Overview

Students with disabilities are a significant, underrepresented segment of the higher education population that cut across all demographic boundaries. They comprise 11 percent of all undergraduate students. Only 34.8 percent of students with disabilities at four-year institutions will complete college, versus 51.2 percent of the general student population. One cause of this discrepancy is the limited availability of accessible digital instructional materials that students with disabilities can utilize to succeed in college.

Therefore, the Georgia Institute of Technology | AMAC Accessibility Solutions & Research Center proposes the creation of the Center for Accessible Materials Innovation to expand access to digital content for students with disabilities, thereby improving their retention and graduation rates. The Center will target students who are enrolled in Minority Student Institutions (MSIs) with a diagnosed print-related disability.

The Center for Accessible Materials Innovation propose four major activities to accomplish these goals: (1) Develop and deploy an innovative marketplace application which discloses information about the accessibility features of instructional materials; (2) Produce and distribute accessible textbooks and assistive technology; (3) Research causes of under-utilization of accessible textbooks by MSIs; (4) Produce and deploy accessibility training utilizing a Massive Open Online Course.

The project has the potential to impact all post-secondary students with print-related disabilities within the grant period (estimated 25,000+ students). There will be 400 students in the MSI research program. Budget is $3.8 million over four years.

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