The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Virtual Academic Community

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## COMMUNITY OVERVIEW

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Virtual Academic Community (DHHVAC) is an alliance between the Rochester Institute of Technology, Cornell University, and Camden Community College, funded through grants from the National Science Foundation INCLUDES and EAGER programs (award numbers 1127955 and 1834978). This online community addresses the barriers that deaf and hard of hearing (D/HH) students encounter when attempting to earn a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) including academic preparation, social isolation, and lack of accessible resources. Along with students, the approximately 50 active community members include mentors (STEM professionals who are D/HH), tutors, and staff. Most interaction occurs in the community's private Google+ group and Facebook group. The community was rolled out in stages from September 2011 to January 2013.

► DIVERSITY/EQUITY/INCLUSION
► STANDARD SETTING
► INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT
► MENTORING
► SKILLS DEVELOPMENT
► STUDENT-MENTOR COMMUNITY

► Website: www.rit.edu/ntid/dhhvac

## COMMUNITY BASICS



**50**
50 members with a reach of 115
*This number is an estimate*

Mostly online with some in-person events

International

Partly open – D/HH students in STEM from funded institutions can join, D/HH mentors apply to participate
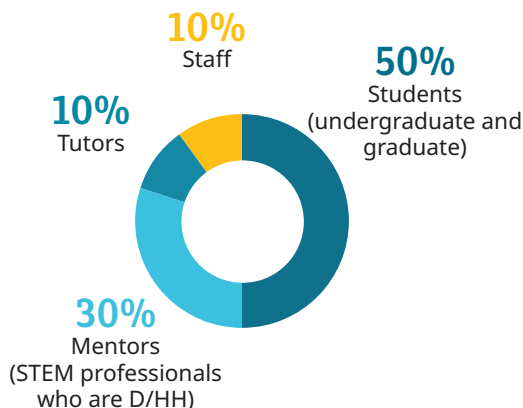
Community of practice

## COMMUNITY STRUCTURE

**Community Management**
Community management is provided by .6 FTE **Virtual Academic Community Manager** and .4 FTE **Co-Primary Investigator**. Additionally, **support staff** (~.25 FTE) post within the community, attend meetings, schedule meetings and events, perform paperwork for background checks, and coordinate with other departments as needed.

**Members**



10% Staff
10% Tutors
50% Students (undergraduate and graduate)
30% Mentors (STEM professionals who are D/HH)

**Community Configuration**

DHHVAC

The Deaf and Hard of Hearing Virtual
Academic Community
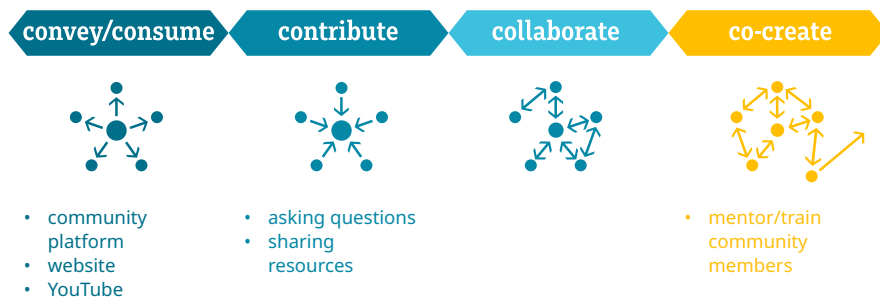
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## PROGRAMMING

The CSCCE Community Participation Model describes four modes of member engagement that can occur within a community: CONVEY/CONSUME, CONTRIBUTE, COLLABORATE, and CO-CREATE. All modes may be present at once, with some members interacting in multiple modes - or a community may have member engagement that falls into only some of the modes described. The model enables the mapping of community member behaviors to programming and other infrastructural support that the community manager, convening organization, or funder may provide to the community. For more information, see the CSCCE community participation model.

### IN THIS COMMUNITY

Online activities include discussions in Facebook groups, group emails, a YouTube channel, and a continuously curated project manual. In-person activities include workshops and conferences.

| convey/consume | contribute | collaborate | co-create |
|---|---|---|---|

- community platform
- website
- YouTube

- asking questions
- sharing resources

- mentor/train community members

Online      In-person

### COMMUNITY TOOLBOX

**Communications**

Email      Zoom
Facebook      YouTube

**Productivity**

Adobe Suite      Qualtrics
Google Drive      Google Analytics

### FUNDING

**100%**
Grants

**Funding Streams**

- 100% grant funding (NSF INCLUDES and NSF EAGER)

## OUTPUTS & EVALUATION

✓ **Success looks like mentor and mentee satisfaction, positive tutoring outcomes (e.g. improved GPA or passing a specific class), implementing technology solutions, and community engagement.**

### Evaluation and Reporting

- Reports for leadership or funders
- Community member surveys
- Community member interviews
- Social media user analytics

### Opportunities

- New funding stream
- Diversify digital engagement

### Challenges

- Funding
- Senior management buy-in
- Time management

### Successes over the last year

- **Engagement** – increased activity of members (commenting or attending)
- **Recognition** – awards/articles/invitations
- **Recognition** – members see value
- **Productivity** - publications by staff

CSCCE