

**Administration:**

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**Washington Assistive Technology Act Program**UW Mailbox 357920, Seattle, WA 98195-0001

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Good Day,

WATAP is currently recruiting consumer members for the Advisory Council! It is WATAP's mission to promote assistive technology to enhance independence for Washington residents with disabilities of all ages.

WATAP provides assistive technology (AT) resources and expertise to all Washingtonians with disabilities, their families, and their support network to aid in making decisions and obtaining the technology and related services needed for employment, education and independent living. Specifically, WATAP offers low cost and free services including Device Demonstrations, Device Lending, Alternative Financing, Device Reuse, Public Awareness Activities, AT Training, and Technical Assistance. Through development of collaborative partnerships WATAP strives to facilitate communication and knowledge among organizations, as well as, support services that uphold the missions of both WATAP and our partners to meet the AT needs of Washingtonians. To learn more about WATAP's work visit <http://watap.org>.

The Advisory Council's role is to provide input and guidance for the activities and priorities of WATAP, and to inform and educate organizations and consumers who benefit from WATAP's resources.

**Council Membership:**

- The consumer majority Advisory Council has a minimum of eleven members which must include:
  - Six members who are consumers with disabilities or parents of people with disabilities. These members should represent diverse geographic, economic, social, racial and disability populations.
  - Five members who are a representative from each of the following agencies: Office of superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), Department of services for the blind (DSB), the Workforce Investment System, and Centers for Independent Living (CILs). These members are not counted among the consumer representatives described above.
- Membership terms are two calendar years beginning in January. A member can serve two consecutive terms.
- Members should have:
  - An interest in/experience with assistive technology (AT);
  - A connection to the community or organization they represent;
  - A desire to commit to and serve on the council.

**Responsibilities of Members**

- Commit to the term of service: attend the 3 in-person and 3 teleconference meetings scheduled each year;
- Actively serve on at least one committee. If a member is unable to keep this commitment, WATAP staff (with consultation from the Executive committee) may remove the member from the council and appoint another applicant to fill the vacancy.
- Become familiar with WATAP services and partnerships.

- Assist in developing the goals and activities of the Advisory Council.
- Act as a communication link to people and organizations in the community.
- Make recommendations to staff regarding program activities including:
  - Assistive technology device acquisition for the demonstration and loan library
  - Outreach strategies including use of social media
  - Program/partnership expansion
  - Effectiveness and comprehensiveness of program's statewide activities
- With assistance from WATAP, communicate with state government officials regarding the benefits of AT devices and services for people with disabilities.

Individuals who wish to serve on the Council must submit a brief letter of interest to [watapexc@uw.edu](mailto:watapexc@uw.edu) by October 31<sup>st</sup> 2013. In the letter please address:

- What type of member (consumer or parent) do you wish to represent on the council?
- What is your interest and experience in using assistive technology?
- What is your affiliation with community groups and organizations?
- What would make this a valuable experience for you?

Letters will be reviewed by the Executive Committee and new members will begin their term at the annual meeting February 2014.

We welcome the opportunity to talk with you further. If you have any additional questions you may contact Samantha Murphy, WATAP Program and Community Relations Manager by phone at (206) 685-8513 or email at [smurphy3@uw.edu](mailto:smurphy3@uw.edu).

Best Regards,

WATAP Executive Committee  
 John Bresko, Chair  
 Aditya Ganapathiraju, Vice Chair  
 Lucille Walls, Member At Large  
 Alan Knue, WATAP Director  
 Samantha Murphy, Program and Community Relations Manager