

Lisa B. Elliot, Ph.D.
RIT/NTID Center on Access Technology
Education Support Service Personnel Annual Meeting, May 5, 2012
Rochester, NY



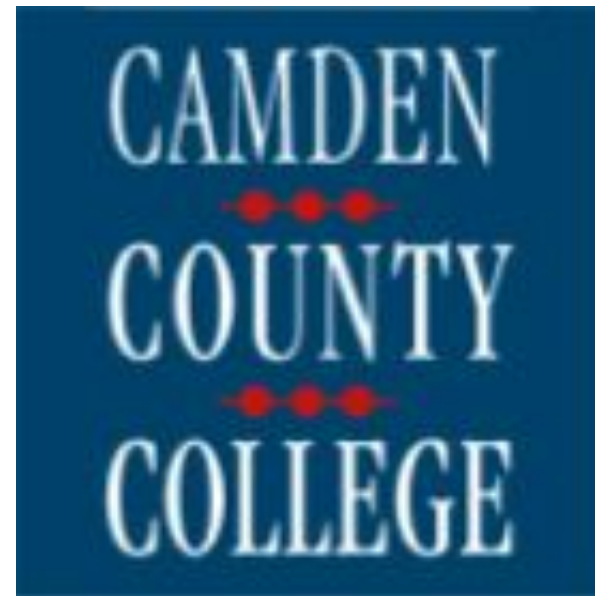
Who We Are

- Supported by the National Science Foundation, HRD #1127955
- 3-5 year project
- Leadership team
 - Lisa Elliot, PI
 - James DeCaro, Co-PI
 - E William Clymer, Co-PI





Campus Partners





Background:

Two prior NSF grants

- *Summit to Create a Cyber-Community to Advance Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals in STEM* (OCI-0749253, PI E.W. Clymer)
 - Three-day conference with 50 national and regional leaders, **including D/HH students** in the field of access and support service provision for postsecondary D/HH students in STEM programs
 - Report on current state of remote interpreting and captioning
 - Recommendations outlining desirable characteristics of a multimedia cyberinfrastructure to provide remote communication support for D/HH students in STEM mainstreamed classrooms



Background:

Two prior NSF grants

- *Testing the Concept of a Virtual Alliance for Deaf and Hard of Hearing STEM Students at the Postsecondary Level, (HRD-0927586, PI E.W. Clymer)*
 - Focus groups and needs assessments
 - Demographic information
 - Establish partnerships for this proposal



Goal and Objectives

- Goal
 - Increase the graduation rates of postsecondary D/HH STEM majors in the long term
- Objectives
 - document and disseminate a description of the process of creating a model VAC for replication
 - increase the GPAs and retention rates of D/HH students in STEM majors.



Components of the VAC

- Remote support services (Years 1-5)
 - Tutoring
 - Mentoring by D/HH STEM professionals
- Remote access services (Years 4-5)
 - Captioning
 - Interpreting
- Social networking
- Electronic resource collection

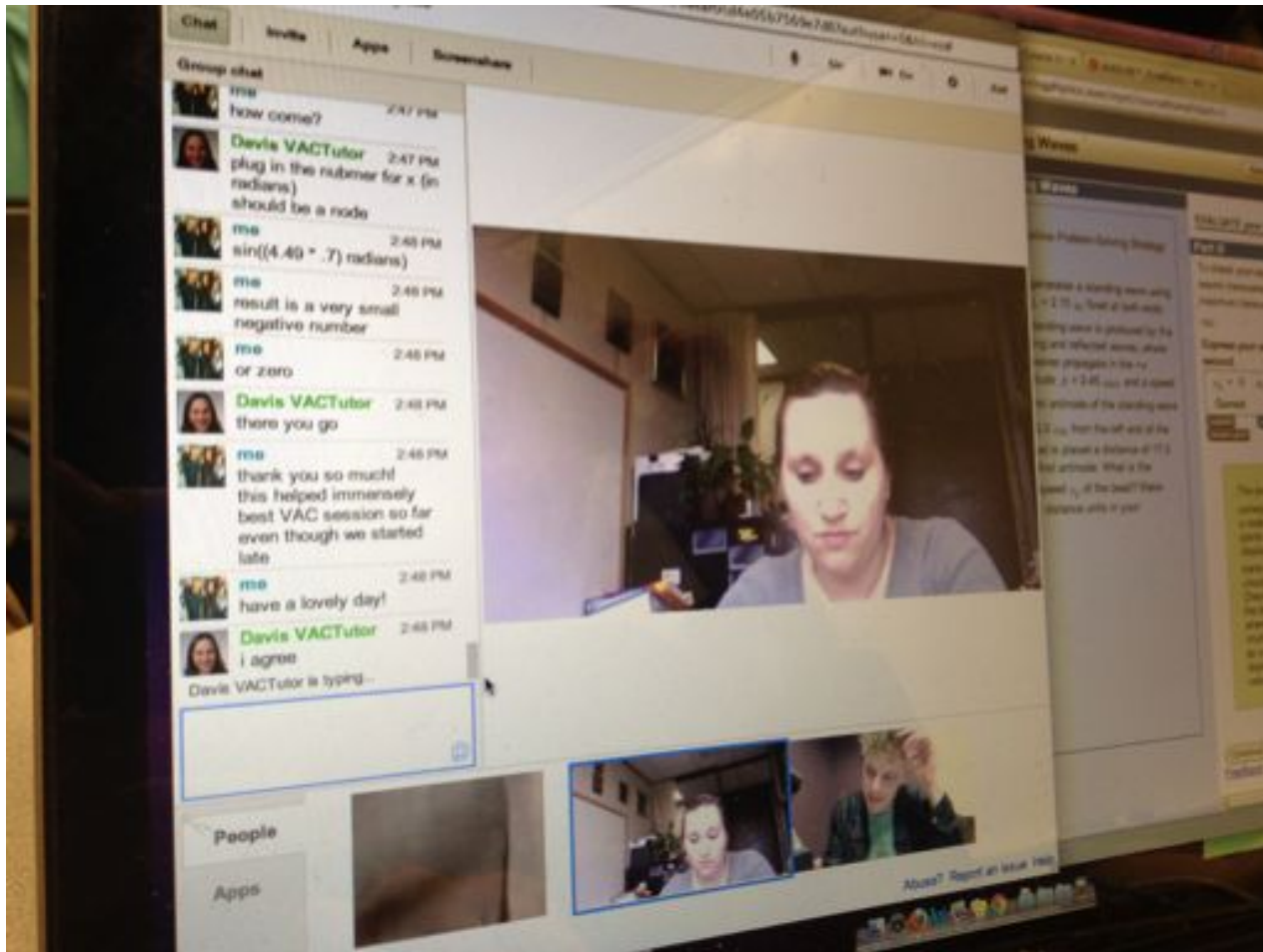


Progress to Date

- Remote tutoring
 - 8 students/5 tutors at RIT (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering, Math, & Physics)
 - Using Google+ Hangouts as platform
- Building Web Presence (www.dhhvac.org)
- Recruiting mentors

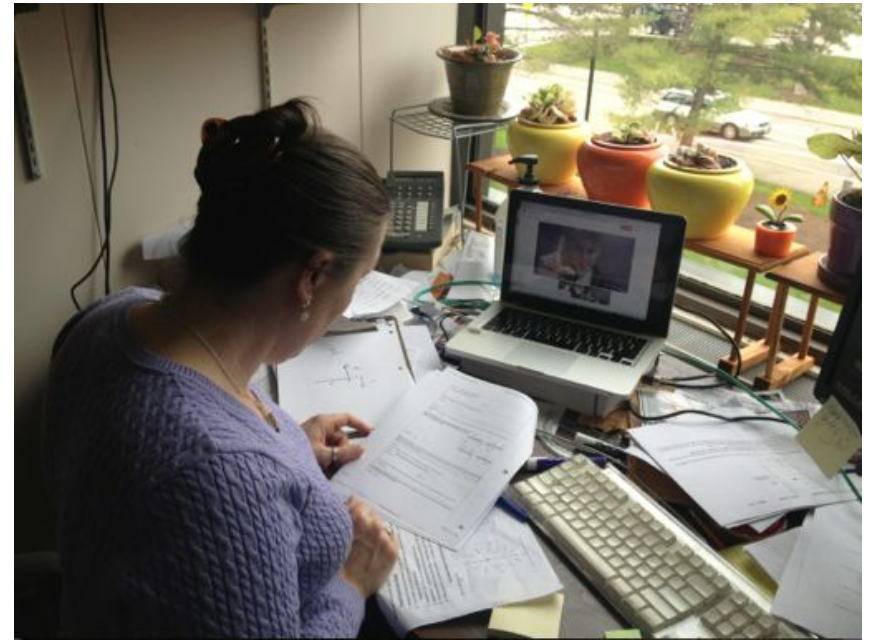


Remote Tutoring Using Google+ Hangouts





Remote Tutoring Using Google+ Hangouts





Summer Plans

- Building the website using Drupal 7
- Making website accessible
- Gathering accessible media links (e.g. STEM captioned videos, STEM dictionaries in ASL)
- Creating guides for tutors, students, mentors