To: CUNY IT Accessibility Task Force
   CUNY IT Steering Committee
Re: Strategic Technology Accessibility Initiative (STI) Funding Proposal
Subject: CUNY Virtual Desktop Initiative to Address Accessibility to Software in a Universal Design Environment
Date: May 29, 2015

Summary
The College of Staten Island (CSI) requests $11,000.00 from the Strategic Technology Accessibility Initiative to support the development of a Virtual Desktop Initiative (VDI) that addresses accessibility to software in support of a universal design environment. This initiative is part of a larger plan to provide software in a VDI environment to all CUNY campuses and will have a significant benefit to students across the University. Using a VMWare managed service, Phase one will provide for an integrated cloud service that will allow end users to securely access their virtual desktop from any workstation on campus. Phase II will expand this initiative to allow accessibility software to be securely accessible from any device or browser both on and off campus.

Description
As CUNY expands its cloud offerings with the anticipation of providing easy access to content to all students, the need to pilot software with the anticipation to scale it to all CUNY campuses seems apparent. It is essential for faculty and students to have easy access to software without having to assign specific workstations or labs. The ability to provide this service to students requiring software for accessibility becomes a challenge as it requires customized images to be maintained for those workstations where the software is installed. In addition, these images sometimes conflict with specialized software required for other disciplines. Students who are not in need of this special software need to be considered when deploying accessibility applications to all machines.

This proposal is requesting funds for a Phase I VDI pilot that will provide the following:

1. On campus access to accessibility software such as ZoomText and Kurzweil 3000 from any workstation on campus.
2. Training and support to Department of Accessibilities
3. Documentation and Video Captioning on how to access software
4. AD integration

For Phase I of this project, CSI would like to employ a College Assistant to aid in the development of documentation and video tutorials, assist with testing, as well as on-going support for faculty and students. The CA would be employed for 1040 hours and will be jointly supervised by the Director of Academic Computing and the Director of Student Accessibilities.
Subsequent to the success of Phase I, CSI will continue to work with CUNY to expand offerings to all students from any location.

**Budget**

- College Assistant; 1040 hours; $9.72 hour $10,108.80
- Miscellaneous Costs $891.20
- Total Budget $11,000.00

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