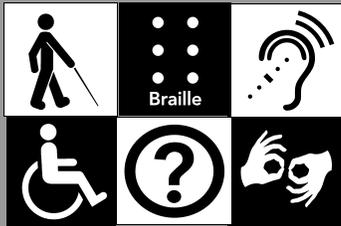


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Office Hours:  
Mon - Fri, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM



### Free Chrome Browser Extensions

The Google Chrome Browser has lots of FREE educational tools that you can add right onto your browser!



### Speak It!

Speak It reads selected text in your browser using Text-to-Speech technology!



### Voice Note

Voice Note is a speech recognition application that types the words you speak. No external microphone required and it's FREE!



# Office Of Disability Services Newsletter



## EYE TO EYE: A MENTORING MOVEMENT FOR DIFFERENT THINKERS

The Keene State College chapter of Eye to Eye is beginning its 8th year! Eye to Eye is a national after-school mentoring program that pairs young students with learning disabilities (LD) and ADHD with college students who have similar disabilities. Using a weekly art-based curriculum, Eye to Eye mentors help these young students with LD/ADHD to value their own unique minds, and give them the skills to become good self-advocates. Eye to Eye mentors act as role models and provide a safe, fun, and empowering community for the students to develop their strengths, understand their weaknesses, and most importantly, build their self esteem.

The Jonathan Daniels Elementary School in Keene has been a wonderful partner for the program and we appreciate their support each year by providing a safe space for art rooms, promoting the end of year art show and offering encouragement to the mentors/mentees. The ten mentors for this year (some old, some new) had their first series of art rooms with their mentees and are reporting things are off to a great start. We wish them another successful year!



### Accessibility Solutions

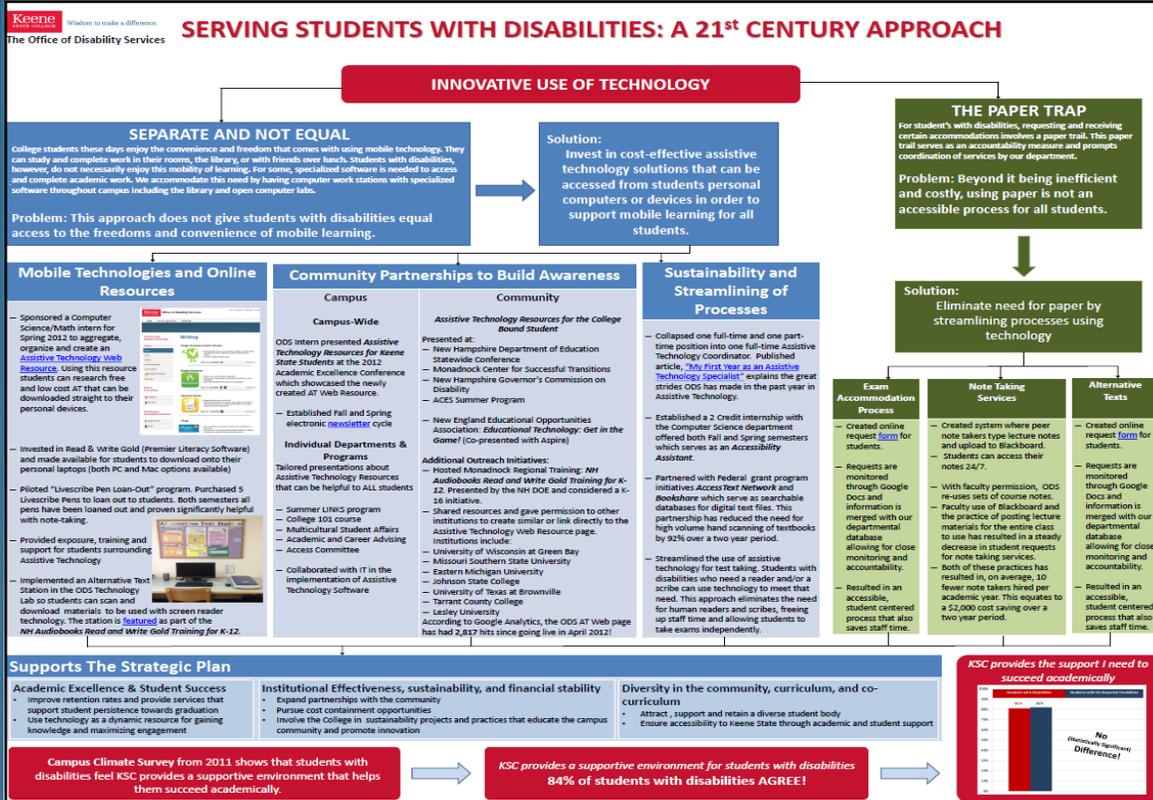


Over the summer, Alyssa Marinaccio, ODS's Assistive Technology Coordinator, worked with an Architecture major to improve accessibility for her in the classroom. The student has fine and gross motor upper body weakness which makes it difficult to use the specific design software (i.e. Auto Cad, Sketch Up) that students in the major use in and outside the classroom. Use of the software requires multiple gestures to perform functions such as zoom, pan

and orbit. Typically, these tasks can be performed in one step using the third button on a regular mouse. This was not an option for the student who uses a trackball mouse with no third button option. The solution? Add a second mouse to be used with a button adapter! The button adapter was built by heating and bending acrylic into just the right shape so that it encompassed a wireless mouse. The student rests her left hand on the button adapter and holds that button down while performing the needed tasks on the trackball mouse with her right hand. What took three laborious steps previously, now only takes one and provides the same access to the software as her peers. The student also reports that using the button adapter has helped strengthen her left hand muscles, improving movement.



# 2013 Transformation Award Recipient



Check out our Poster Project!

The Office of Disability Services was honored to win first place for the 2013 Transformation Award. Being recognized for the work that we do reinforces how important it is and keeps us motivated to continue to find ways to work smarter in order to guarantee equal access and opportunities for KSC students with disabilities. Thank you!

## Alumni Highlight—Stephen Gibler '07



**What have you been doing since graduating from Keene State College?**

Since I graduated KSC I've been all over the world. I've been to Egypt, Israel, Palestine, Mexico, The Caribbean, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Serbia, Kosovo, Albania, Greece, Israel again and Palestine again. I'm in the draft phase of a co-written novel, I've produced a cable access TV show, got into USC Graduate Film School, and I'm producing movies and writing scripts out in Los Angeles. Right now I'm finishing up my Masters in Film and Television Production at USC's School of Cinematic Arts. It's the #1 film school in the world. George Lucas went here and Stephen Spielberg is a trustee. I should be done within the year. I already produced one feature film that will be coming out soon and I'm currently producing a lot of commercials.

*Autism is a set of complex neurodevelopmental disorders characterized by mild to severe impairments in communication and social interaction, as well as restricted, repetitive and stereotyped patterns of behaviors and interests. Children with autism typically undergo years of specialized education, and many are endowed with good memories, systematic ways of working, or an eye for detail—not to mention savant skills in math, music or art. Yet only 10% of them find jobs in adulthood.*

Geer, Carolyn T. "Training Program Helps Students with Autism Land Jobs." Wall Street Journal, Web. 8 Oct. 2013.

**Did self advocacy help you to understand your disability and educate those around you?**

Self Advocacy did help, but mostly for my internal thought process. Understanding that I was different in a fundamental way allowed me to fully reboot the system and make major changes in my life. It helped me overcome issues that I had with how I thought. Once my thoughts were recalibrated, I can now approach people and grow there. I'm always unsure how to talk about my Asperger's Syndrome as many people tell me they couldn't tell I have it. I'm never really sure what that means. I know that I have it, but I guess I don't fit their traditional perception of what an Aspie should look and act like. So while I do talk about it occasionally, I also keep it to myself mostly. In regard to educating those around me, I'm still at the mercy of society and what they know. I'm just one person. But people are learning more and more about Asperger's Syndrome these days. I like to think that for understanding people on "The Spectrum", better days are ahead of us.