



Five champions of assistive technology will be recognized at State Capitol ceremony

Awards ceremony set for April 5 in Capitol Rotunda

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(ST. PAUL) – Five Minnesota citizens, educators and organizations will be recognized as champions of removing barriers to independence for people with disabilities at an April 5 ceremony in the State Capitol Rotunda.

The Minnesota STAR Program’s “Awards for Excellence in Assistive Technology” honor individuals and groups for championing the removal of barriers to independence through the use of assistive technology (AT). AT is any device that maintains, improves or increases function at home, school, work and in the community. Examples of AT range from a magnifier for printed materials and a ramp for accessing a building or home to software that generates speech, reads text, controls appliances and performs computer tasks.

Recipients include pioneers in the field of assistive technology, educators, professionals and consumers who promote the use of assistive technology. The five recipients of this year’s awards, by category, are:

- Consumer – Tana Vogele, Cottage Grove
- Innovator – Auditory Sciences, Northfield
- Advocate – Richard Brown, Saint Louis Park
- Educator – Erika Kluge Frake, Delano; Debbie Bock, Bloomington

The fifth annual Awards for Excellence in Assistive Technology will be presented during a ceremony beginning at 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 5, in the State Capitol Rotunda. A reception in the Great Hall follows the awards ceremony.

STAR is Minnesota’s Assistive Technology Act Program, administered through the Minnesota Department of Administration. The STAR program is federally funded by the Rehabilitation Services Administration under the Assistive Technology Act of 1998, as amended in 2004 (P.L. 108-364). For more information about assistive technology and the STAR Program, visit the STAR website at www.starprogram.state.mn.us.

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