

Create a High Tech Center for our campus focused on the development of accessible, instructional materials, information and resources.

CURRENT CHALLENGE:

SSD provides production of instructional materials for students requiring alternate media due to a disability; TILT provides support to faculty wanting to prepare accessible instructional materials, but they do not have help in actual production; DISCOVERe - materials used on tablets need to be in an OCR alternate format to be able to fully utilize the features of the tablet posting a std document, limits the methods of use for the student (it's easier to use the textbook), and the Library prepares alternate format of library materials. No support available for staff who want to create accessible resources for our campus. All have equipment, resources and still we do not make a dent in the need for information and resources to be fully accessible to our faculty staff and students. NOTE: Alternate media is necessary to fully connect with today's technology. We can do better!

PROPOSED SOLUTION:

Several of us around campus have talked about pooling equipment and other resources and creating a High Tech Center for our campus. I may not fully understand all the technical processes offered by all these groups, but we know we overlap. A high tech center / focused on the development of accessible, instructional materials, information and resources for our campus is a powerful tool. A focused center can allow students, staff and faculty to request support on-line, attach original resources. Multiple examples on campuses. The growing issue of universal design, accessibility is not generally taught in our classrooms (IT, Computer, etc.) The student workers at SSD graduate with a far advanced knowledge about accessibility in the market place that puts them ahead of their peers. The high tech center can have limited regular staffing and rely highly on student workers, and interns to do the actual production. They will learn so much.

BENEFITS TO FRESNO STATE:

Combine resources and send a powerful message about our commitment to Universal Design, and access. As noted above, the center provides an opportunity for hands-on application for students in related fields: IT, Computers, web design, computer engineering and much more. I strongly believe it is worth exploring the potential for this center. We are not talking a building, we are talking a space, with most of the interaction with campus being an on-line submission and receipt of work done.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Thank you for your consideration.