

## **Vision Awards Program Proposal**

**Title: Enhancing the Effectiveness of Reading Tutorials through Video Cases**

**Faculty Sponsors: James Hoffman & Beth Maloch,  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction**

### *Goals and Objectives*

We are proposing a project designed to enhance the preparation of elementary teachers at The University of Texas at Austin. The project will also directly impact the educational experiences of elementary students in an east Austin school serving a low-income, Hispanic community.

Background: The Reading Specialization/Concentration program at The University of Texas at Austin has been offered as an “option” to students seeking elementary certification for over forty years. One of the critical components of this program has been the commitment to field-based teaching and learning. This field-based component typically includes an intensive reading tutorial experience. Just over ten years ago, I (Jim Hoffman) developed a handbook (“The Longhorn Readers”) to guide this tutorial experience. Several doctoral students contributed to the original version and subsequent modifications. Over the years, this handbook has been used in conjunction with tutorials in other cohorts and in graduate classes. The handbook has become a popular and useful resource.

Project Focus and Description: We are seeking support through this proposal to create a set of video cases to complement the Longhorn Tutoring Handbook.

### *Activities*

We are seeking support through this Vision Award for the development of video cases that support each of the the tutoring components. The video cases would be used in conjunction with both the Reading Methods and Reading Difficulties courses. The description of the components is fully developed in both electronic and paper versions. There are eleven tutorial components.

- Alphabet Study
- Build-Up Reading
- Guided Reading
- Inquiry: I-Search/We-Search
- Jokes, Riddles & Tongue Twisters
- Language Experience
- Poetry Warm-Up
- Read Alouds

Sentence Study  
Word Work  
Viewing

We would like to develop at least two short video cases for each of the components. These clips will be loaded on the cohort website. The videotapes will be used for both the initial introduction of the routines and as a resource for students to draw on at any time for their planning. The videotapes will be fairly short.

Each of the video tapes will be structured around four parts:

1. A description of purpose and structure of the component;
2. An interview with the teacher going into the clip;
3. The video clip;
4. A debriefing with the teacher.

We currently have a website for our cohort. We have a basic plan for locating the video clips on the website. However, we will draw on the expertise provided through this grant to enhance the effectiveness of the videos. For example, we would like to explore the creation of a “running transcript” to accompany the videos; the addition of notes that highlight key aspects of the teaching; and space for the observer of the video to record responses.

Two teachers at Allan Elementary School (AISD) have agreed to cooperate in the development of the videotapes. These teachers are graduates of the cohort and will make excellent models for the creation of the clips. We have a dedicated classroom in the school for the cohort with wireless access.

We will use the support and expertise acquired through this grant to develop our own capacity to continue the development of additional video cases. We will learn the processes and add cases.

Research Component: There has been growing interest and research in the use of video cases to support teacher preparation. We will conduct an action research project and gather data on the use and the impact of the revised tutorial handbook on the learning of the UT students enrolled in the Hoffman’s Cohort (starting Spring, 2006); Master Reading Teacher Institute (Summer, 2006) and Maloch’s Cohort starting Fall, 2006. We will use these data to plan for a fully randomized experimental study in the spring of 2007.

Project Team: The development team will consist of two cohort coordinators (Jim Hoffman and Beth Maloch), two TA’s, and two current cooperating teachers (both are graduates of the UT Reading Specialization program).

*Description of Final Product*

The final product will consist of a set of twenty-two videotape cases that model effective teaching practices.

*Description of the Audiences*

The revised tutorial materials and the supporting video cases will be put into immediate use with two cohorts in the undergraduate elementary program (50 students per year). The materials will support the instruction of 50 elementary students per year in school tutorials. The revised Tutorial Handbook and the video support materials will be made available to all course instructors in the teacher education program. Since tutorials are required in all cohorts, the potential influence could reach across the entire preparation program. The elementary faculty participating in the development of the videos hope to incorporate the videos into the in-service program at Allan Elementary School.

*Sustained Effect*

The video cases will be placed on TechNet with access to all faculty and students in the program.