

## Assistive Technology Lab, Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMUC)

### **Introduction:**

In the process of providing education services to persons with special needs, it is essential to provide adequate facilities that match the requirements of the students and helps them access the curriculum. Additionally, the training of trainers is a requisite in order to meet the evolving needs of students with disabilities.

To address the above stated challenge, the Assistive Technology Lab at Texas A&M University-Commerce was started. It is a partnership between the Psychology, Counseling and Special Education Department, the Center for Information Technology Excellence, and Gee Library. The lab provides a unique facility and gives different examples of assistive technology that is designed specifically to empower individuals with disabilities and to educate future teachers.

### **Intervention:**

An Assistive Technology Lab has been started at Texas A&M University-Commerce (TAMUC) to provide resources for students who are in teacher preparation programs and to allow students with disabilities to use devices. The lab has seven stations that cater to students with speech and language impairments, autism spectrum disorder, emotional/behaviour disorders through the communication/behaviour station; students with specific learning disabilities and intellectual disability through the academic station; then the sensory impairment station for students who have hearing or visual impairment; students with physical disabilities such as cerebral palsy and the last station features independent living aids, including doorbell, touch dots and braille, hair dryer etc.

The AT Lab at TAMU-C has been created to support university efforts in providing pre-service teachers with exposure to and experiences with AT, to empower individuals with disability, to for future research related to students' use of AT and the information provided can be act as a point of reference for those seeking to establish similar learning experiences.

### **Impact/ Learning:**

NCS for Differently Abled centers can also be developed as Assistive Technology labs which can be used to impart training to persons with disability thereby equipping them in a more efficient manner by using means that are developed to help the students learn with the capacity to implement the learning. Besides, the assistive technology enabled can act facilitate research institutes and thereby help develop more such technologies to ensure persons with disabilities can better adjust with the external world. Another important aspect is the teacher training, which is a one of the objectives of the labs and is a necessity for the trainers employed in NCS DA training centers.

*Source: Assistive Technology Lab, Texas A&M University-Commerce and Jones, B et al (2018) Designing and Implementing an Assistive Technology Lab for Postsecondary Education. MDPI. Accessed at: [www.mdpi.com](http://www.mdpi.com)*