



A Virtual Learning Community for STEM Students Who Are Deaf

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Objectives


- Describe the online community
- Understand barriers for students with hearing loss
- Explore options for creating online communities on your own campus



For Your Consideration


How do you:

- Regularly communicate with students?
- Coax shy or isolated students to participate in class discussions or activities?
- Foster professional awareness and identity for your students or create connections between course content and “real world” topics?



Who We Are

- Deaf STEM Community Alliance
 - Only Alliance specifically for D/HH students
- Supported by the National Science Foundation, HRD #1127955
- Multi-year project (Sept 2011- Aug 2017)
 - Now in our 4th year





Campus Partners





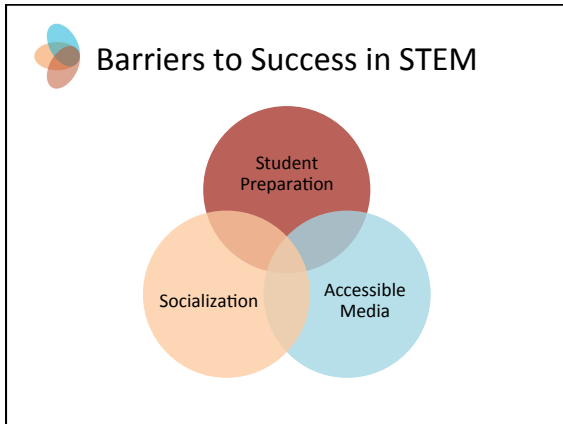
RIT is the lead institution for this project, with Camden County College and Cornell University as partners.



Challenges Addressed by the Alliance

- Need to add more STEM graduates
- Broaden participation of underrepresented groups in STEM, especially those with disabilities, and, in particular, those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing
- Create more cohesive cyber learning resources for students, faculty, and support service providers

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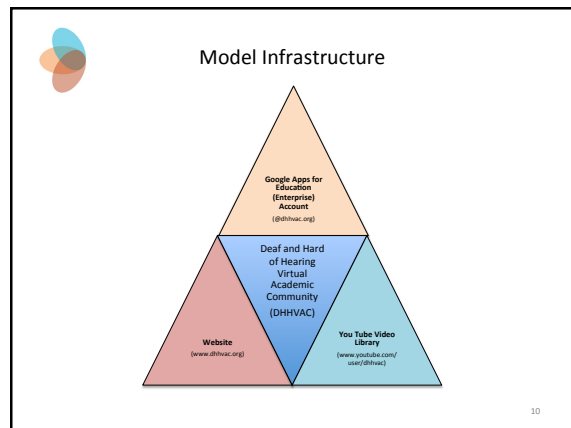
Goal and Objectives

- **Goal:**
Create a *model* virtual academic community to increase the graduation rates of postsecondary D/HH STEM majors in the long term
 - Iterative and incremental (Cockburn, 2008)
 - Iterative – testing what works and revising what doesn't
 - Incremental – building model in stages instead of all at once

Goal and Objectives

Objectives

- 1) Document and disseminate a description of the process of creating a model VAC for replication
- 2) Increase the GPAs and retention rates of D/HH students in STEM majors



Model Infrastructure Components

- Communication
- Dissemination
- User Analytics

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