

# Partnerships in Autism & Technology

California State Senate Hearing

Gillian R. Hayes

Department of Informatics, Donald Bren School of ICS

School of Education

Department of Pediatrics, School of Medicine

University of California, Irvine

**Collaborative relationships  
position us to make substantial  
differences *now* and contribute  
to research that can *extend  
effects state and nationwide***

# University Partnerships

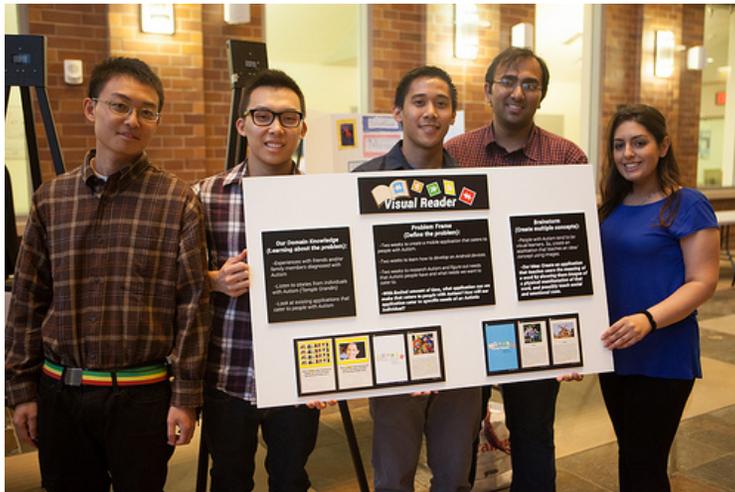
Allow for cross pollination of good ideas and development of varied skills

Raise awareness about autism and technology efforts across campuses

# Autism AppJam

Partners: Microsoft, IBM, Yahoo!, Blizzard, Google, Pimco Foundation, Intel, Tiwahe Technology, T-Mobile, CallT2, and the Schools of ICS, Engineering, and Medicine at UCI

Two week competition for university students to design and build an app for autism



# Half the teams are continuing their work

**TheraConnect:** Collaborating with the Center, K-12 public schools, and New Vista to field test the product

**CollegeHero:** Working to deploy with Disability Services on UCI campus

**I'm Lost:** Picked up by Yahoo! Mobile for continued development

Others releasing in iOS AppStore or Android Play Marketplace

# Corporate Partnerships

Enable stronger development work than we might do alone as a university

Support companies in empirically validating their approaches, a proven model from pharmaceuticals

# VidCoach

Partners: Tiwahe Technology, CareerLink, Walgreens, Trader Joes, Chilis, Lucilles, Hyatt, Atria, Boys & Girls Club of OC

## Watch Model

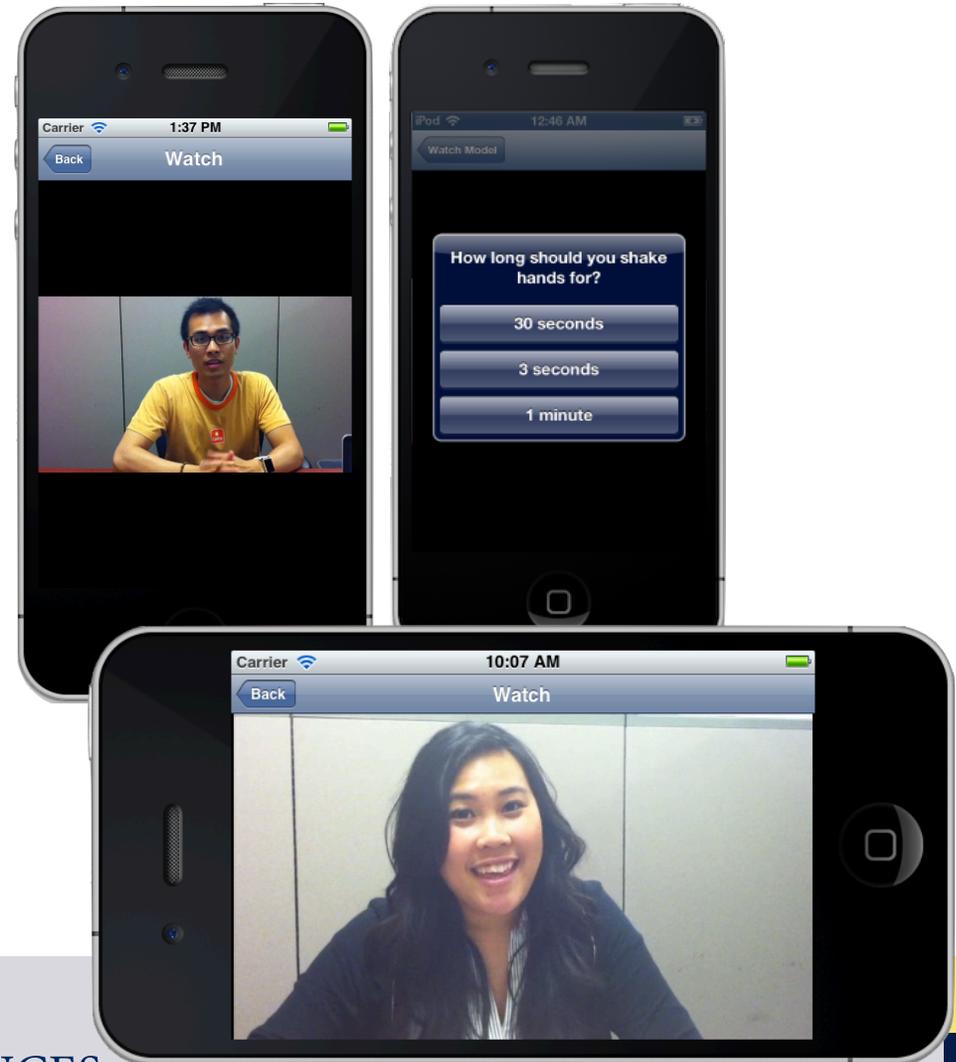
- Answer quizzes

## Practice

- Respond to prompts

## Watch Self

- Save recordings
- Rate performance



# Evaluating VidCoach

15 students in a transition program

- Pre and Post interviews with potential employers
- One month of app use in between
- Student missteps during job interviews significantly reduced
- Student confidence with practice increased

# K-12 Partnerships

Enable designs from our research labs to be tested within schools

Collaboratively support creation of technology focused evidence based curricula



# vSked Evaluation in Classrooms

Significant reductions in:

- Time to transition between activities  
(158 sec vs. 61 sec)
- Prompting  
(12.43 vs. 7.20)

Improvements in teacher communication *and* student socialization and communication

# Technology in the Workplace

Partners: Irvine, Capistrano, Whittier, Saddleback, Garden Grove, Newport Mesa, Huntington Beach school districts, Tiwahe Technology, Department of Rehabilitation, and Regional Center of Orange County

## Training to support use of technology in transition activities

### Multi-part intervention:

- Action plans around use of iOS devices
- Distribution of devices from a variety of sources
- Workshops around device use and work transition







# Next Steps for TiW Program

Working to expand statewide through other transition initiatives

- Continue with in person training
- Develop and evaluate webinars and e-learning approaches
- Book to be published in 2014  
(Brooks Publishing)

**Positive community change  
alongside research can be  
accomplished through long-term,  
meaningful, collaborative  
partnerships.**