Congratulations to **Julene Fitch**, Teacher for the Blind/Low Vision (BLV) in Elkhart Community Schools, our latest Starfish Award winner!

She was nominated by PATINS Specialist, Bev Sharritt who had this to say about Julene:

"Julene is a **fierce leader** in both the blind and low vision teaching community and in her district. She recently posted motor activity kits she had made for students to promote braille literacy readiness on
social media. These kits included data sheets to show progress and engagement. Julene shares wonderful ideas like this readily with her colleagues, and goes above and beyond by coordinating a professional learning group in her region. She is also mentoring a BLV Teacher new to the field.

In her district, Julene is part of the assistive technology team and takes the time to go to professional development to stay ahead of new braille technology. She is also passionate about students with multiple disabilities and advocates for all to have a voice and opportunities for literacy instruction. Julene loves her students and families, and brings them together every year for a May picnic to provide an opportunity for them to network and support one another. Outside her work, Julene is an expert knitter, but her masterpieces are her students, and the high quality instruction she tailors to their needs."

If you know an amazing Indiana educator like Julene, nominate one or more for PATINS Starfish Award!

Nominate for Starfish Award

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**AEM Grant Mid Year Update!**

Last week, 18 district teams participating in the PATINS 2021-2022 **AEMing for Achievement grant** met to collaborate, share progress, and success stories. Some highlights include:

- One team discovered 95% of students who took uPAR benefitted from some type of read aloud accommodation. Furthermore,
a 6th grade student was found to be able to comprehend information at a 10th to 11th grade level when provided text to speech, demonstrating gifted students could benefit too.

- In five months, one team went from no accessibility policies and procedures to adding an accessibility statement on their website, updating technology adoption policies with accessibility considerations, training two Digital Rights Managers (DRMs), and documenting print disabilities in IEPs.

- Second and third year grant teams are seeing more cross district buy-in and use in the general education classroom with accessible educational materials (AEM) and assistive technology.

- With the need for students to quarantine this year, assistive technology for reading and writing has allowed teachers to easily make accessible lessons.

- All teams are working toward finding the right communication device or system for a student with more intensive needs.

Did you know any Indiana public/charter school can receive AEM support for no-cost? Please contact us with inquiries.
Explore AT from the Lending Library

Virtual Access to Education 2021 attendees were the first to learn about these newer (or new to you!) assistive technology (AT) devices to help students' academically and socially.

Built in Notes App on iPad

There are at least 3 options for filling out a worksheet within Notes once it has been uploaded or photographed:

1. Write with a finger, stylus or Apple Pencil
2. Type with hands
3. Dictate or Voice Type

Borrow an iPad for no-cost!

BIG and Little Step-by-Step Communicator

A student can utilize a BIG or Little Step-by-Step Communicator to tell the jokes. For example, you can use either device to record a joke script and provide the student the opportunity to participate in the school talent show. Search the library catalog with
"Communicator" for these and similar devices.

Browse Lending Library Catalog

Tech Expo 2022 Registration open!

April 14 | Carmel, IN

Play "Tech Expo 2022" video.

Save the Date for April 14, 2022 for PATINS Tech Expo 2022 with IN*SOURCE!

- **Preview** assistive and accessible technologies and services
- **Meet** with vendors and experts of resources designed to promote inclusion and to comply with federal and state mandates
- **Learn** about accessibility and technology supports for all students and families

**Offering you:**
- 60-minute unique vendor presentations offered throughout the day
- Live Exhibit Hall full of vendor/service organizations
- No registration cost
- Opportunity to win educational doorprizes donated by generous sponsors
- Summary videos for 20 presentation sessions available after the expo

**Location:** 502 East Event Centre, 502 E Carmel Dr, Carmel, IN 46032

Open to all interested Indiana administrators, teachers, family members, advocates, students, and pre-service teachers/grad students.

Register for Tech Expo 2022

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**Save the NEW Date for Access to Education 2022**

The **PATINS Access to Education** conference has a new date. Please mark your calendars for **November 2 and 3, 2022**. We hope to see you at our fall event in Indianapolis, IN!

Access to Education 2022 Details
#PatinsIcam Twitter Chat Tuesday Nights!

Join #PatinsIcam Twitter Chat on Tuesday nights at 8:30 pm Eastern/7:30 pm Central. Each week brings half an hour full of collaboration, resource/tool sharing, and supportive conversation. You will have the opportunity to grow your Professional Learning Network (PLN) and earn no-cost Professional Growth Points (PGPs).

Want to recommend a topic for the Twitter Chat? Not sure how to get started? Email PATINS Specialist, Kelli Suding, who is happy to welcome you into the #PatinsIcam PLN.

#PatinsIcam Twitter Chat Details

Register for No-Cost Trainings

Please visit our training calendar for all upcoming, no-cost trainings. Click on the links below for more information and to register for a specific training.

All times listed are Eastern Standard Time (EST). Professional Growth Points (PGPs) and ASHA hours are available for all training opportunities.
The new Mantis Braille Device from APH provides access for both 6 key and QWERTY input. Learn 3 tasks each you can teach your student users for primary, middle and secondary levels.

**AAC and Learning: AAC in the Classroom**
This training is part of a 4 part series. For more information, please email PATINS Specialist, Jessica Conrad at jconrad@patinsproject.org.

**Basics of AT Team Development and Evaluations**
This training is for district/cooperative/building staff who would like to develop or update their assistive technology team. Each team will find direction in producing policies, procedures and forms that fit their unique needs and scale.

**Braille Note Touch Basics: Documents, Email and Internet Access**
This training is designed for staff working with a student using a Braille Note Touch device. We will cover math functions on the device and how the student can send assignments, including graphs to both an embosser and a printer.

**H-Appy Hour Apps for iOS - Switches, Recipes, and Head Control**
This training will demonstrate how to connect a mouse, switch, create a recipe and how to use head control. These options will enable students to access, communicate and engage using iOS devices.

**ICAM Digital Files: Delivery and what to do once you receive them!**
The order has been processed and the DRM has received
notification. What is next? This training will demonstrate how the particular digital file ordered will be delivered and accessed by the student.

ICAM Ordering - Answers and Problem Solving
You have become a DRM, now it is time to order. This training will guide you through the ordering process and solve any problems you might encounter.

Making Mounts for Switches and Tablets
Learn how to make less costly mounts for switches and tablets. We will explore nut & bolts (literally), PVC, ModularHose, 3D printing, MogoMounts and more! Come learn, share and collaborate in this interactive session.

Open Your Windows and Let in the Accessibility
With a mission “to empower every person on the planet to achieve more,” Microsoft has really upped their game when it comes to the built-in accessibility features throughout Windows and Office 365. Harness the power of these tools and join Jena Fahlbush to explore some of the latest features that could improve your students’ access to the curriculum. Text suggestions, dictation, and captioning are a few of the tools that will be highlighted.

Supporting Positive Behaviors for Students with Autism
Creating structure in your classroom environment through physical design, routines, visuals, positive feedback and reinforcement can support positive behaviors for all students, especially students with autism. In this session, we'll explore ways to engage your students with autism through the structure of your space and instruction using
the principles of Universal Design for Learning. Attendees will leave with use-it-tomorrow ideas for improving student behavior and access to learning!

**Top 9 Things Educators Can Do To Support Students**

While there are many ways we can support our students, we have come down to the Top 9 to implement right out of the gate. Building relationships with our students can set the ground work for the school year; as well as supporting and teaching the skills for executive functioning. Whether you are a special educator, general education teacher, administrator, related services provider, paraprofessional, or school staff, we all can play an integral role in successful student outcomes while supporting equitable opportunities for student independence. This session will leave you with practical ideas and actions to consider to facilitate engagement, representation and action and expression for ALL students.

**Use It Tomorrow AAC: Core Word Boards for Beginners**

For those getting started (or seasoned folks who would like to enjoy a refresher and cheer on the new folks!) with core words and the idea of core boards as a support for students who may benefit from visual representation of language through core word boards. As always, participants will walk away with a few new tools in their toolbox of supports that they can use tomorrow!

**Use It Tomorrow AAC: Literacy Ideas**

This training is part of a 4 part series. For more information, please email PATINS Specialist, Jessica Conrad at 
[mailto:jconrad@patinsproject.org](mailto:jconrad@patinsproject.org)
Virtual Film Screening: "This Is Not About Me"
This is a virtual screening of the documentary "This Is Not About Me."

"What is it like to be autistic and non-speaking in a world that has already made up its mind about you? This Is Not About Me tells the story of Jordyn Zimmerman. Jordyn dreamt of becoming a teacher. She started out eager to learn at school, but she was soon separated from the other children. Unable to communicate, teachers thought she was also unable to understand or learn. Year after year, her behavior worsened. She was restrained and placed in seclusion. Jordyn found herself caught in a system that unintentionally turned her life into a living nightmare. Finally, at the age of 18, with the help of educators who see her differently, she manages to turn her fate and flourish."

You, as a Digital Rights Manager
This training will explain the tasks required of a Digital Rights Manager (DRM) as they acquire accessible educational materials (AEM) for students with documented print disabilities through the Indiana Center for Accessible Materials (ICAM).

See a training you would like to attend, but the date doesn't fit your schedule, or it is already full? Request training times and topics that work for you!