



KARRN and ACAT updates April through June 5th, 2023

1. CARAT-TOP Program
 - a. The two high schools in Perry Co. completed their adaptations to the community on April 24th and 25th.
 - i. Hazard Independent HS completed their work on Memorial Gymnasium
 - ii. Perry Central HS completed their work in Perry County Park
 1. Sad sidenote. We returned to the park to find out that vandals had stolen some of the student's work.
 - b. The Certificate of Completion Ceremony was held on May 2nd at the CERH. In attendance were the Mayor of Hazard, Judge Executive of Perry County, Director of the Chamber of Commerce, both School Superintendents, and the Principal of Hazard Independent HS.
 - c. Write up of the CARAT-TOP program can be found in the AARP Livable Communities magazine.
 - i. <https://www.aarp.org/livable-communities/community-challenge/info-2023/kentucky-hazard-durable-medical-equipment-2022-grantee.html?cmp=EMC-DSM-NLC-OTH-LC-1537503-1849501-7242008-NA-05032023-LivableCommunities-MS1-ReuseMedicalEquipment-BTN-CTRL-Community&encparam=3g1Xb6P%2fcA4sxe7Hr88F%2faxYpwP%2bcdwADFouwFZwCSo%3d>
 - d. We will begin our 3rd year of funding by the Commonwealth Council on Developmental Disability to create a mobile version of this program.
 - i. Starting next month, we will begin purchasing the tools and equipment to have 2 traveling kits containing all the tools needed that will allow us to hold in-person educational experiences in schools, extension offices, libraries, etc.
 - ii. We have begun developing different build "kits" that we bring to these educational experiences for the participants to build and learn from. We are working on adapting these experiences so that students of "all abilities" will be able to participate.
 1. We are planning on testing some of these kits this summer and get feedback.
 - e. We have been working with Lisa Hatton and Dunbar High School teacher Ms. Pelphrey on a toy drive. I want to give a large shout out to Ms. Pelphrey and the Dunbar students for their work on the toy drive that occurred in April. A lot of toys and games were donated to the program that we are using for the adapting workshop this summer.

2. Grace Jones Memorial Fund
 - a. We had fourteen applications this year and were able to support seven of these individuals.
 - b. I would like to give sincere thank you to Sara Salles, Keisha Wells, Beth hunter, Carolyn Wallace, and Loralyn Cecil for their help in reviewing the applications and providing their considerable insights.
 - c. Items that were supported this year included:
 - i. Batteries for power wheelchairs
 - ii. Lift chairs
 - iii. Wheelchair replacement
 - iv. Participation in the Frazier Community Wellness Program
 - v. Partial support paying for needed therapy sessions
 - vi. Provide some basic necessities
3. Summer Activities/ Toys with a purpose program
 - a. We are participating in several high school summer camps at UK this summer that will focus on examining accessibility and inclusion through play and adapting toys and board games.
 - i. June 15th, 4-H Teen Summer Conference
 - ii. June 21st, AHEC summer Camp
 - iii. July 14th, CHS Summer Bridge Program
 - b. We will give a workshop at the upcoming KY Assistive Technology Summer Conference on June 28th.
 - c. We continue to meet faculty across UK campus who have an interest in adapting toys and using this as a platform for collaborative/interprofessional student involvement.
 - d. We have upcoming meetings with state organizations to discuss how we collaborate to support their work. More to come.
4. Appalachian Center for Assistive technology (ACAT)
 - a. The official Ribbon Cutting opening was held on April 10th.
 - i. We had the Deans of the College of Health Sciences and College of Medicine, the Perry County Judge Executive, Director of the Hazard Chamber of Commerce, representative for Toyota Manufacturing, Representatives from the KY Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and many others in attendance.
 - b. We are completing the application process to become a Pre-employment transition (Pre-ETS) provider in eastern KY.
 - c. We will be holding our next CARAT training session in the next few weeks.
 - d. We are planning on holding a community "Open House" the first week of August.
 - e. Crystal has been very busy developing a list of 3D printed items as well as other items that our center is capable of printing/laser cutting.
 - f. APTA-KY eastern district has contacted me about holding a rolling service program over the next several months working with various CARAT sites to help with equipment drives and possibly help with equipment assessments and basic repairs. They are going

to help promote to the community and help recruit clinicians that want to help. Dates are still being set up.

5. Student projects
 - a. Decreasing Biases towards individuals with disabilities.
 - i. Project includes four CHS undergraduate students.
 1. They presented their initial literature search at the UK Undergraduate Research Showcase on April 26th and did a great job.
 - ii. Working with an interprofessional team including Melissa Slone, Jim Ballard III, Shelly Ferrin, Mary Jo Cooley Hidecker, Judy Page, Janine Schmedding-Bartley to develop an educational exercise we can test this coming fall through the Center for Interprofessional Healthcare Education.
 - b. CARAT program assessment
 - i. We have two DPT students who will be working with me and KY Assistive Technology Service Network to develop a survey that will examine the impact of the CARAT program on quality of live and community participation. We will also be examining supports and barriers to access to DME. This project will likely have an interview component to it.
 - c. CARAT-TOP program assessment
 - i. We have two DPT students who are beginning to analyze the first three cohorts worth of survey data we have already collected from the high school students. We have pre-program and post-program survey data.
 - ii. We are looking at the impact of participation in the service-learning program (that included students of all abilities) on attitudes about disability.