

## Work Study Site for LMU Students

Kaely Orenski and Noelle Hauck are both students at Loyola Marymount University (LMU) and work at EmpowerTech as part of LMU's work-study program. Both young women provide instruction and support to our students.

Kaely, a senior at LMU, will be graduating this spring. She has been a work study student since her freshman year. This semester, Kaely is assisting at our weekly Open Access Program. Kaely is a Psychology major and plans to pursue her studies in a graduate Psychology program.

Noelle, a recent addition to ET, began her time with us in September after relocating from Fresno. Noelle is a freshman at LMU majoring in European Studies. This semester Noelle is assisting with the TRADE afternoon program, assisting our students with developmental disabilities learn computer skills.



Noelle Hauck provides instruction to Michelle, a TRADE student

## Free Computer Learning Games

Ages 3-7  
Poisson Rouge  
[www.poissonrouge.com](http://www.poissonrouge.com)

This site contains over 200 small online games and activities for preschool children. Good for introducing young children to mouse use and website navigation.

Ages 7 to 103  
Zoopz.com  
[www.zoopz.com/zoopz/zoopz2.html](http://www.zoopz.com/zoopz/zoopz2.html)

Games that make you think:  
Problem solving, pattern making,  
graphic arts, music and dance.

All Ages  
NGAkids JUNGLE interactive  
[www.nga.gov/kids/zone/jungle.htm](http://www.nga.gov/kids/zone/jungle.htm)

NGAkids JUNGLE, inspired by the art of Henri Rousseau, encourages children to create an imaginary landscape filled with lions, tigers, monkeys, and other exotic animals. Young artists can mix and match colorful characters, and experiment as a starting point for their own designs.

## EMPOWERTECH Recruiting New Board Members

EmpowerTech is currently recruiting new board members. If you or someone you know would like to help people living with disabilities in a very meaningful way, EmpowerTech is looking to expand our Board of Directors. The role of the Board is Directors is to oversee the strategic mission of our organization and provide support to our EmpowerTech's fundraising efforts.

If you think that you may be interested in serving on EmpowerTech's Board, please contact:

**Steve Jamieson, Board Vice President**  
[sjamieson@ssjlaw.com](mailto:sjamieson@ssjlaw.com)  
(310) 822-9848

# EMPOWERTECH

empowering and educating people with disabilities

Empowertech Newsletter Spring 2008

## EmpowerTech Supporters

EmpowerTech recently received a program support grant from the S. Mark Taper Foundation. Having a been a past beneficiary of the S. Mark Taper Foundation, we are delighted to have been selected once again. Funds will be used to support several of EmpowerTech's programs, including blind/low vision and TRADE.

We are also pleased that The Ahmanson Foundation is supporting the marketing and public relations efforts of EmpowerTech, including a DVD/video that will be premiered at our May 7 Heart of Technology Gala.

EmpowerTech would also like to acknowledge other foundations providing grants to us in the past year:

- Aegon Transamerica Foundation
- California Consumer Protection Foundation
- Joseph Drown Foundation
- The Green Foundation
- Henry L. Guenther Foundation
- George Hoag Family Foundation
- Bowen H. & Janice Arthur McCoy Foundation
- The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation
- Sidney Stern Memorial Trust
- McCormick Tribune Foundation
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Weingart Foundation



## SAVE-THE-DATE

Wednesday, May 7, 2008

Mark your calendars and save the date for EmpowerTech's Heart of Technology Gala to be held this year on Wednesday, May 7 at the Marina Marriott Hotel in Marina del Rey. Our silent auction and cocktails will begin at 6:00 PM with dinner and awards to follow.

Heart of Technology Honorees  
this year are:

Gateway to L.A.

Gregory Lehman, General Mgr.  
Renaissance Montura Hotel

Dr. Laura (Dollie) Meyers

For tickets, tables and sponsorships,  
please call EmpowerTech at

(310) 338-1597

## EMPOWERTECH

empowering and educating people with disabilities

6234 W. 87th Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90045

[www.empowertech.org](http://www.empowertech.org)

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*A Message from  
the Executive Director*

EmpowerTech has had an exciting 2007. At our Heart of Technology gala last May 22, we announced that the Computer Access Center was changing our name and theme line to "EmpowerTech, Empowering and Educating People with Disabilities." The name change culminates a one-year process of the Board of Directors to identify a new name

that captures the heart and essence of our organization. Thanks to a grant from the Ahmanson Foundation, many public relations activities are now underway including a video/DVD project.

We are pleased to announce our new, fully accessible web site, [www.empowertech.org](http://www.empowertech.org). We invite you to log on to learn about ET's programs, staff and Assistive Technology (AT) tools and other resources. You may also make donations to EmpowerTech on-line.

EmpowerTech has collaborated with several local organizations over this past year sharing our Assistive Technology expertise. Included are: Culver City Senior Center, United Cerebral Palsy Culver City, Ability First – Harry A. Meir Center, Little Tokyo DISKovery Center and the Assistive Technology Network. We are continuing to explore and identify new partners and collaborators.

Our TRADE (Technology Related Accommodation, Development and Employment) and blind/low vision programs are going strong. The TRADE curriculum can be modified to meet the needs of adults with a range of developmental disabilities with and job related needs and personal goals. The low vision program, vended by the California Department of Rehabilitation (DR), is a close collaboration of ET staff and DR counselors. EmpowerTech was funded to continue our work in the Santa Monica pre-schools through 2010 introducing the computer to young children to provide a foundation for future learning.

We invite you to drop by when you are in our neighborhood and see how our work and Assistive Technology benefit people with disabilities. We hope to see you at our Heart of Technology Gala on Wednesday, May 7!

Marcy Kaplan, Executive Director

**The Wonders of Technology Head Mouse**

One of the wonders of technology used at EmpowerTech is a device enabling individuals to use the computer while using only head and/or eye movement. The mouse arrow moves as their gaze is directed across the computer screen. Mouse clicks and double-clicks are simulated by using special switches or software that detects when the user's gaze has lingered on a specific location on the screen. "Head mice" enable people with no hand movement to use many computer applications and-via the internet-access the world.



*A visitor to EmpowerTech explores head mouse during Open Access*

**EmpowerTech Welcomes New Staff**



*Dan Lipman provides instruction to Kamal during TRADE class*

**Daniel Lipman** joined the EmpowerTech staff in January 2008. Recently relocating to Los Angeles from Brooklyn, NY, Dan brings his experience teaching the use of specialized computer equipment and software to children, college students and older adults. At EmpowerTech, Dan provides support to the students in EmpowerTech's TRADE Program.

**Tom Lange** joined EmpowerTech's blind and low vision program in the summer of 2007 after over 10 years as a computer and assistive technology instructor. Tom has extensive experience mainframe applications programming and computer hardware and software installation. His current area of specialization at EmpowerTech is blind and low vision assistive technology and computer training.

**Program Updates and News**

**Blind/Low Vision Program**

The goal of EmpowerTech's Low Vision/Blind Services Program is to assist individuals who are blind or visually impaired in developing the skills necessary to go back to school, pursue employment and/or gain a greater measure of independence. The program provides computer training and assistance to each client in determining the type of computer, hardware, software and assistive technology that would be most helpful. The class is vended by the Department of Rehabilitation. For more information about the program, please contact Bruce Johnson ([bjohnson@empowertech.org](mailto:bjohnson@empowertech.org)).



*Bruce Johnson meets with Jose, a blind/low vision student*

**Trade**

The goal of TRADE (Technology Related Accommodation Development and Empowerment) is to equip adults with disabilities to be competent in using computers with the support of assistive technology. The TRADE program includes two tracks. One is for adults who wish to increase their employability as they learn touch-typing, Internet use, and the basics of Microsoft Office applications. The other is geared toward students who wish to work at their own pace to develop skills in using the Internet and Microsoft Office applications. The TRADE program is vended by the Regional Center and the Department of Rehabilitation. For further information on TRADE, please contact Eric Larsen ([elarsen@empowertech.org](mailto:elarsen@empowertech.org)).

**Student Consultation Services**

Assistive Technology (AT) can have a life changing impact by helping students improve their writing and math skills. Word

processors modified for text size and color, speaking word processors and mouse alternatives, such as trackballs and joysticks, are some of the AT devices that help students with learning disabilities succeed in school.

Authorized by the State Department of Education, EmpowerTech provides Assistive Technology (AT) consultations for local school districts on a contract basis. Students of all ages benefit from the program, which includes close collaboration with students, teachers and family members. Services may be provided at the school or the EmpowerTech. Call us or email Melody Ram at [mram@cac.org](mailto:mram@cac.org) for more information.

**Pre-School Children's Programs**

The goal of EmpowerTech's pre-school program is to provide preschool children with special needs technology tools for future educational success and for successful transition to kindergarten and elementary school. Located at pre-schools in Santa Monica, the program takes place in mainstream and special needs classrooms, offering opportunities in learning basic computer skills, software exploration and facilitating cooperative learning. For additional information on this program, please contact Judy Nahman-Stouffer ([jnahmanstouffer@empowertech.org](mailto:jnahmanstouffer@empowertech.org)).



*Child uses computer in pre-school classroom*

**Open Access Lab**

Every Wednesday afternoon from 3:30-6:00, we open our facilities to allow individuals of varying ages with disabilities to access the internet, play games and access their email. The Open Access Lab is offered free of charge and is also a fun, social experience for those who attend.