Introducing NEAT AT Champions

Funded by the CT State Department of Education, NEAT is thrilled to offer a new pilot program, "AT Champions!" During the 2022-2023 school year, NEAT will lead exclusive coursework for CT professionals and students to collaboratively build their assistive technology (AT) and augmentative & alternative communication (AAC) capacities.

What:

- Two coursework tracks will be available: 1) AT for Learning and 2) AAC for Engagement
- Upon completion of the program, professionals will be awarded a NEAT Certificate of Completion as a "NEAT Approved AT Champion," an iPad, and a $100 Apple store gift card; students will be awarded a NEAT Certificate of Completion as a "NEAT Approved Junior AT Champion" and a mentorship stipend
- Professionals ("AT Champions") will build their confidence and expertise in AT & AAC knowledge, while being part of a unique learning network of fellow Champions
- Students ("Peer Mentors/Junior Champions") will build their leadership skills and prepare for future careers in education or AT while supporting their peers who use AT through an "AT Buddy" project
- AT Champions, Junior AT Champions, and AT Buddies will showcase their knowledge by participating alongside the NEAT team in an "AT Summit" at Oak Hill in Hartford in June 2023; professional development sessions and interactive AT stations will be open to the public

Who:

- The program is open to educators, service professionals, and pre-professionals who wish to jump start or develop their AT/AAC knowledge and skills; NOTE - previous AT/AAC experience is not required
- Teachers, related service professionals (e.g. speech-language pathologists, occupational therapists, physical therapists), paraeducators, administrators, and college students are encouraged to apply
- Professionals will be selected via an application process
- The collaborative nature of this project includes pairing middle or high school students with the professionals. NEAT will provide pairing guidance in order to form a partnership in participation of the coursework and assignments.

When:

- Participants will choose to engage in the courses during one of two semesters:
  September 2022 – January 2023 OR January 2023 – May 2023

Where:

- Courses will include archived webinars, live remote sessions, and assignments

How:

- Complete the AT Champions Application here and submit it by **July 12, 2022**

Questions? Contact Elena Fader Hurlburt, Director of AT Services, at Elena.Hurlburt@OakHillCT.org