Assistive Technology Competencies Possessed by Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments in the United States

Dear certified teacher of students with visual impairments:

 It is our pleasure to invite you to join our research called "Assistive Technology Competencies Possessed by Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments (TVIs) in the United States". **If you are a TVI from Texas please do not complete this survey as Texans completed it last year.**

 Assistive technology (AT) refers to assistive, adaptive, and rehabilitative devices for people with disabilities. Students with visual impairments increasingly rely on AT to compensate for their vision loss and the subsequent challenges. However, recent research has found that many TVIs are not confident in supporting students with the use of AT. The lack of AT knowledge and skills is often reported by these teachers.

 In an effort to address this issue, we would like to know what the level of AT expertise is currently possessed by TVIs in the United States. Findings of this research will help us design and deliver more effective and efficient in-service services to support TVIs' work. We believe this is a great opportunity for current TVIs to have their own voices heard.

 As a certified teacher of the visually impaired in the United States, you are sincerely needed to participate in this research. If you agree to participate, please go to the website ([**http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/atnationalsurvey**](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/atnationalsurvey)) to complete an online survey. In the survey you will be asked to provide basic demographic information such as age and gender and your perception about AT competencies. This survey is completely anonymous. It will take you approximately 30 minutes to complete and you can quit at any time you want during the survey without any penalty. The results of this research will only be used for educational purposes and there is no potential harm by your participation. To show our appreciation for your participation, upon the completion of the online survey, you will be offered an opportunity to win **a random drawing of $100 or some assistive technology prizes**. Please note that winners would need to provide private information for tax reporting.

 Again, the website to participate in the survey is [**http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/atnationalsurvey**](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/atnationalsurvey). **Please complete this survey by October 31st, 2011.**

 For further information about this research, please contact any of the investigators listed below. For information about the rights of research participants, you may also contact the Texas Tech University Institutional Review Board for the Protection of Human Subjects (Office of Research Services, Texas Tech University, Lubbock, Texas, USA, 79409).

Sincerely,

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