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