

Cyber-Community to Advance Deaf and Hard-of-  
Hearing Individuals in STEM  
(DHH Cyber-Community)  
6/26/08

Concepts shared by student group during individual brainstorming for recommendations:

- Training sessions/workshops at CIT, RID, CAID conferences for interpreters regarding STEM vocabulary
- Social networking – site & retreat for deaf STEM students and professionals
  - V-log
  - Facebook like system
  - conference/informal setting
- Remote interpreting
  - communication preference selection
  - gender/age
  - skill level in specific field
- Virtual tutoring via videophone/VRS/VRI
  - pool of qualified students across the country to provide tutoring in various disciplines in the STEM fields
- Portable device & platform free device to use anywhere and anytime
- Promoting interpreter certificate specialist for STEM students
- Self-study materials that are centralized in a database on signs, definitions, video, short lectures
- Peer Networking (internet, workshops, conference, forum)
- Significant usability tests with deaf/hh people toward final design of a product
- Remote/videophone tutor
- Ease of securing support
- Legal & advocacy focus
- Universal design
- NTID/RIT should create a “business unit” for support services in STEM fields at other institutions on a fee basis
- A STEM cyber-community could be used to enable students’ feedback during testing of new classroom access technologies and services
- Increase use of online courses in order to provide accessible instruction and study support materials

- V/Blog of different accommodations available and pros/cons of each depending on educational context
- STEM dictionary should have multiple examples for each context for how the sign is used
- Annual retreat for d/hh/h sign users to develop STEM vocabulary in a natural group setting
- B/Vlog of role models in each field
- V/Blog of existing & proposed law impacting educational access for d/hh—this drives focus nationally and impacts local accommodation and willingness
- Need for standardized STEM vocabulary
  - vocabulary forum
  - should involve international community of ASL 1<sup>st</sup> language users (USA, Canada, etc.)
- Given reliance on technology must have fallback plan—when technology fails must have “Plan B”
- Captioning usability
- Invest resources into technologies
  - Regarding old technology: strengthen weaknesses or retire
  - New technology: develop and increase availability
- Design for the “whole student”
- Universal Design
- Increase financial investment in D/HH graduate students in STEM recognizing different needs/requirements
- Strategies for success for D/HH student
  - Communication (deaf must approach hearing people)
  - Utilize stubborn persistence
  - Leadership skills
  - Voracious readers
- Future tech/future classroom
- Multiple-university programs for D/HH to access same courses
- Enhance curriculum or shared format for foundation courses
- Peer networks/social networks
- Resources for tutoring & teaching support
- Advocacy
- Legal Aspects of services
- Annual STEM summit
- Who teaches STEM sign vocabulary?