborative participation in the educational learning community. **This course is in compliance with all of the 5 NBPTS Core Propositions.**

Course Objectives
Following the completion of this course, the student should be able to:
1. Create a 3-year plan for improvement of the AT services provided by their agency
2. Identify at least three ways of documenting the AT services they provide
3. Create a plan for professional development on a specific topic that identifies at least four ways of providing information resources.
4. Identify at least two ways to use video-conferencing and other remote services to augment your AT service model.
5. Use a new productivity tool to create an on-demand resource that can be shared with others to build AT capacity in their agency
6. Identify and implement a regular communication protocol for sharing information with supervisors and district level staff member.
7. Describe the differences between a capacity-building model of AT services and a one-student-at-a-time model.

Required Technology
Students must have a Internet access to participate in the course. An *Engage* account will be provided after the student registers.

Grading
The grading scale for the final grade is:
100-90% A
89-80% B
Anything less than a B will not be accepted for a grade.

Class Sequence

Module 1
Title: Re-Visioning AT Service Models
Topics :
In the Re-visioning Module:
- • We will analyze AT service delivery models.
- • You will reflect on your current AT service model.

Activities:
- ● Engage in an activity to describe AT services in your educational setting.
- ● "Do the Math" to examine the efficacy of current AT services.

Discussion:
Engage in an online discussion to reflect about whether your AT services primarily operate as an expert model or a capacity building model.

Module 2
Title: Differentiated AT Services
Topics:
In the Differentiating AT Services Module:
- ● You will analyze the ways your team allocates time and effort to provide AT services within your current model.
- ● You will think about your current system of referral and service provision.
- ● You will explore specific ways to align your vision with the services and processes you provide.

Activities:
- ● Analyze the ways you allocate your resources and your efforts to provide AT services.
- ● Begin to create a 3-year plan to update and improve your AT service model.

Discussion:
- ● You will engage in a discussion to reflect on your current allocation of effort and share ideas about how you might make adjustments in response to the changing roles of AT teams.
- ● Identify ideas about how you might use a "triage" model to differentiate the ways that you approach service provision for your constituents.
- ● Share the components of your 3-year plan to improve services to build capacity.

Module 3
Title: Documenting AT Services
Topics :
In the "Documenting AT Services" module:
- ● We will explore ways to incorporate the documentation of AT services as a typical part of your AT processes.
- ● We will explore AT team accountability in the form of an End of Year Report
- ● You will consider the ways in which you currently report AT services and the work that you do.

Activities:
- ● Complete the "Documenting AT Services" section of your Three Year AT Services Plan

Discussion
- • You will discuss the ways in which you document what you do.
- • Discuss "AT accountability" and why this is important?

Module 4
Title: Administrative Supports for AT Programs
Topics: In the Administrative Supports for AT Services Module:

- We will examine research about the progress of implementing new educational initiatives and how these phases apply to making changes in your AT program.
- We will identify specific leadership actions that administrators can take to help your AT team build educator capacity to independently support AT use by students.
- We will identify specific management, supervision and program development actions that administrators can take to help you increase your agency's capacity to provide high quality, effective and cost efficient AT services

Activities:
- Revise your current allocation of effort pie-chart
- Revise your current 3-plan to identify ways that your administrator can help you reach your goals.
- Share your pie chart and 3-year plan goals for improving your service model to increase AT capacity with your immediate supervisor.
- Identify ways that your administrator can help you reach your goals.

Discussion:
- Learn about others' plans to involve their administrators in the process of improving their AT service model to build capacity.
- Share your pie chart and 3-year plan goals for improving your service model to increase AT capacity.

Module 5
Title: Expanding Options for Professional Development
Topics: In the Expanding Options for Professional Development Module:
- We will examine paradigm shifts in 21st century professional development efforts and some of the reasons for those shifts.
- We will consider a variety of ways to offer professional development which support a capacity building model of AT services. We will examine alternatives to face-to-face of professional development.
- We will explore one strategy for matching audience needs to PD formats.

Activities:
- Identify specific topics for which you will offer professional development in order to increase your agency's capacity to provide AT.
- Match the needs of your audience to the content and formats you offer through you AT professional development efforts.

Discussion:
- What are appropriate options for your AT program's professional development?

Module 6
Title: Remote AT Services
Topics:
In the Remote AT Services Module:
- We will explore the ways in which two-way video conferencing and other remote services can be used to augment and enhance your AT services.
- We will consider ways in which you might increase your use of video conferencing to provide remote services.

Activities:
Consider how you might use a remote service model to enhance your AT services and build capacity in your agency.

Discussion:
- Identify ways you might you use video conferencing to save time, communicate more frequently or effectively or to follow up on services you provided in person.

Module 7

Title: Building On-Demand Resources
Topics:
In the "Building On-Demand Resources Module:
- We will explore ways to create and share on-demand resources in various formats.
- We will explore online tools readily available to educators and learners that allow for:
  - Just-in-time professional learning
  - Networking and collaboration
  - Digital story telling: Sharing what works

Activities:
- Identify and prioritize on-demand resources that you think should be developed going forward.
- Create one on-demand resource such as a printable quick guide, or an implementation roadmap or other tutorial and share this with colleagues.

Discussion:
- Discuss *spending time in order to save time* relative to on-demand resources, as well as ways in which you can you collaborate with others to create and curate resources.

Module 8
Title: Outreach
Topics:
In the outreach Module:
- We will explore ways to reach out to stakeholders with an interest in Improving student learning via technology.
- We will consider the ways in which you currently reach out to solve problems outside of your team.
- We will present examples of education stakeholders where outreach is a consideration that may yield solutions to issues affecting AT users.

Activities:
- Identify the individuals or departments you should reach out to, and the topics that need to be addressed.
- Complete the "Outreach" section of your 3-Year AT Services Plan.

Discussion:
- Discuss departmental "silos" in your agency and how conversations with them could bridge issues affecting AT.