



Action Steps to Develop a Business Plan

1 May 2005 – 15 January 2006

Establishment of a

Center on Access Technology in Deaf Education: For Students Who Are Deaf or Hard-of-Hearing

An NTID/RIT Center of Excellence

This document describes a brief action plan for formulating a detailed needs and market potential document, and subsequent **business plan**, for a Center on Access Technology in Deaf Education, at NTID/RIT.

1. Goal

- a. NTID will establish a collaborative research, development and implementation support network at this university that includes faculty for the colleges of RIT, researchers from other universities, industries, professional organizations and access service providers. The network will promote research and development that exploits technology for “access to education” for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
 - i. “Access to education” refers to unencumbered and enhanced access to classroom, laboratory and associated experiences; and unencumbered access to overall personal, social and co-curricular realms of the educational environment where assistive or augmentative technologies can improve access for individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.
 - ii. The Center will provide leadership and support to those individuals researching, developing, implementing and evaluating technologies as they pertain to enhancing the educational experience of persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

2. Background

- a. The **business plan** for the establishment of the Center on Access Technology in Deaf Education will cover a two and one-half year period of time; 15 January 2006 to 31 December 2008.
- b. The business plan will incorporate work already completed as part of the deafness related First-in-Class efforts at RIT

3. Initial Team

- a. James J. DeCaro, Director and E. William Clymer, Coordinator of PEN-International, will work closely with Peter Lalley on the development of the business plan and its subsequent implementation.

- i. Peter Lalley is assigned to this task for 25% of his POW and will report this portion of his activities to James J. DeCaro. A detailed set of tasks, timelines and expected outcomes will be established by 1 September 2005.
 - b. Dr. J.J. DeCaro will manage the Center and report the project to the Vice President and Dean for NTID until 31 December 2008; at that time the status of the Center will be evaluated and, if successful, it will be housed in NTID in conjunction with the Department of Access Services and the Department of Technical Support Services in NTID's College Operations (as detailed in the NTID Strategic Vision 2010 document).
 - c. Dr. DeCaro will devote 10% of his time to developing and implementing the Center between 1 May 2005 and 31 December 2008. E.W. Clymer will assume an overload assignment in order to work with DeCaro on this effort.
4. Timeline for Development of a Business Plan
- a. Convene a Roundtable of Experts from the Deaf Community, Educators of the Deaf and Service Providers and Summarize Recommendations.
 - i. Develop a procedure for eliciting a list of general and specific technologies that deaf and hard of hearing experts in the community believe have the potential for positively impacting upon access to education for students who are deaf (1 August 2005)
 - ii. Select the most knowledgeable deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals, educators of the deaf and service providers as regards the broad field of access and technology and convene them in Rochester for a Roundtable (15 September 2005).
 - iii. Produce a report with a priority listing of problems and potential technological solutions as derived from the Roundtable (1 October 2005).
 - b. Convene RIT Technology Experts and Summarize Recommendations.
 - i. Develop a procedure to collect a list of general and specific technologies that are being investigated as regards access to education (10 October 2005).
 - ii. Convene invited individuals from the RIT and NTID communities to attend an all day meeting to discuss, identify and categorize the types of research and development currently being investigated at RIT (15 October 2005).
 - iii. Prepare a summary report identifying work that is currently underway at RIT and/or could be implemented easily at RIT (1 November 2005).
 - c. Conduct videoconference sessions with selected expert organizations and industries to determine the type, scope and nature of research and development activities occurring at their respective facilities and elicit suggestions as regards other organizations where relevant work is being conducted (1 December 2005).
 - i. Information developed in i., ii., and iii above will be used as a guide for these discussions
 - ii. Organizations that might be called upon to participate in the videoconferences include but are not limited to IBM, Microsoft, Trace Center, WGBH, Georgia Tech and CSUN. Others could include NAD, SHHH, AGBell, PEPNet, Cochlear

implant companies and international organizations such as the World Bank, WFD, ICED, NOKIA, SONY and IFHOH.

- iii. From information gathered in i. through iv. above, a report regarding the most significant research and development currently being conducted across the country will be produced. How the Center can articulate with and build upon those efforts will be detailed in the report (15 December 2005).
 - d. Prepare a Prioritized List of Technology Solutions Which Offer the Most Promise for Positively Impacting Access in Deaf Education.
 - i. Summarize and share for review and critique (with those who participated in the roundtable sessions) the data gathered in b.i. through b.iv. above and the priorities that will be pursued by the Center (1 January 2006).
 - e. Prepare a Business Plan which includes a budget, a set of tasks and a timeline for a two and one-half year timeframe (15 January 2006).
5. Develop cooperative working relationships and agreements for collaborative R&D with other units of NTID and the greater university—in particular, the Laboratory for Enabling Technologies and Disability Studies in the Center for Advancing the Study of Cyberinfrastructure of the B. Galisano College of Computing and Information Science, and the NTID Center for Research on Educational Foundations; among others (Continuing activity).
6. Related Activities and Agreements
- Prepare an RIT/NTID NIDRR proposal entitled Comparative Study of the Efficacy in Post Secondary Education of CART, Speech to Text, Augmented Speech to Text and C-print in Providing Access for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students (15 July 2005) and submit this proposal in the next NIDRR competition. This effort will be coordinated with the proposal currently being developed for submission to the US Department of Education by Professor Marschark.