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
  o vocabulary forum
  o should involve international community of ASL 1st 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
  o Regarding old technology: strengthen weaknesses or retire
  o 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
  o Communication (deaf must approach hearing people
  o Utilize stubborn persistence
  o Leadership skills
  o 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?