Expenditures for electronic and multimedia instructional gadgetry are increasing daily. Currently, no systematic study has been done to identify whether multimedia offers measurable improvements over traditional instructional techniques. Essentially, teachers are in the hyper-VCR era; we turn the equipment on and assume learning occurs. As a Board of Governor's priority, it would be helpful for both administration and faculty to have some measurement of how this technology may best be used to meet the needs of under-represented students, including those students with different cognitive learning styles, that are left unaddressed by conventional teaching methods.

This grant will develop and implement a test design to assess the efficacy of multimedia technology as a non-traditional form of instruction. Phase one will survey multimedia practices throughout the California Community College system. Multimedia approaches will then be experimentally tested in collaboration with Mesa College's Accelerated College Program and affiliated high schools of the San Diego Unified School District. Three hundred students in nine sections will compose the test population. Test results will be used in phase two to develop curriculum guidelines for further integrating multimedia into instruction. These guidelines will be evaluated in the third phase of the project. Phase four of the project will disseminate the project report documenting the research and its results, and deliverables to administrative units and campuses state-wide. The project will produce two deliverables: (1) multimedia Curriculum Guidelines; and (2) a Survey of Current Multimedia Use system wide. After completion of the grant, the project team will continue to gather long-term data on system-wide peer review of the Guidelines.