AAIDD Interest Network Annual Plan & Yearly Report

Planning and reporting on Interest Network activities designed to fulfill their purpose. (See the *Interest Networks Leadership Manual* for the purpose of the Interest Networks.

Interest Network:	**Technology**

Lead Contact Person:
Kim W. Fisher, Chair, kcwolow@ilstu.edu
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Courtney Ackerson, Communications, courtney.ackerson@gmail.com
Casey Gartland, Secretary, cgartland@westbayri.org

Next Scheduled Election & Leadership Position(s) that will be Open for Nomination for the Election:
May 2025. We will be electing the chair and vice chair

2023-2024 Report
For the year that **just ended** (July 1-June 30), indicate objectives met, activities completed, and funds used. In addition, please note if/how any activities enhanced diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

For the upcoming year, we will continue our objectives and expand on the foundation that we have built during the 2023-2024 year.

1. **Increase membership engagement and outreach.**
2. **Advance and publish technology research goals**

Objective 1. Increase interest network engagement and expand outreach.
This objective will continue to focus on expanding our membership as well as sustaining our engagement activities in the following ways:
● Continue to host monthly Tech Connect meetings and expand involvement by implementing a systematic invitation and notification system. We will email members the week before to let them know about the meeting and send individual calendar invites (instead of a recurring meeting invite) to members. In addition, we created a Gmail account and Tech Connect meetings will be held through Google Meet so that all Technology Interest Network leadership can have hosting privileges.
● **We continued to host monthly Tech Connect monthly meetings throughout the year. We used our Google account to host meetings using Google Meet. On average, we had 13-14 people on the calls. We've added several new members to the meetings, including disabled advocates.**
○ **We have increased the number of those who get the invite to join. 100 Invitations at the close of this year.**
● Create a social media engagement plan as part of the LinkedIn page that will disseminate content discussed during Tech Connect meetings throughout the month to facilitate conversation and engagement with members inside and outside our network. We created a LinkedIn page and plan to have a system for posting our Tech Connect content in the LinkedIn page. This will provide regular technology-related

content that we can share with our followers and is intended to both drive content towards technology and IDD as well as increase our membership outreach.

○ **We created a LinkedIn page and posted our events and research there. We have a new communications chair who will help us implement the social media plan.**

○ **We post three times per month with posts for meeting announcements, Tech in the news and Technology Research.**

● Publish and maintain Technology Interest Network website. The website will provide updated information about our contact information (Tech Interest Network google accounts), host Technology Spotlights, Tech IN history, and resources for the Tech Connect meetings.

○ **We created and published the website. We house our webinars and Technology Spotlights there.** Technology Interest Network (aaiddtech.org)

Objective 2. Expand research dissemination.

● Collaborate with other networks to do a webinar on technology related to our networks' interests.

○ **We created and implemented 3 webinars themed around technology-based remote supports with three vendors. We partnered with Iowa Medicaid to host the webinars using their Zoom account. We had on average, 60-80 people registered for the webinars with about 25 attending each one. (Courtney will add data.)**

○ **Technology Interest Network - Webinars and Learning (aaiddtech.org)**

○ **YouTube Channel was created to house our recordings and ensure consistency.**

● Track the latest technology and IDD research through our monthly meetings.

○ **We continue to post the latest technology and research related to IDD and technology in our running Tech Connect agendas.**

● Continue to disseminate and discuss research topics and news articles about technology and IDD through TechConnect! meetings

○ **See above objective. We continue to disseminate this through our TechConnect! meetings.**

● Translating the technology research into Technology Spotlight content and disseminating this within our networks and in our LinkedIn page for practitioners and other researchers.

○ **We have published just one of these Spotlights. We have one in the editing stage. We are collaborating as a team to work to edit this. We plan to add a working Tech Connect meeting every quarter to work on writing/editing this.**

○ **Technology Interest Network - Tech Spotlights (aaiddtech.org)**

2024-2025 Plan: Goals, Objectives, Activities, and Strategies

For the **coming year** (July 1-June 30), describe the planned objectives, activities, and proposed expenditure of funds. In addition, please note if/how any activities will address diversity, equity, inclusion, or justice.

1. **Increase technology content dissemination**
2. **Increase community engagement related to technology**

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Objective 1. Plan to increase technology content dissemination
   a. Continue webinars
      i. Host 3 researchers in technology to share their research (those who aren't in our network) separate from webinars
   b. Publish content
      i. Technology Spotlight
         1. Publish 3 Spotlights based on our webinar series or Tech Connect meeting topics.
      ii. YouTube
         1. Expand our YouTube Channel outreach by publishing webinars and attributed content from other YouTube channels.
         2. Have advocates and agencies share success stories related to technology.
   c. Host research talks twice per year
      i. Invite a research team to speak to Tech Connect about their research.

Objective 2. Plan to increase community engagement related to technology
   a. Continue with Tech Connect monthly meetings but reformat.
   b. Create participant led themed discussions for Tech Connect Meetings. Invite participants to share the information related to a topic they are interested in and lead a discussion.
   c. Dedicate one meeting per quarter as a working meeting to work through our technology spotlight.
   d. Determine effective structure for our meetings by survey participants about barriers/facilitators to participating.
   e. Develop targeted partnerships with other AAIDD Interest Networks throughout the year (e.g., Creative Arts).
   f. Educate the organization about the content of our IN. Edit poster for the conference to include our contact information. Reach out to vendors at the conference about our interest network.