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| **Event Information Form for Educational Activity Organizers** |

**Information about Activity Organizer**

Organization name: Semantic Compaction Systems, Inc.

Contact person: D.W., MA, CCC-SLP

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**Information about Activity**

Title: Now You’re Talking: Learning the Language of Unity®

Date of activity: August 7-9, 2018

Location (facility, city, state): Semantic Compaction Systems, Inc. 1000 Killarney Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15234

Type of activity: 2.5-Day Seminar

Description:

The focus of this 2.5 day seminar will be to provide learners with a theoretical and practical foundation for the use of core vocabulary as it pertains to language and vocabulary development for augmented communicators as well as how to integrate the use of core vocabulary as a primary strategy for targeting communication and language in home and academic settings. Our guest speakers will teach participants to use and teach the Unity® software through direct instruction, hands-on practice and small group activities. Therapeutic activities and implementation strategies will be discussed along with numerous resources that can be accessed within the device, the PASS software and on the Internet to support therapeutic outcomes.

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| **1. Who will make up your training audience?** |

* Speech-Language Pathologists
* Occupational Therapists
* Special Education Teachers
* Assistive Technology Professionals
* Parents of children who use AAC.

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| **2. What type of training do they need?** |

* In-service training related to current evidence in AAC regarding the impact of core vocabulary on language development for individuals who use AAC
* Professional and family training on techniques utilized to successfully integrate the use of AAC and core vocabulary into the curriculum
* Professionals and families need to increase their knowledge and skills regarding the Unity® software, with both the language organization and the implementation tools.
* Professional and family training on identifying treatment strategies for children who have complex communication needs to help them achieve academic standards
* Professional and family training on increasing use of AAC in the classroom for communication

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| **3. Why do they need this training? (Justification for holding the learning event)** |

* Professionals and families need to build knowledge regarding core vocabulary and language development as they pertain to AAC.
* Professionals and families need to know how the importance of motor automaticity and how it impacts an individual who uses AAC.
* Professionals and families need to build knowledge and skills to access vocabulary and model generative language with the Unity® software.
* Professionals and families need to know how to teach Unity® to the individuals that they support who use it.
* Professionals and families need to know how to incorporate core vocabulary into the curriculum and in the classroom so students who use AAC can achieve academic standards.
* Professionals and families need to build knowledge and skills to enable them to decrease programming time and provide their students with meaningful learning opportunities in the classroom.

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| **4. What qualifications are required for the instructors?** |

The course benefits from a variety of AAC professionals contributing content to the course.

* Linguist holding multiple degrees who developed the semantic compaction method of language representation
* Speech-Language Pathologists with 30 or more years of clinical experience in the field of AAC

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| **5. Who will be involved in curriculum design and instruction?** |

* Dr. Bruce Baker, President of Semantic Compaction Systems is the best person for identifying the course content as well as developing the curriculum for this course. As an adjunct university professor and the linguist who developed the Minspeak, he is considered an expert in the field of AAC. Dr. Baker has more than 30 years of experience in the field. Deborah Laurent Witkowski, MA, CCC-SLP, clinical consultant for Semantic Compaction Systems also contributes to the development of content, contributing her expertise from 26 years of clinical practice in the field of AAC.
* Deborah is also responsible for planning the course syllabus and coordinating the speakers for the Pittsburgh AAC Language Seminar Series.
* See attached Bio sketches for information on all seminar staff.

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| **6. What type of training facility will be needed to do this training effectively?** |

A conference room with projection system and seating for 30 adults will be the venue for this event.

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| **7. What type of equipment/materials will be used to teach this learning event?** |

Macintosh and PC computers will be used, incorporating Power Point, PASS software and various websites. Presentations will be projected via a smart board. In addition, speech-generating devices, specifically Accents, will be provided for active learning opportunities.

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| **8. How will equipment used for this event be maintained?** |

* Laptop computers and projectors used for presentations are checked prior to the start of the event to ensure necessary programs and connections are working properly. A variety of back-up adaptors are available to instructors should they experience difficulty in connecting their laptop to the projector system. Technological/AV support is available on-site should equipment malfunction prior to or during the event.
* Speech generating devices used during the training are checked prior to the start of the event to ensure that they are properly charged and in working order. Technical support is available on-site should equipment malfunction prior to or during the event. When they are not being used, devices are kept in a temperature-regulated storage room to ensure their working order and availability for use.

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| **9. What type of training methods will be utilized (estimate the percentage of time that you will be using each method)?** |

* Auditory training – lectures, discussions, and question and answers (40%)
* Visual training – Power Point slides, graphic representations, videos, PASS software demonstrations (80%)
* Kinesthetic training – “hands-on” opportunities to use AAC devices (50%)
* Combination of kinesthetic, visual, and auditory training – interactive learning activities will be incorporated throughout the seminar (100%)

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| **10. What are the learning outcomes for this event?** |

1. Explain why core vocabulary, not extended vocabulary, should be emphasized in AAC intervention.
2. Describe the relationship between the use of core vocabulary and normal language development.
3. Describe the difference between a needs-based communication display and a language-based communication display.
4. Identify the challenges with using a page-based system in an AAC device.
5. Discuss the impact of motor automaticity in the successful use of AAC devices.
6. Discuss the concept of an icon family within the Unity® software.
7. List the five patterns of vocabulary access in Unity®.
8. Identify three tools that can be used to support intervention with Unity®.
9. Identify two key differences between referential and descriptive teaching strategies.
10. Generate linguistically oriented IEP goals and objectives for students who use AAC.
11. Discuss strategies that enable students who use AAC to demonstrate learning to demonstrate learning within the components of Bloom’s Taxonomy.

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| **11. How will learners be assessed on their ability to meet the learning objectives and what performance criteria must be met in order for learners to successfully complete/pass the training?** |

At the conclusion of the seminar, learners will be directed to the AAC Institute website where they will download a quiz with multiple-choice questions that directly assess their ability to meet each learning objectives. Learners will need to achieve a score of at least 80% in order to earn IACET CEUs.

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| **12. How will learners be given feedback on their ability to have met the learning objectives?** |

* During active learning portions of the event, learners will be provided with feedback with regard to their understanding of the material and completion of active learning tasks.
* During the various presentations of the seminar, speakers will encourage discussion of topics to gauge learning. Clarification will be provided as needed.
* During the final question and answer period, instructors will provide feedback on the learners’ understanding of the material.

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| **13. What is the time frame necessary to complete this training?** |

This month’s offering of the Pittsburgh AAC Language Seminar Series “Putting It Into Practice: Taking What You’ve Learned and Applying It Successfully” will begin Tuesday, August 7, 2018 and end on Thursday, August 9, 2018. It will be taught for 8.5 hours on Tuesday from 8:00 am – 4:00 pm, 10 hours on Wednesday, from 8:00 am – 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm – 7:00 pm, and 4.5 hours on Thursday from 8:00 am – 12:30 pm.

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| **14. What is the estimated cost of developing this learning event?** |

This learning activity will cost approximately $10,000 to provide. This estimation includes expenses for meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner for 3 days), travel ($150 travel stipend per participant), airport shuttles, housekeeping for guesthouses, hotel accommodations for two rooms for 3 nights, speaker expenses and fees, and compensation for seminar staff.

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| **15. What will you charge per participant to attend and complete this learning event?** |

Our participants attend this seminar free of charge.

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| **16. What supports will be available for instructors and learners?** |

* Guest instructors are provided with information regarding the requirements for their presentations via email. The seminar coordinator in communication with the guest speaker the month prior to the seminar to determine what resources are needed and to acquire all presentations and handouts prior to the seminar date so that all materials are prepared in advance of the start of the seminar.
* Learners are provided with information about the event and instructions on how to register in an email correspondence as well as on the Minspeak® website. Once initial contact has been made, any questions or concerns are addressed through Semantic Compaction® Systems support staff. Members of the support staff are introduced at the beginning of the event and are interacting with participants throughout the event.

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| **17. How will financial/proprietary interests of instructors/presenters be disclosed?** |

Each speaker will provide a slide discussing his or her financial/proprietary interests in the event.