

Two colleges from Rochester Institute of Technology - the National Technical Institute for the Deaf (NTID) and the B. Thomas Golisano College of Computing and Information Science - along with the Department of Computer Science & Engineering at the University of Washington, received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant to host a Summit to Create a Cyber-Community to Advance Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing Individuals in STEM (DHH Cyber-Community). The goal of the project is to conduct a three-day summit conference of 50 leaders in the field of support service provision for postsecondary deaf students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) programs. The Summit will occur June 26 & 27, 2008 on the RIT campus. The primary outcome will be a report on the current state of the art of on-line remote interpreting and captioning. Additionally, a recommendation report will be prepared specifying the characteristics of a multimedia cyberinfrastructure that provides remote communication support for deaf and hard-of-hearing students in STEM mainstreamed classrooms. Six groups with an interest in the deployment of remote communication support have been identified: students, STEM faculty, coordinators of support services, educational captioners and interpreters, educational, linguistic and sign researchers, and cyberinfrastructure specialists. At the Summit, each of these groups will be represented by approximately eight recognized leaders in their field. This unique group of experts will share their expertise on the state of the art of remote services provision and strategies for future utilization of remote services. Prior to the Summit, each group will prepare a brief white paper that describes the current situation of their group with regards to remote services, potential benefits of a cyberinfrastructure system, and associated challenges. This presentation will review the current status of the project and report on key issues identified in the white papers generated by each of the six sub-groups. This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation under Award No.OCI-0749253.