

# Day with the Experts: Augmentative and Alternative Communication

Introduction by Jennifer Seale, PhD, CCC-SLP

Waisman AAC Program Director

# Talking Points Agenda

- *Brief* History of AAC at Waisman
- Program Overview
  - Communication Aids and Systems Clinic (CASC)
  - Communication Development Program (CDP)
  - AAC Partnership
  - ECHO-AAC
- AAC Program Staff



## In the beginning...

- 1971 –Early ideas for communication through technology
- 1977 –Trace Center moved to Waisman Center until 1998
- 1998-present CASC and CDP continue this legacy

# AAC at Waisman Center through the Years

“We exist as a clinic today because of the Trace Center and the efforts of its founder, Gregg Vanderheiden,” –Gamradt (2016)

- 1986-2019 Julie Gamradt’s 33 years of advocacy, service and staff mentorship helped shape and sustain the Communication Aids and Systems Clinic (CASC) and the Communication Development Program (CDP) as we know them today.
  - She also encouraged and facilitated the launch of:
    - AAC Partnership in 2019
    - ECHO-AAC in 2020

# AAC at Waisman Center Today

“I think he represents more than just himself...I think he represents **what can happen when somebody in the community connects with somebody working on a research project** and how that **can plant a seed and snowball into lifelong practice of service and development** in that area for a facility like Waisman.” --Gamradt on Ludell 2020

- New directorship Fall 2021 – a goal of continuing this legacy, and increasing the engagement in AAC research at Waisman
- 2021 Generous gift to support ECHO-AAC development
- 2022 Department of Public Instruction AAC Partnership pilot project

# Waisman AAC Team



Theresa Cassel, MOTR/L, ATP



Kayla Kristensen, MS, CCC-SLP



Lily Machalek, CF-SLP



Sarah Marshall, MA, CCC-SLP



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New SLP team members on the way!

Thank You for Joining Us In Celebrating AAC!

