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iPad Device Technology for Senior Citizens with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

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Thinkfinity Initiative for Innovative Teaching, Technology and Research

Project:

iPad Device Technology for Senior Citizens with Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

Cornerstone II:

Community Outreach and Empowerment through Service-Learning and Volunteerism

Principal Investigator:

Dr. James P. Lawler, Professor, Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems

Date:

May, 23, 2011

Final Report

A. Original Goals

Fund and initiate a new piloting program for furnishing iPad device technology for higher-functioning senior citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities;

Integrate features into the iPad technology for acuity in sight, difficulty in hearing, and hindering in perceptive sensory of the senior citizens with disabilities;

Involve undergraduate students in the *Web Design for Non-Profit Organizations* course in mentoring "one-on-one" the senior citizens with disabilities on the simplified specific iPad technology tools, so that the citizens might be helped in producing life stories of themselves;

Involve the students in mentoring the senior citizens with disabilities on enrichment and normal life tasks furnished by the iPad technology, so that the citizens might be helped to be productive in limited mainstream tasks;

Involve the students in researching iPad technology in the health care industry, so that they might learn further opportunities in outreaching the technology to senior citizens with disabilities; and

Measure the results of the new piloting program through the content richness of the life "i-movie" stories produced by the senior citizens with disabilities and through the robustness of life tasks performed through the technology by the citizens, as perceived by the staff of Adult Day Services of AHRC New York City.

B. Progress towards Original Goals

The project was initiated at AHRC New York City – Adult Day Services at 5 locations with the furnishing of 9 iPad devices, which were purchased through the $8,511 grant of the Thinkfinity Initiative;

The project integrated 15 key device tools for an initial 9 senior citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities – disabilities evident in hearing, sight and speech;

The project involved 21 undergraduate students in the CIS 102W *Web Design for Non-Profit Organizations* course in mentoring the initial 9 senior citizens, a further 9 senior citizens with disabilities, and 9 staff on the specific 15 device tools;

The project involved the 21 students in preparing person-centered plans for the 18 senior citizens with disabilities with the functionality of the 15 device tools;

The project involved the 21 students in expanding the functionality of the 15 device tools through interaction with the technology firms furnishing the tools; and

The project was measured by the instructor and the 9 staff through the multimedia presentations of 18 person-centered plans and stories presented by the 18 senior citizens with disabilities through the functionality of the 15 device tools.

C. Activities Completed to Meeting Original Goals

The project was completed in the spring semester 2011 at the 5 locations of Adult Day Services of AHRC New York City with the 18 senior citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities that were enriched by the inherent features of the iPad technology;

The project was completed in integrating the 15 key device tools in hearing, sight and speech for the initial 9 senior citizens with disabilities, the further 9 senior citizens with disabilities that shared the iPad devices, and the 9 staff;

The project was completed in involving the 21 undergraduate students that mentored the 18 senior citizens with disabilities on the functionality of the 15 device tools;

The project was completed in providing pride and self-sufficiency to the 18 senior citizens with disabilities through the preparation of person-centered planning presentations furnished by the 15 device tools; and

The project was completed in serving as the established framework for further projects in summer and fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters with the already furnished and sharable technology.

D. Activities Not Completed

All of the activities scheduled for spring 2011 semester were completed by the 18 senior citizens with disabilities, 9 staff and 21 students, furnishing the framework for further projects in the following semesters through the existing grant with the furnished and sharable technology and tools.

E. Outcomes Achieved as a Result

The project was successful in empowering 18 senior citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities and 9 staff of AHRC New York City – Adult Day Services with iPad device technology;

The 18 senior citizens with disabilities were enabled with enrichment and mainstream productivity tasks with the 15 device tools of the technology;

The 9 staff was enabled in a framework with the tools to be further proficient in helping the 18 senior citizens with disabilities and others with disabilities through the functionality of the technology;

The 18 senior citizens with disabilities were measured by the 9 staff to be proficient in the device tools with the preparation and presentation of person-centered plans that involved multi-media productions, providing noted pride and self-sufficiency to the citizens; and

The 21 undergraduate students were measured by the instructor to be positively reflective of the service-learning on the project in their relationships with the senior citizens with disabilities.

F. Creation of a Class

A class was not created for the project, as the project was integrated into the current CIS 102W *Web Design for Non-Profit Organizations* course of the instructor.

G. Project Impact on Students

The project impacted the 21 students involved with the senior citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities in positive reflection of service-learning on the project noted in journals, mid-term reflection reports, and final reflection reports. The students noted the power of iPad device technology and tools to improve the productivity and the sociality of the senior citizens. There were 7 students that volunteered to further serve other senior citizens with disabilities with iPad tools in the summer 2011 semesters.

H. Project Impact on Other Faculty Members

The project is impacting the further inclusion of 2 faculty members in the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems in serving several of the higher-functioning senior citizens with disabilities that are indicating interest in continuing education courses in the school.

I. Unintended Outcomes Achieved

The unintended outcomes of the project were evident in the frequent enthusiasm of the students to support the senior citizens with disabilities not only in the period of the course but in unscheduled sessions with the citizens and the staff.

J. Outcomes Reflecting Change Hoping to Receive

The outcomes of the project reflect the impacts that the instructor perceived in the positive relationships of interested and self-motivated senior citizens with disabilities, interested staff, and also interested students, all partnered in an exceptional social and technological venture.

K. Project Furthering Thinkfinity Cornerstone

The project was successful in initiating further functionality of the iPad device tools to personalize the technology to the senior citizens with disabilities on their terms, beyond the preconceived intentions of the instructor

L. Future Plans for Sustaining Projects

The plans for the project are to extend the sharable iPad technology and tools into the summer and fall 2011 and spring 2012 semesters with a further 18 (to 36) senior citizens with developmental and intellectual disabilities at AHRC New York City –

Adult Day Services and a further 75 (to 96) undergraduate students in the university, from the framework initiated in the spring 2011 semester. Plans involve extension of the project through internships of 9 undergraduate students with senior citizens with disabilities in the summer 2011 semesters. Other plans involve potential partnerships in research with the technology firms furnishing the mobile device technology to these senior citizens.

Dr. Lawler
May 23, 2011