

**JOINT REQUEST TO DEVELOP AN ONLINE RECORDED ANSWER ASSESSMENT AND
COMMENTARY/FEEDBACK SYSTEM**

**DIVISION OF INSTRUCTIONAL INNOVATION AND ASSESSMENT (DIIA)
AND
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION LEARNING TECHNOLOGY CENTER (COE LTC)
AND
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY SERVICES (LAITS) / TEXAS
LANGUAGE TECHNOLOGY CENTER (TLTC)**

VISION PLAN • 2009–2010

SUMMARY OF REQUEST

DIIA, COE LTC and LAITS/TLTC request \$124,000 to support the further development and expansion of an online Recorded Answer Assessment and Commentary/Feedback System to support foreign language assessment and learning, case-based learning, and other disciplines benefitting from oral/visual evaluation and feedback.

Initially developed by DIIA as an online Spanish Oral Proficiency Exam (SOPE), it has been adopted for use by COE LTC for Bilingual and Spanish Teacher Certification Programs and piloted in TLTC in French and Spanish language courses. The system currently features an innovative interface where instructors can set up an exam or an exercise by uploading graphics, text, and record audio questions for students. Students log-on to the system and verbally respond to stimuli within a certain timeframe. The online system records and organizes student responses so that instructors can easily track their students, access student responses, listen to, and immediately record their feedback to students. Instructors and students no longer need to create and send tapes, or set up face-to-face meetings to assess oral proficiency. This system has greatly increased the efficiency in which instructors and professional evaluators can assess students and provide more specific feedback.

Because of the potential for use in every language course as well as other disciplines serving thousands of users, DIIA and LAITS is seeking to expand and migrate this system – which currently uses commercial server software limited to 100 concurrent users – to an open source server to support an unlimited number of users. DIIA is also leading the development of the tool to include video recording, to promote its use as a study tool, to enable collaboration and peer commentary, and to provide accessibility to the visually and physically impaired (508 Compliance). Because advanced language proficiency requires more oral practice, TLTC is seeking to add additional features and flexibility to accommodate a wide range of languages and instruction. COE LTC is seeking to streamline the administration of language certification testing, and to be able to support video case-based learning – expanding its scope and use beyond languages.

CURRENT IMPACT ON TEACHING AND LEARNING

- Currently used in 3 courses (French and Spanish) and Spanish Screening Procedure (Teacher Certification Programs) impacting over 250 students a year

- Greater efficiency for instructors to administer exams and offer individual feedback, greater efficiency for students to demonstrate language proficiency
- Guided oral practice for students

ADDITIONAL IMPACT WITH FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

A formal evaluation of the SOPE tool was recently conducted by a team of instructional technologists and assessment experts. Based on analysis and faculty and student input, results indicate a greater potential and need for further development of this tool. (See supplemental SOPE evaluation report)

- Scalability and wide campus distribution as a free and open source product
- Support for individual as well as collaborative study and practice, and peer commentary/feedback
- Adoption in a wide range of language courses (including American Sign Language) will impact thousands of students needing to fulfill a language requirement for graduation, as well as provide enhancements for advanced language learning.
- Incorporating a video component will extend the reach of the tool beyond language instruction into areas that depend heavily on video case-based learning, which has been shown to be highly effective in legal, medical, and teacher education. Several (6-10) faculty members in the COE have already expressed an interest in using the system for their classes with the potential of expanding its use to over a thousand teacher preparation students as well as graduate students in Educational Psychology and Educational Administration.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ENHANCEMENTS

- 508 Compliance for accessibility to people with visual and physical disabilities
- Migrating and testing the system on an Open Source (Red5) server to expand scope and scale of use –the number of students who can concurrently access the system will be unlimited.
- Texas Enterprise Directory (TED) integration for ease of administering to UT students
- Video integration – enabling the recording of video responses and providing video feedback
- Functionality for collaborative use by individuals and groups, and peer feedback

DIIA, LAITS, TLTC AND COE LTC CONTRIBUTION = \$92,000

DIIA Programmer and instructional designer (.5 FTEs) \$50,000

COE Programmer/Instructional designer (.25 FTE) \$15,000

TLTC content expert (.12 FTE) \$12,000

LAITS server administrator (.25 FTE) \$15,000

TOTAL ONE TIME ITAC REQUEST FOR SUPPORT = \$124,000

Programmer 1 FTE \$70,000

Programmer .5 FTE \$35,000

Server Hardware \$5,000

Server administration \$14,000