**BRG – CAST\_0001 – Mod 01\_Sp Ed ShwCse\_Intro\_Transcript**

**Terry:**

Welcome and thank you for joining us for the special education showcase at the Ed Games Expo. I'm Terry Jackson, the lead for the Office of Special Education Programs, Technology Program. You're in for a unique and exciting event today. We'll be meeting student tech users and developers who will be talking about innovations in accessible technology and the impact it has on their lives. But before I bring on these engaging participants, I'd like to briefly introduce our special guest, Matthew Whitaker. Matthew is a jazz pianist, as well as an organist, drummer, composer and arranger. His third album, "Connections", comes out in August of this year. He's a lifelong user of assistive technology and accessible materials. Matthew, welcome to the Showcase.

**Matthew:**

Thank you so much. It is a pleasure to be a part of this event.

**Terry:**

We're truly honored that you’re here. At the end of the showcase, we'll have the opportunity to talk a little bit more about the importance of accessible technology in your own life and career. And I know you have a special presentation for us later. But right now, I'm very eager to begin this event, and I'm confident everyone attending will be inspired to learn more about accessible designs and perhaps create their own game changing uses of technology. Now I'm going to turn things over to Amanda Bastoni at the National Accessible Educational Materials Center, at CAST. Amanda. **Amanda:**

Thank you so much, Terry. I can't wait to hear more from Matthew later in the show. Well, welcome, everyone. My name is Amanda Bastoni, and I'm in my home office in Peterborough, New Hampshire. And I'm wearing this dark gray shirt with a tiger on the front. And it says, "Never silence your roar." During these next few segments, you're going to hear directly from students and educators and scientists of the game changing power of technology. And I challenge you to ask yourself how does accessible technology ensure that everyone's voice is heard? How does technology allow all of us to roar? And as you watch these, please take time to add your comments and questions into the chat. That way we can ask them directly to our participants in our final segment.

**END**