Talk, Text, and Train

Innovation to meet needs, teach technology and create jobs!

Maryland Rehabilitation Conference
May 17, 2024

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EXTENSION | Marylanders Online | UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND COLLEGE OF INFORMATION STUDIES | Maryland Accessible Telecommunications Equipment Distribution Program

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Objectives

- Understand how innovation led to the creation of outstanding partnerships
- Experience technology that increases independence, safety and inclusion
- Learn about the careers created and visions for the future

Who is MAT?

•Equipment Distribution Program

•Providing telecommunication to qualifying Maryland citizens

•Who qualifies??

-Receives SSA or VA benefits or income at less than 400& of federal poverty level

-Has a verifiable disability necessitating an accessible device

-Resides in Maryland

-Has or will obtain cell phone or landline service

To Apply

- ★ Request a paper application - 800-552-7724, 410-767-7253, 410-801-9618 (VP)
- ★ Email us - mat.program1@maryland.gov
- ★ Online at mat-apply.org

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Maryland Accessible Telecommunications
Equipment Distribution Program

Technology Explosion!!!

TTT Devices

- ★ Hable One
- ★ iPhones
- ★ BlindShell
- ★ RealSam
- ★ Pixels
- ★ Mini Vision 2
- ★ RAZ Memory Cell Phone

And more devices for other needs….

Project Overview

In 2023, UME Marylanders Online joined forces with Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) to address the unique digital equity challenges faced by individuals with low vision and blindness.

The collaboration led to the development of a virtual training series called "Talk Text and Train", a groundbreaking, multi-month project that saw the facilitation of 19 bi-weekly training sessions held between October 2023 and January 2024.

Read the full article:
https://marylandersonline.umd.edu/about/updates/empowering-blind-community-through-accessible-technology-education-marylands

Figure 1: A snapshot of the Talk, Text, and Train playlist hosted on University of Maryland Extension's YouTube channel.

Participating Partners

- University of Maryland Extension (UME) Marylanders Online in partnership with the College of Information Studies (INFO)
- Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT)
- BlindShel USA
- Raz Mobility
- Hable
- Teltex
- Npower
- Real Sam
- National Federation of the Blind
- Apple
- Google
- Smart Vision
- Npower
- Comcast
- Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services (DORS)

Figure 2: The Talk, Text, and Train flyer featuring the agenda of sessions.

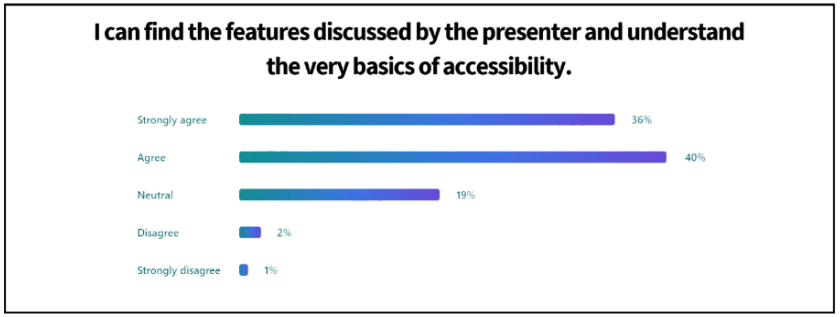
Program Outcomes

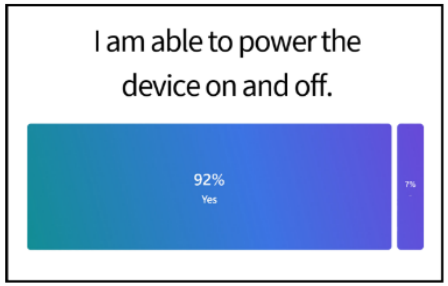
60 people attended the September 27th Kick-off day
An average of 30 people participated in all follow-up sessions
23 participants received certifications for completing the training series
Before the TTT series, only 51% of participants were familiar with the devices.
After completing the training, 85% of participants stated that they would be able to master the device with additional sessions.
TTT graduates are earning an average of $65/hour

Visit the TTT playlist on UME's YouTube channel.

Figure 3: A sample certificate earned by a participant who completing all TTT sessions.

Survey Results





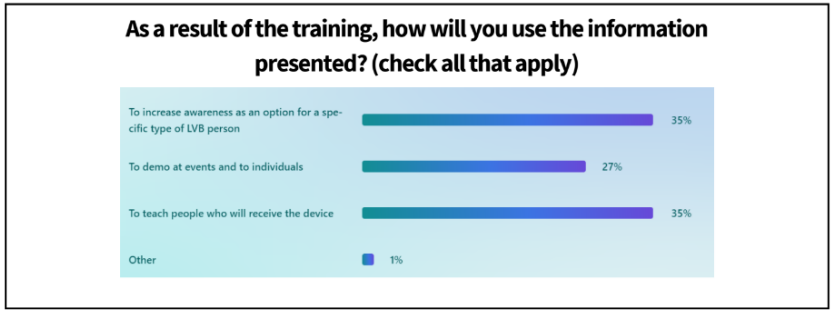


Figure 4: Graphics illustrating the survey results shared on previous slide.

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marylandersonline@umd.edu | Or scan the QR Code with your smartphone camera to contact a navigator.

Contact information

www.MarylandersOnline.umd.edu

MarylandersOnline@umd.edu

Toll Free Tech Helpline: 1-866-206-8467

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The Future of Talk, Text, and Train

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Thank you

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