Introduction to Webcasts on Assistive Technology

Hi, my name is Dr. Lakshmi Mahadevan and I’m program coordinator for the Career & Technical Special Populations Training & Resource Education Center at Texas AgriLife Extension service. Welcome to this webcast. Assistive Technology is technology used by individuals with disabilities in order to perform functions that might otherwise be difficult or impossible. Assistive Technology can include mobility devices such as walkers and wheel chairs, as well as hardware, software, and peripherals that assist people with disabilities in accessing computers or other information technologies. As technology evolves to customize education based on student strength and weaknesses, experts suggest that assistive technologies typically used by students with disabilities could also become powerful learning tools for the general student population. But to put that technology in to all students’ hands career and technical education teachers need to be more informed about the assistive technologies that are available and how they can be used in their classrooms. In this webcast we will introduce you to some examples of currently used assistive technologies. Filmed at the Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living the devices and their uses are demonstrated by the BVCIL’s independent living facilitators.