Student Spotlight

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• Good morning everyone. I’m here to kick off a new feature for this consortium—the student spotlight. For me it’s more of a send off. On December 22, I will have my last day of public education.
THANK YOU

Principals
Teachers
Counselors
Advisors
Physical Therapists
Occupational Therapists
Speech Language Pathologist
Aides/Paraprofessionals
Administrators
Peer Tutors
• I have loved going to school. I’m really sad that it’s all coming to an end. On the other hand I’m happy to have learned so much. Many wonderful teachers, aides, therapists and other school personnel have helped me reach my goals. They all deserve a big thank you.
Best Friends For Life

West Jordan High School Graduation 2006
• We have talented, creative and dedicated people working in our schools. They work very hard to make learning fun and keep students motivated. They have also helped me make many BFFL.
Assistive Technology

Voice
Output
Communication
Agency
• Everyone is using acronyms. You’ve probably heard about AT. Have you heard about VOCA?
• Before I was even two years old I was using my tiny fist to punch out speech on an Intro Talker. I quickly realized the power of AT. That’s me in the lower right corner.
IntroTalker
The first day that my teacher loaned us this VOCA my mom and I spent a lot of time with it. When my mom had to stop to fix dinner she laid me on the floor with some toys. She put the VOCA across the room.
• That was the day I did a long combat crawl right under my chair. Next thing you know, my mom heard me talking. No, nothing’s wrong with this projector. The picture is blurry because my mom was shaking the camera. She was so surprised and excited.
Touch Talker
• A short time after this, my parents bought me a used Touch Talker with more keys and speech capacity. My therapist made a tiny finger splint so I could hit smaller keys.
Liberator
• My receptive vocabulary grew and so did my need for a better VOCA. By the time I started kindergarten, I owned a device called the Liberator. It had 128 keys with multiple meanings.
Touch Screen
• That’s when I began using a head pointer. The head pointer also helped me access a touch screen on the computer.
Bennett Gets an Education

Bennett Gets Education In Federal aid

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because of their disabilities, but because their presentation was masterful, articulate, and laden with good information.

"They told me things I had not known before. I will be much more organized of the impact of what we do in this area than I would have been if they hadn't come," he said.

Facing Collusion

Regarding that, Bennett said the program focused on the needs of students, not just their disabilities. The money raised by parents, he said, would be used to improve the school environment.

"There are no limits or restrictions on what we can do," he said. "We can do anything we want to do to improve the school and the learning environment for all students."
• Having a VOCA has meant I’ve been able to do things that otherwise I wouldn’t be able to do. Without my VOCA how would I have been able to interview U.S. Senator Bob Bennett?
• Without my VOCA I would have been on the sidelines watching the class play instead of being IN the class play.
• Even when I had a role in the CBS show Touched by an Angel the script called for a VOCA.
• AT doesn’t always have to be high tech. When I got a little older I decided the pointer made me look like an alien. My mom bought this pink baseball cap. A cleaver therapist fashioned a new pointer for me.
How would you get along without AT?
• I’ve always tried to help spread the word about how important AT is for some of us. It can help us reach our goals. How long would you last without your laptops and palm pilots?
• This year I got a new VOCA. It’s called an ECO14 and now I use a switch instead of a pointer. This is the coolest VOCA ever. It will help me continue learning when I leave school. It helps me be a more independent adult.
I want to thank you and your peeps, especially those who have also been my own peeps. Thank you for giving all students the chance to learn and meet their highest potential. BBFN.