

We are seeking support for the cost of materials and supplies to create a new design challenge / project for seniors in the Engineering Innovation and Design class. I recently attended the Making Assistive Technology for Employment Conference with Paul Auger, the district's Assistive Technology Specialist, and Brendan McCarthy, the high school's Transition Counselor.

As a result of this experience, I intend to introduce a new design challenge or project that would allow BHS to reach the following goals:

- It models the importance of human-centered design and authentic application of engineering concepts for seniors in our Engineering Innovation and Design class
- It creates reverse inclusion opportunities so that seniors in our Engineering program are pushing in to meet and learn more about students and staff in our special education program
- It creates new opportunities for the ways that our special education students participate in elective classes

This design challenge builds on previous collaborative efforts with Paul Auger which were focused on engineering for adaptive tech at the K-8 level.

In this project, seniors in Engineering Innovation and Design would learn with and from teachers in our RISE program about the needs of RISE students when accessing electives. For example, a student in an introductory Painting or Drawing class may require specialized tools to access the curriculum. Presently, we allocate money from the department's budget to purchase such tools. This requires collaboration across departments – Visual Arts staff as well as Special educators – in addition to money and time to order and receive the tools. The project is intended to meet these needs. Engineering students will meet a peer and their special education team, study their use case, and prototype and design an adaptive technology tool that improves their experience in one of their second semester elective classes, such as Culinary, Painting, Drawing, etc.

The requested funds will allow us to buy a variety of specialized prototyping materials as needed, such as adhesives, clamps, filament, etc. There may also be small hand tools that are required for this work that we not have in our shop space. We will need funding to build many iterations of these prototype during the testing phase and hope to support many special education students at once. We anticipate the project will cost more than the requested budget of \$1,000. It is difficult to anticipate the exact needs prior to identifying the students and their semester two electives but we would submit a budget spreadsheet or summary as necessary if we are able to move the project forward.

We have already spoken to the special educators most closely working with our target population of special education students as well as coordinators and teachers in elective departments and they are enthusiastic about the potential of this project.