GREAT Conference Report – Sandra Hicks 11/09/15

I got the opportunity to attend the G.R.E.A.T.Conference held at the Hilton hotel in Raleigh, NC. My desire for wanting to attend was to be able to obtain a greater insight of continuing to live independently.

The first session I attended was very  inspiring the  speaker/facilitator presented a piece of equipment called the "Beam". This piece of equipment can assist an individual that is bedridden by giving them the chance to continue to enjoy life. The beamer/beamer+ will allow you to enjoy the wonders of the world never having to leave your home. Where ever an individual wants to travel or place they would like to visit. As long as there is a beam at that location the individual wants to visit. We got the opportunity to visit Henry Evans in Kansas  while sitting in North Carolina.

Also in another seminar I was introduced to several old (with upgrades) and new apps that can be applied and downloaded to my phone and computer to better enable me to maintain my independence. I recieved information and learned that through different mini centers that are held in the community. A person can learn new techniques while attending these mini centers. How to build stronger means in their independence whether it's reading a good book, cooking your favorite meal to planning a trip. There are ways and means in place to help an individual continue to live and be independent.

The vendors were very informative also I was able to gather information not only on visual impairment but hearing loss also. I got the opportunity to experience using the pocket talker this piece of equipment enable me to hear the speakers more clearly. With the information that I was able to receive I can continue to be an effective SILC member. I can say that based on the information that I received through out the conference it was definitely worth attending the G.R.E.A.T. Conference.