

# **DHHVAC**

The **Deaf**  
and **Hard of Hearing**  
**Virtual Academic Community**

**Deaf Stem Community Alliance**  
NTID at RIT

Lisa B. Elliot, Ph.D. & Robb Dooling  
RIT/NTID Center on Access Technology  
NTID Foundation Board Meeting, May 4, 2012  
Rochester, NY



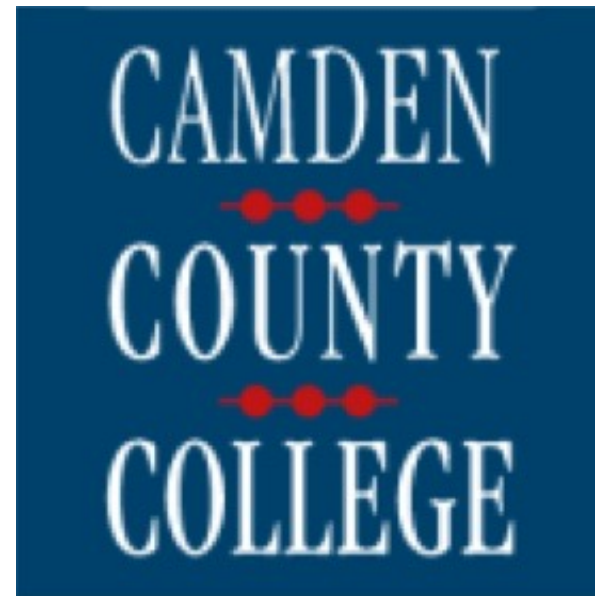
# Who We Are

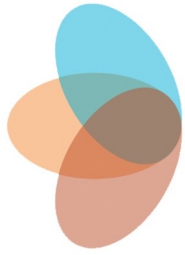
- Supported by the National Science Foundation, HRD #1127955
- 3-5 year project
- Leadership team
  - Lisa Elliot, PI
  - James DeCaro, Co-PI
  - E William Clymer, Co-PI





# Campus Partners





# Background:

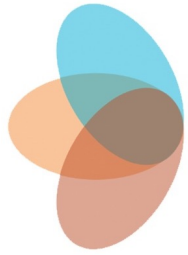
## Two prior NSF grants

- *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



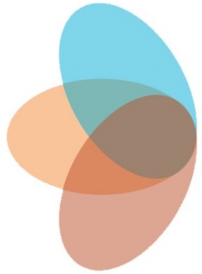
## Background: Two prior NSF grants

- *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



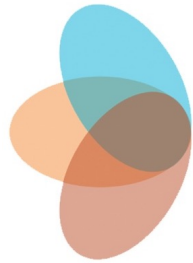
# Goal and Objectives

- 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



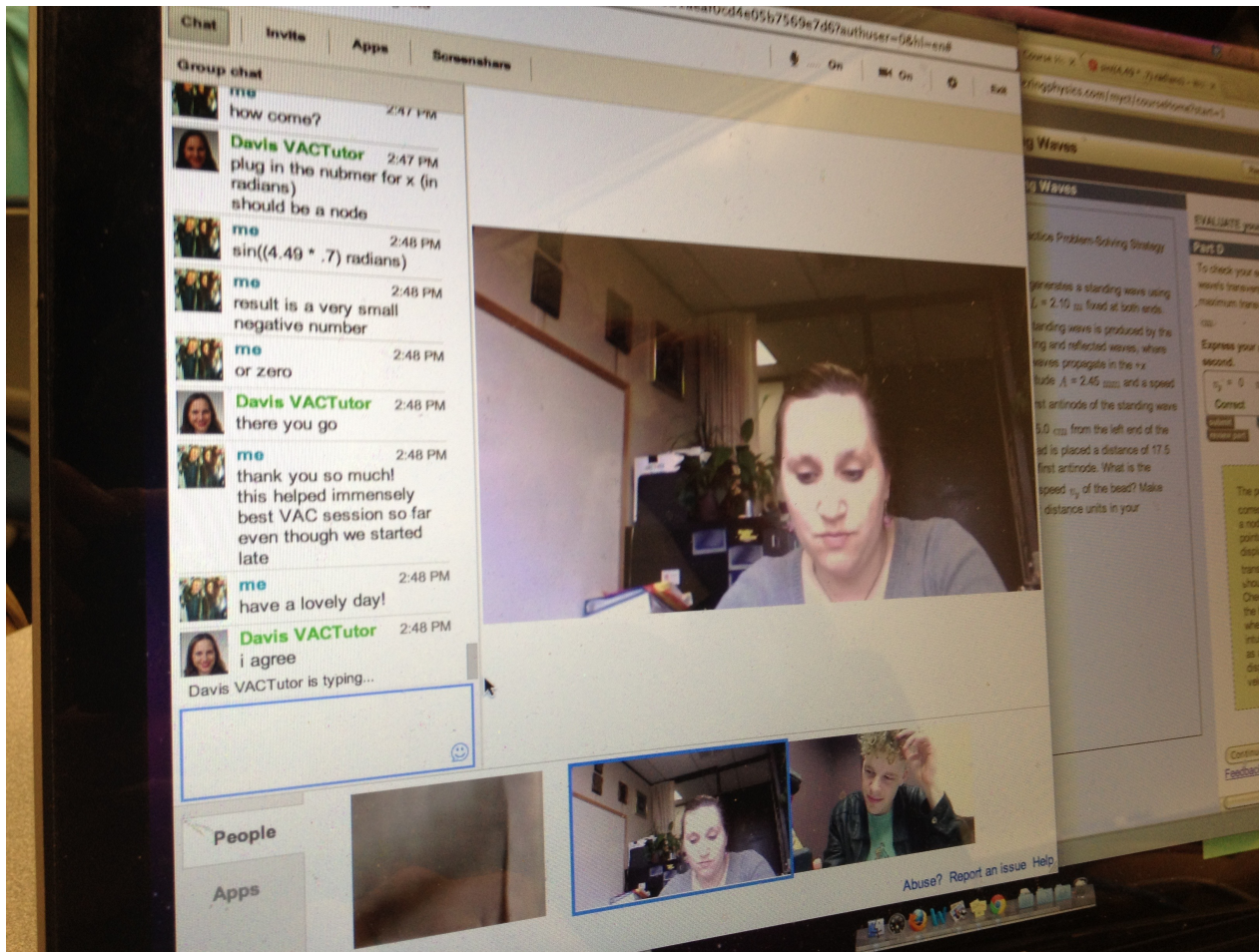
# Progress to Date

- 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](http://www.dhhvac.org))
- Recruiting mentors



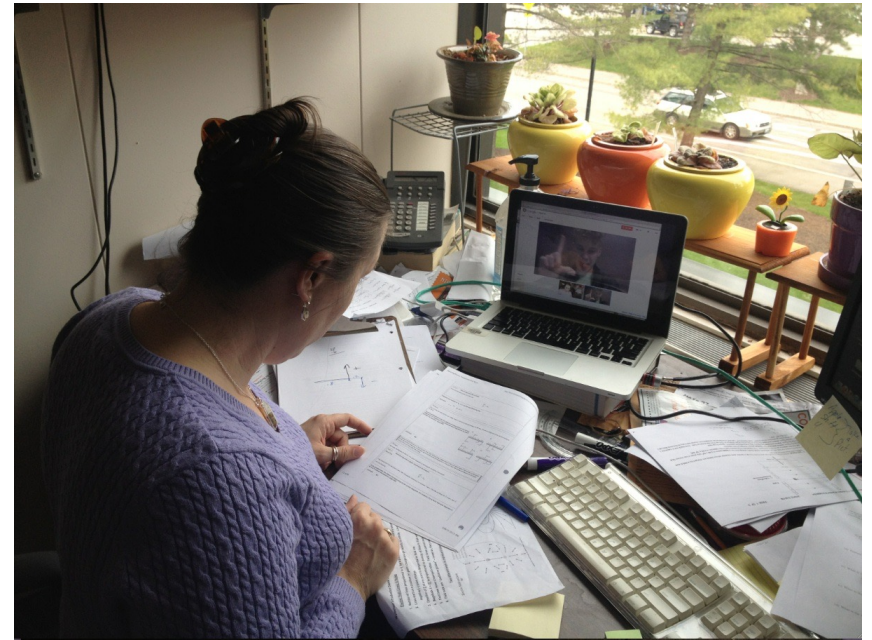


# Remote Tutoring Using Google+ Hangouts





# 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