

NTID's new Sprint Relay Experimental Distance Learning/Access Demonstration Lab is a resource for experimenting with innovative adaptations of current and emerging technologies in reaching out to remote learners who are deaf and hard of hearing. Key features of the Sprint Relay Lab include: (1) a focus on both instructional activities for deaf and hard-of-hearing remote learners as well as access strategies among deaf, hard of hearing and hearing students and teachers participating in remote learning experiences; (2) a "beta testing" site for adapting and evaluating alternative technologies in the context of varied learning objectives, access goals, and student/teacher preferences; and (3) a forum for information exchange and shared exploration among teachers, students, access service providers, instructional designers and technologists, and researchers.

The proposed presentation will provide an overview of the Sprint Relay Lab's technological capabilities (including a networked Idea Board, videoconferencing systems, and routing of displayed information). As well, some "works in progress" will be demonstrated. These include a conferencing application for remote learners that enables choice among a variety of simultaneously available "access modalities" (captioning, real-time video of interpreter, IdeaBoard content, etc.) in deciding which type of information is most important from moment to moment. A second demonstration features an upcoming NTID Outreach initiative, and showcases a multi-partner videoconferencing session supported through multiple, simultaneously available "access streams" (remote interpreting, remote captioning, oral English and Spanish).