

IDEA Station
(Individuals with Disabilities Entitled Access)

The use of instructional technology in the teaching and learning process must make provisions for persons with disabilities. Institutions must provide accessible sidewalks and facilities, however, not much emphasis has been placed on accessible technology. The purpose of this project is to configure/customize at least one model computer workstation at a medium level that is disabled-friendly at both Elizabeth City State University (ECSU) and Western Carolina University (Western) with some guidance from Sandra Baldwin who is with the North Carolina Assistive Technology Project. The IDEA Station will provide access to technology for persons who have low vision or are blind, have hearing impairments or are deaf, or are wheel chair bound. Additional equipment can be added as necessary on a case-by-case basis.

Once the IDEA Stations are designed, they will serve as a demonstration unit for K-12 pre-service and in-service teachers and higher education institutions in both regions of the state. The staff and faculty members involved in the design and utilization of the IDEA Stations would then be available to provide free consultation and training assistance for other institutions interested in setting up an IDEA Station of their own. The additional IDEA Stations that are set-up at various educational institutions throughout the state would be a direct measurable result and this information would then be shared at technology conferences as well.

Grant recipients will work with TLT Collaborative staff to target and consult with Universities in North Carolina that are interested in following in ECSU's and Western's footsteps by closing the digital divide in regards to individuals with disabilities. The IDEA stations will allow each institution to better serve its students and could have a positive impact on institutional marketing strategies and enrollment. At the very least, assistive technologies, as proposed in this project, will increase independence and enable individuals with disabilities to enjoy learning, living, working, and playing more fully.

Resources Provided by Participating Institutions:

	<u>Est. Cost per Item</u>	<u>Estimated Total Cost</u>
Staff Release Time for Project and Training	2,000.00	4,000.00
Travel Expenses for Consulting Services and Presenting Project Information at Conferences	1,500.00	<u>3,000.00</u>
TOTAL		<u>\$7,000.00</u>

Needed Equipment:

	<u>Est. Cost per Item</u>	<u>Estimated Total Cost</u>
Central Processing Unit	\$1,500.00	\$3,000.00
Monitors	500.00	1,000.00
Braille keyboard	200.00	400.00
Special trackball	170.00	340.00
Braille Embosser	3000.00	6000.00

Needed Equipment: (Continued)

	<u>Est. Cost per Item</u>	<u>Estimated Total Cost</u>
Disable accessible furniture (Bi-Level Electric)	2,100.00	4,200.00
Listening Devices	300.00	600.00
Screen Magnifier with swivel	100.00	200.00
Various Software:		
JAWS for Windows (JAWS) with documentation and Basic Training		
Cassette Tapes (screen reader)	1,200.00	2,400.00
Dragon Naturally Speaking (voice recognition)	250.00	500.00
outSPOKEN Ensemble (used w/braille display/speech synthesizer)	800.00	1,600.00
Word Abbreviation & Prediction	300.00	600.00
Picture Braille Graphics Software	500.00	1,000.00
On Screen Keyboard	200.00	400.00
Dolphin Software (site impaired)	900.00	1,800.00
Formal Training classes on software and equipment	1,000.00	<u>2,000.00</u>
<i>TOTAL</i>		<i>\$26,040.00</i>

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) defines an assistive technology device as:

...any item, piece of equipment or product system, whether acquired commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities. [20 U.S.C. Chapter 33, Section 1401 925)].

Making technology accessible would definitely improve functional capabilities of students attending our North Carolina Universities. We are looking forward to providing individuals with disabilities the same access to education and information that every other person has.

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