**Provost’s Grant for the Thinkfinity Initiative for Dr. James P. Lawler – November 2009**

**Revision to “Augmentative Communication Technology for Adults in the Community with Developmental Disabilities” Grant Proposal**

1. **Please clarify who will be doing the technical work and who will be training the students.**

The project will be done by the students with the speech therapist of AHRC New York City, at the Dean O’Hare Center of AHRC, in Brooklyn, New York. They will customize the image menus and menu options of the ChatPC Silk Plus PDA speech synthesis tools for each individual with developmental and intellectual disabilities who will be the consumers of the tools. To customize the tools, the students will have a detailed orientation on programming the tools by the marketing representative of Saltillo Corporation, from whom we are buying the tools. The students will train the individuals on the tools in one-on-one personalized training. This will be on-going in the spring semester 2010.

1. **Provide more detailed information on the technology to be used.**

The technology is ChatPC Silk Plus PDA tools, which are marketed by the Saltillo Corporation. These are hand-held PDA tools which function like normal iPhone PDA tools, except that the image menus are customized to individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities, so that when they touch menu options on the screens of the tools, the tools will speak the words of the images touched on the menu options – if they touch “breakfast” the tool will speak “I would like breakfast” to another person in contact with the individual. This technology is such that it will immensely improve the interactions of individuals with developmental and intellectual disabilities with other otherwise normal persons when it is difficult for the persons to understand the individuals because of the disabilities.

**Dr. James P. Lawler**

**Seidenberg-IS-NY**

**November 17, 2009**