2026-27 AT Forward Community of Practice (CoP) Meetings

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Thursday, September 17, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Does the AT Fit? Navigating WIAT4ALL and the AT Lending Center Description: Assistive Technology (AT) works best when it's the right match for the student. Just as you might try on a pair of jeans before buying them, your students can have the same opportunities with AT devices. Learn more about WIAT4ALL and the Assistive Tech Lending Center (ATLC), including how to request a short term loan, how the ATLC and WIAT4ALL are connected, and hear success stories from the field.	Rachel Holt Laura Plummer, MA, CRC, ATP	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Tuesday, September 29, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) Tips and Tricks for Supporting Authentic Engagement Description: This presentation is geared towards individuals and teams who know the basics about AAC implementation (ie. core vocabulary, modeling), but are craving additional ideas to support engagement. This will include subtle shifts to support authenticity of communication exchanges, emergent literacy and educational instructional strategies, and just tips and tricks from the field. This presentation will include activity modifications, tips to reduce abandonment, and teaching strategies that may help our students who use AAC increase meaningful engagement. Let's work towards shifting from constant testing/compliance and back towards what communication is all about connection and authentic engagement.	Tessa Heckel, MS CCC-SLP	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Communication Matrix and DAAG Description: During this session participants will receive an overview of commercially available and free AAC Assessment tools. Two of those free tools, The Communication Matrix and the DAAG, are widely used to determine current expressive output skills and assist in developing future goals that will be described and demonstrated. Participants will be able to follow along and work through their first use of these tools during the presentation by downloading or setting up profiles prior to the beginning of the session at Log in - Communication Matrix and DAGG-3. The presenter will share examples and outcomes from these assessments as well as how goals and objectives can be developed from within each tool.	Kelly Fonner, MS	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Thursday, October 29, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Practical AT Strategies to Support Employment Description: This session explores how assistive technology supports individuals in preparing for, entering, and succeeding in employment. It includes real-life case examples showing how to identify workplace barriers, match AT tools to job tasks, and build confidence in advocating for current and future accommodations. Participants will learn practical strategies for using AT to maximize access and support during on-the-job training.	Anna Cliff, M.S., OTR/L, ATP	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Wednesday, November 18, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Accessible Educational Materials by Design: Ensuring Access from Procurement to Delivery Description: This session will focus on the importance of considering accessibility at the beginning states of the curriculum planning process. It will also include information on sources for acquiring accessible education materials in electronic format as well as in other alternative formats such as braille. The importance of meeting ADA Title II requirements will be addressed. During this session, attendees will learn: ● Why consideration of accessibility during the procurement process is essential and how it can save teachers and administrators time, money, and frustration. ● How ADA Title II requirements apply to classroom curriculum and resources and why	Amy Snow	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

	simply buying electronic curriculum does not meet accessibility requirements. ● What sources and options exist for acquiring accessible educational materials, including textbooks and other supplementary materials and resources.		

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Thursday, December 17, 2026 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: A Collaborative Approach to Incorporating AT, AAC and AI in Goal Writing Description: Discover how Assistive Technology (AT), Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), and Artificial Intelligence (AI) can increase student access, participation, communication, and independence. Explore practical strategies, functional goal examples, and collaborative practices to implement inclusive, student-centered supports that enhance motor, cognitive, and communication outcomes across educational settings.	Dawn Merth-Johnson, MA,CCC-SLP Michelle Silverman, OTD, OTR, ATP	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Tuesday, January 26, 2027 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Planning for Transition- Designing Seamless AT Transitions Description: Each year our students move one step closer to the big transition from our K-12 schools into adult life. This session takes a look at assistive technology use during middle and high school and how that time period can be used to support student independence as they transition to adult life. During this community of practice, we will discuss what makes tools useful during school as well as during adult life and how to determine which tools will be effective after transition. A series of questions will be provided to help teams identify priorities and next steps for transitions.	Cassie Frost, MS.Ed, ATP	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Tuesday, February 16, 2027 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: From Tech to Text: Using AI Ethically to Enhance Comprehension in Inclusive Classrooms Description: Dr. Sharon Redmon has a background of over 20+ years in Special Education, Assistive Technology and Augmentative and Alternative Communication. Her recent work is on the ethical framework for using AI to adapt academic texts for secondary students. Attendees will learn how to utilize this strategy to create accessible, age-respectful reading materials, ultimately enhancing comprehension and engagement in inclusive general education classrooms.	Sharon Redmon, Ph.D.	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Thursday, March 4, 2027 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Beyond Handwriting: Assistive Technology for Successful Written Communication Description: The area of written expression includes both the visual motor and composition aspects of writing. Students with disabilities may experience barriers related to one or both of these components of written expression. To appropriately match assistive technology tools to learner needs, educators must understand how written expression is defined, as well as its varied manifestations. This session will focus on the two primary areas of difficulty in which students experience barriers to written expression: visual motor aspects and composition. Participants will explore assistive technology tools that support motor, cognitive, and integrated writing needs and learn practical strategies for selecting tools that promote successful written expression.	F. Rose Kilmurray, EdD Michelle Silverman, OTD, OTR, ATP	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.

Date and Time	Presentation	Presenter(s)	Registration
Wednesday, April 28, 2027 12:00pm-1:00pm CST	Title: Resources for All Description: Join us for an interactive, collaborative meeting dedicated to resource sharing and real world success! This session is all about learning from each other and we invite every participant to bring a favorite assistive technology or universal technology resource, strategy or tip to share with the group.	AT Forward Team	Please complete the Zoom webinar registration. Once registered, you will receive a confirmation email with the link and details to join the webinar.