

Implementing Intensive Auditory Rehabilitation Programs in University Settings

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ABSTRACT

The benefits of an intensive training program called the, Specialized Intensive Auditory Rehabilitation Conference (SIARC), for University students, participants with hearing loss, and the community will be reviewed. With shared resources, it was possible to implement the program at three universities and a fourth is in the planning stages.

SIARC DESCRIPTION

SIARC, a practicum experience for graduate students in audiology or speech/language pathology, is conducted during a weeklong workshop for communication partners where there is guided learning with real-world practice. There are three main components as shown in Figure 1. The week consists of four daily classes (Audiology, Assistive Devices, Communication Strategies, and Coping Skills), tour of a facility, play or musical, and dinners in typical noisy restaurants as shown in Figure 2. All have the opportunity to try new technology throughout the week.

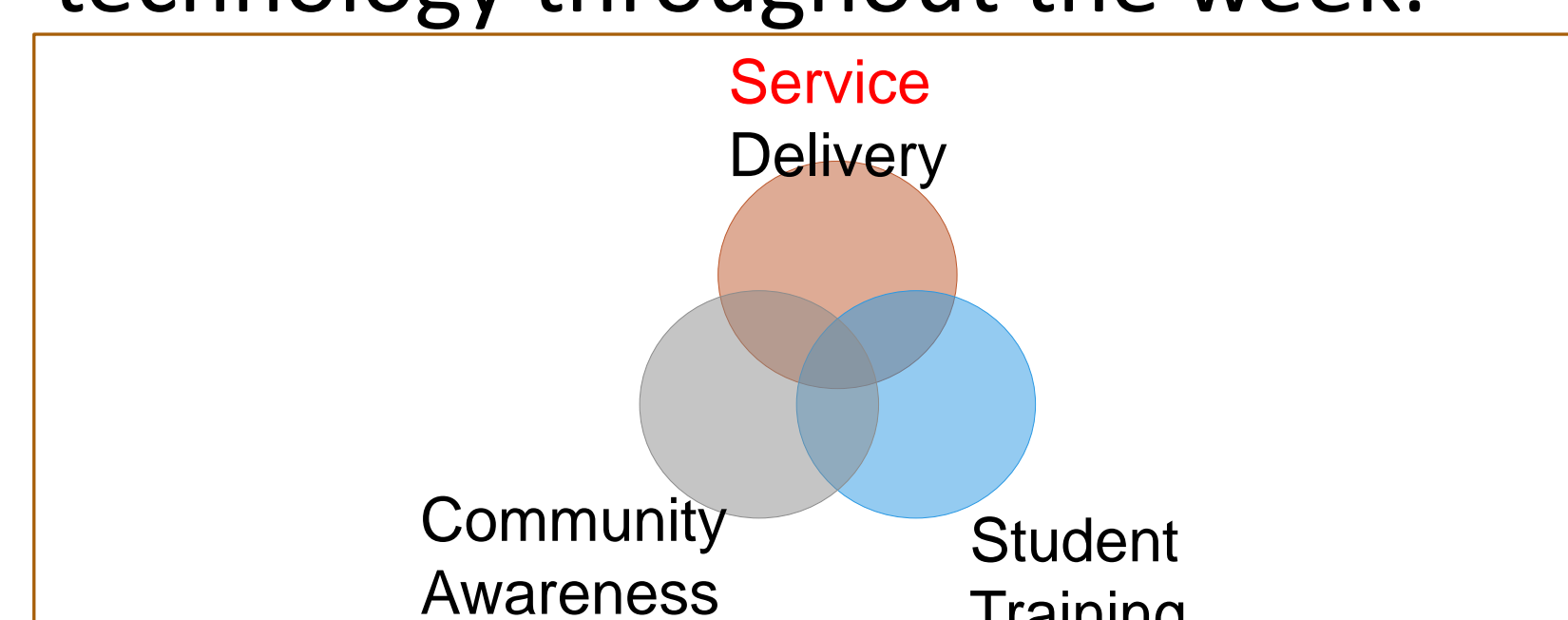


Figure 1. Major Components of SIARC

PROCESS

- Send student/supervisor to UTD SIARC if possible
- Mutual goals for the three components established
- Dates selected and faculty resources determined
- Funding secured (Minimum \$5000)
- Guest speaker invited
- Graduate students recruited for elective and/or practicum credit
- Hotel/Tours/Transportation/Restaurants confirmed
- Brochure developed and distributed in clinics
- Student tasks assigned to run SIARC

SIARC SAMPLE SCHEDULE					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Registration	Lecture-Guest	Lecture-Guest	Play Eval	
9:30	Lecture>Welcome	Class 1	Class 1	Class 1	Class 3
10:00	Class 1-Audio	Class 1	Class 1	Class 1	Class 3
10:45	Break	Break	Break	Break	Break
11:00	Class 2-Asst Devices	Class 2	Class 2	Class 2	Class 4
12:00	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Group Evaluation
1:00	Research	Manufacturers	Lecture-Guest		
2:00	Class 3-Comm Strat	Music Hall Tour	Class 3	Class 3	
2:45	Break	Break	Break	Break	
3:00	Class 4-Coping	Lecture-Guest	Class 4	Class 4	
4:00	Lab Tour	Open	Open	Open	
5:00	Dinner	Dinner	Bus to Theatre	Dinner	
6:00	Closure Program		Play-Musical		

Figure 2. SIARC Sample Schedule

EQUIPMENT SHARED

- Phonak Adaptive Digital Systems
- Ten Roger Pens, three Roger inspiros, ten Clip-on Mics, and 20 RogerX Receivers
- Two Dynamic Soundfield Systems
- Ten iPads to access resources on the internet, take photos, and use for auditory training



Figure 3. Roger Pen and Clip-on Mic and Receiver

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

- Sept. 15-17, 2014
- 18 AUD students, 3 supervisors
- Budget: \$5000
- Activities: Corks and Canvas, "A Chorus Line" at 5th Ave Theatre
- Technology: CART, Starkey Halo, iPads
- Program: UW Experience Aural Rehabilitation (UWEAR)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

- Oct. 28-Nov. 1, 2013
- 12 AUD students, 3 supervisors
- Budget: \$35,000
- Activities: Tour of Mill City Museum and Raptor Center, Play at the Guthrie "Tribes"
- Technology: Phonak Roger systems, iPads captioning of Mill City Tour, Roger mics on tours, FM Assistive Devices at the Guthrie

UNIVERSITY SOUTH FLORIDA

- March 11-March 14, 2014
- 12 AUD students, 3 supervisors
- Budget: \$20,000
- Activities: Tour of Science Museum, Play at the Straz Center
- Technology: Phonak Roger systems, iPads for Counseling, Roger mics on tours, Infrared assistive technology at the theatre

SUMMARY

SIARC is a unique experience for AUD/SLP graduate students as they participate in service delivery from the identification of hearing loss, to fitting of hearing aids, and to the introduction of communication strategies and wireless technology over the course of one week. All of the conference participants say the conference was very beneficial and they would recommend that their friends attend. Students have rated the experience as the highlight of their graduate training. SIARC has been offered at UTD for the past twelve years. The next SIARC is planned for May 18-23 at UTD and next year at Ohio State University.

REFERENCES

Thibodeau, L. & Cokely, C. (2003). Maximizing Auditory Rehabilitation Training for Clients, Students, and Faculty through SIARC: Summer Intensive Aural Rehabilitation Conference. *Journal of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology, 36*, 67-82.

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