



Creating a Virtual Academic Community for STEM Students

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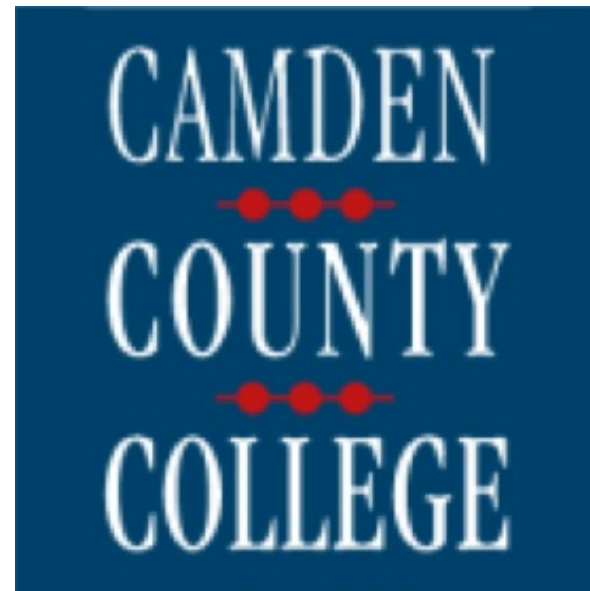
Who We Are

- Deaf STEM Community Alliance
- Supported by the National Science Foundation, HRD #1127955
- 3-5 year project (2011-2016)





Campus Partners





Project Rationale

- Participation gap for students who are deaf or hard of hearing (D/HH)
- Contributing factors:
 - Student preparation (STEM basic skills, concepts)
 - Socialization (peers, role models)
 - Accessible media



Project Rationale

- Solution: Deaf STEM Community Alliance
 - Student preparation
 - Remote tutoring
 - Remote captioning
 - Remote interpreting
 - Socialization
 - Remote mentoring
 - Peer interaction
 - Accessible media
 - Curated collection of STEM resources

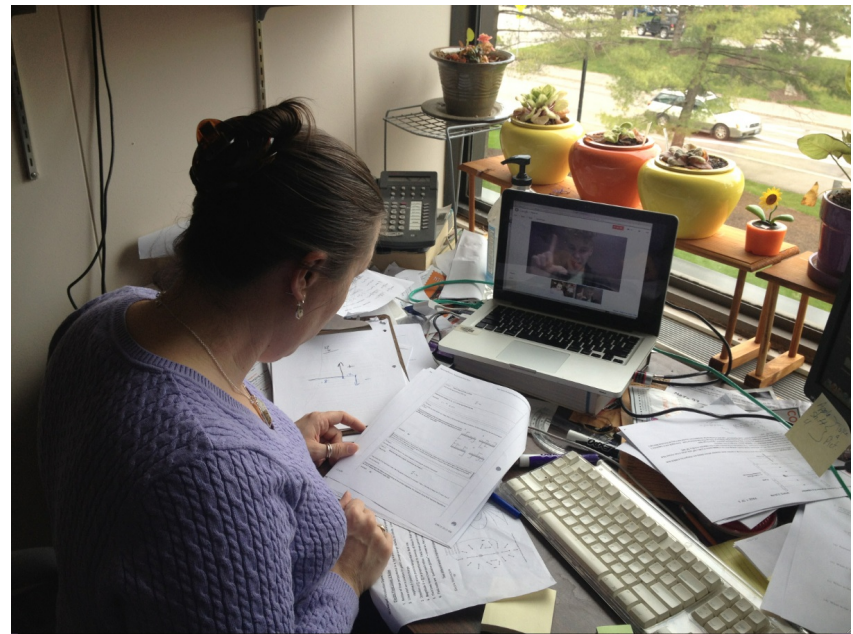


Goal and Objectives

- 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.

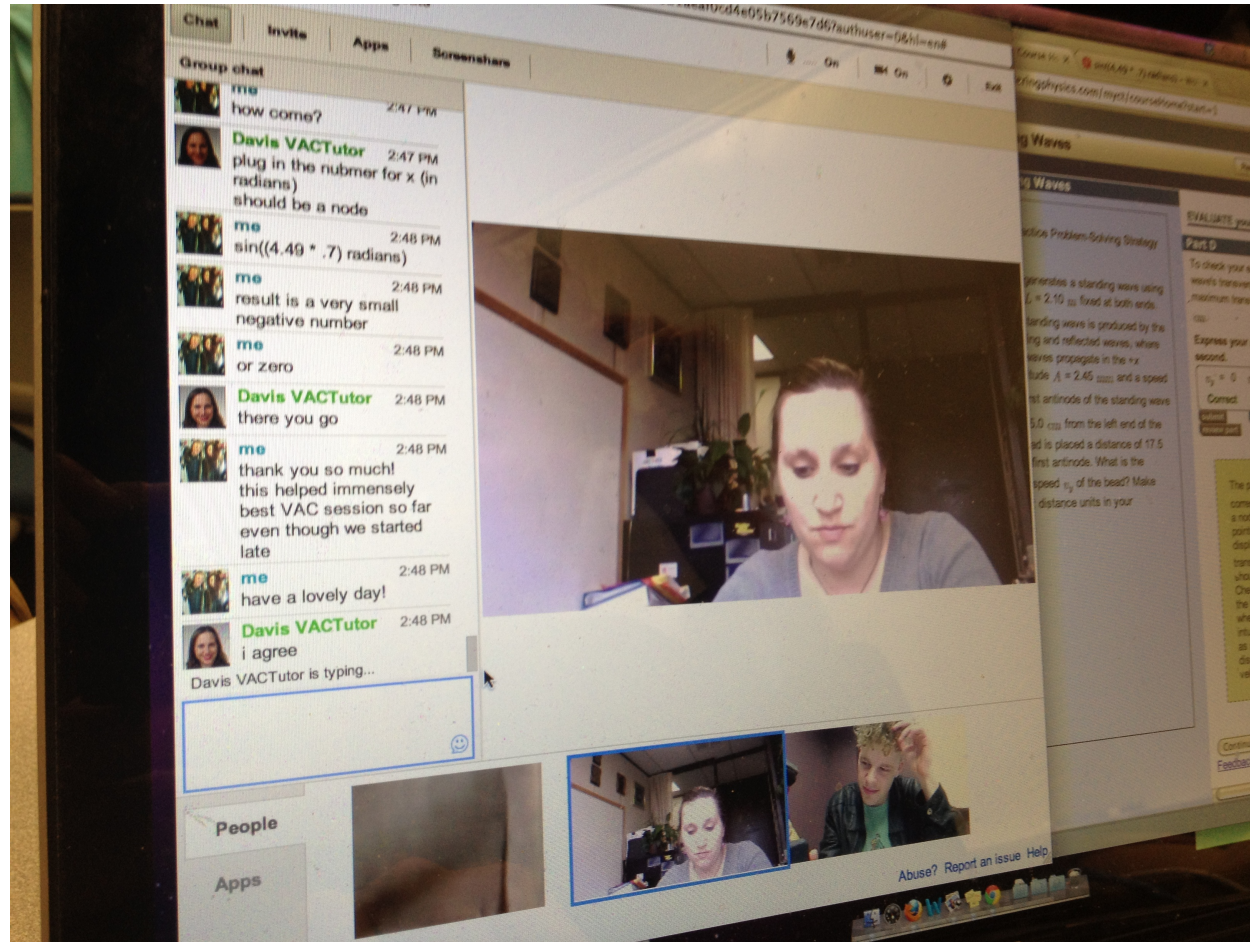


Remote Tutoring Using Google+ Hangouts





Remote Tutoring Using Google+ Hangouts





Remote Tutoring through the VAC – What is it?

Insert Video Here



Challenges & Strategies

- Challenges
 - Network/browser inconsistencies
 - Training & technical assistance
 - Google+ UI changes
- Strategies
 - Ethernet connection/Chrome browser
 - Ongoing feedback & technical assistance
 - On-line guides
 - Google Educational Enterprise account



Findings & Conclusions

- GPA unchanged (n=8; 3.26)
- Progress toward degree=one graduate
- Early in project – more to come!
- Great opportunity to learn about digital learning and *connectivism* vs. conventional models of learning
- Opportunity to learn about embracing innovation and technology



Contact Information

Deaf STEM Community Alliance

www.dhhvac.org