

**Title of Proposal: Assistive Technology: Access and Use by Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Students with Disabilities**

**Dr. Brown is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at New Mexico State University. Her research areas include disaffected youth with disabilities, multicultural special education, and access and use of technology for person with disabilities from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.**

**ABSTRACT**

Over the past 15 years assistive technology (AT) has had a profound impact on the lives of students with disabilities. Technology has immense potential to enhance the lives of those with disabilities, but there is much room for expansion of technology access and use with certain disability populations [i.e., students from culturally and linguistically diverse (CLD) backgrounds]. Although the issue of CLD student involvement in the AT process has been addressed in earlier legislation (e.g., Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities Act of 1988), it is still unclear as to how this legislation has impacted access and use of AT for CLD students and their families. This presentation will address the cultural considerations that need addressing prior to the IEP's decisions regarding AT services and devices for CLD students with disabilities. We will offer solutions to assist school personnel and the IEP team when making AT decisions for CLD students with disabilities.