

# Research Alliance for Accessible Voting (RAAV)

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# [ RAAV Mission Statement ]

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- The Research Alliance for Accessible Voting (RAAV) was established to advance the state of elections and voting through applied research, development, evaluation, dissemination and implementation of concepts and technologies that increase access to and participation in democracy.

# [ RAAV Aims ]

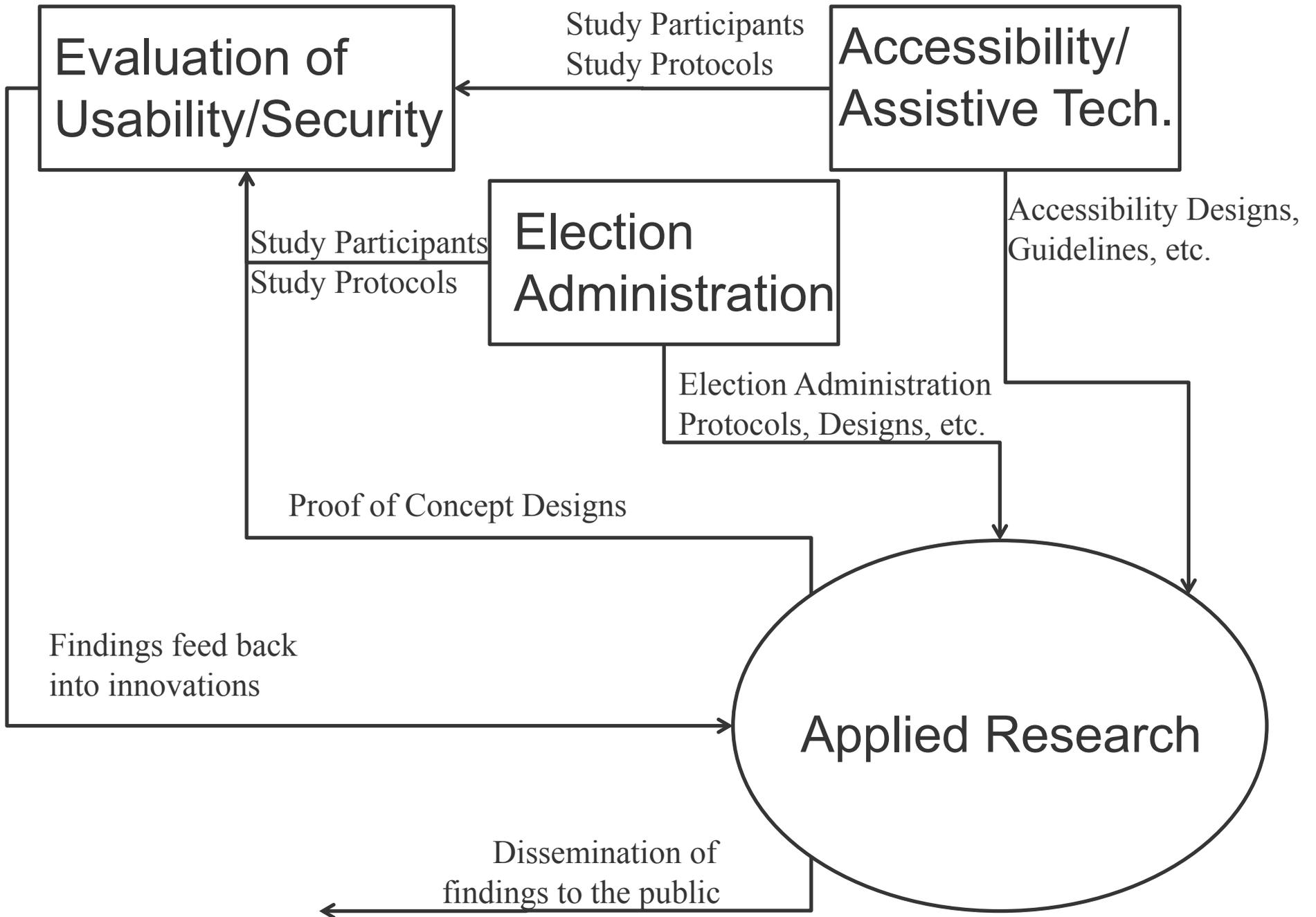
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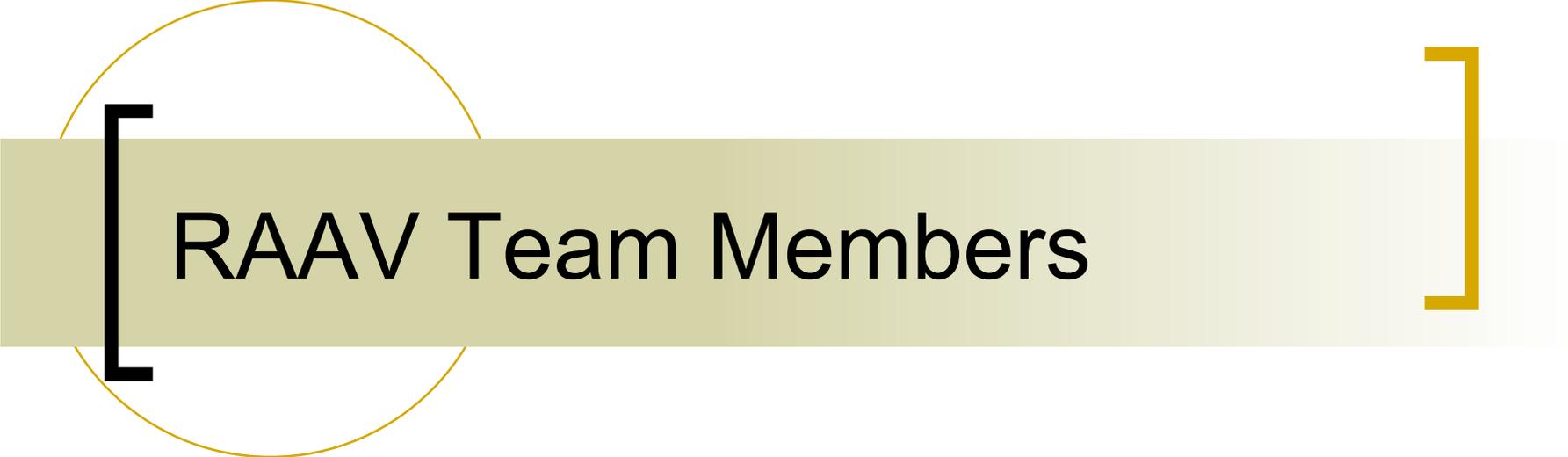
1. Test the promising technologies and approaches developed by RAAV with several disability communities, including, but not limited to the blind, deaf, wounded warriors, the aging, etc.
2. Identify new accessibility solutions (meaning technologies and approaches);

# [ RAAV Aims ]

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3. Engage the voting manufacturers in RAAV activities (design, development, testing, integration and deployment)
4. Dissemination of results through public demonstrations of technologies and approaches, through the RAAV website, and through scholarly conferences and journals.





# RAAV Team Members

# [Clemson University



- Juan E. Gilbert, PhD
  - Human-Centered Computing Lab
    - 6-10 PhD students
  - Administrative and grant support
  - Applied Research Team
  
- Precinct Voting
  - Prime III

# [ Clemson University



- Vote by Mail
- Vote by Phone

# [ CMU-Silicon Valley ]

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- Ted Selker, PhD
  - Postdoc
  - Graduate research assistant
  - Administrative and grant support
  - Applied Research Team

# [ CMU-Silicon Valley ]

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- Audio ballot designs
  - Voice changes, earcons, 3D, etc.
  - Integrates with Prime III
- Low Error Voting Interface (LEVI)
  - Integrated with Prime III

# [ TheArcLink Inc.



- Lynne Tamor, PhD
  - Technology staff
  - Accessibility and Assistive Technology Team
  
  - Harnessing the power of the Internet to provide people with developmental disabilities the information and resources to exercise informed choice to live self-determined and fulfilling lives in their communities...
  - [TheArcLink.org](http://TheArcLink.org)

# [ TheArcLink, Inc.



1. Design, build, and maintain the RAAV website (W3C/WAI standards, WCAG 2.0, and WebAIM interpretations of §508; accessible language, simple navigation, icons/pictures, and text-to-speech)
2. Create accessible language manuals and materials (“plain”, “clear & simple”, or “accessible” language)
3. Test the reliability of using on-line translation applications to translate voting-related materials into other languages

# [ TheArcLink, Inc.



4. Work with RAAV partners to insure that all work products (e.g., reports and hard copy and on-line materials) materials meet existing accessibility guidelines.
5. Work with RAAV partners to incorporate cognitive accessibility into field studies and product design.
6. Use our extensive contacts in the self-advocacy community to help all RAAV partners find representative participants for focus groups, review panels, and/or field tests.

# Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

- Willie Gunther
  - Extensive assistive technology experience
  - Accessibility and Assistive Technology Team
- National organization representing network of federally funded State Assistive Technology Act Programs (one in each state and territory.)
  - State AT Programs provide full range of AT services including device demonstration and training on all types of assistive technology.

# Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

- Equipment Demonstration and Training
  - Develop/implement pilot projects that provide demonstrations and training designed to familiarize people with all types of disabilities with the accessible voting system used by their voting jurisdiction.

# Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs

- Guide to Functional Limitations and Access Features
  - Develop a document that describes –
    - The range of functional limitations that need to be addressed by the access features of accessible voting systems
    - The mechanisms that can be used to identify and recruit individuals from those groups to participate in usability studies.

# Paraquad & Tennessee Disability Coalition

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- Paraquad
  - Michelle Bishop
  - Accessibility and Assistive Technology Team
- Empowering people with disabilities to live independently through choice and opportunity
- One of the oldest and largest Centers for Independent Living in the country
  - Based in St. Louis, Missouri

# Paraquad & Tennessee Disability Coalition

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- Tennessee Disability Coalition
  - Carol Westlake
  - Accessibility and Assistive Technology Team
- Promotes full participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of life
- A coalition of organizations and individuals throughout the state (based in Nashville, Tennessee)
- A strong history of fighting for voter access and voting rights of people with disabilities

# Paraquad & Tennessee Disability Coalition

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- Assess the impact of more in-depth, solution-focused training and accurate, user-friendly training materials for poll workers regarding accessible voting options
- Assess the needs of people with disabilities, and disability etiquette for interacting with voters

# Paraquad & Tennessee Disability Coalition

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- Collaborate with targeted local election authorities in Missouri and Tennessee to develop and pilot training materials as well as training techniques for poll workers designed to increase retention on Election Day
- Develop and publicly release suggested materials and best practices based on pilot results



- Election Center
  - Doug Lewis & Ernie Hawkins
  - Election Administration Team
- Promote, preserve and improve democracy
- Also know as the National Association of Election Officials
- Trains and certifies (nationally and state specific) voter registration and election officials
- Conducts conferences, workshops and seminars
- Offers college level instruction



- Establish focus groups of election officials
  - Initially review and define current professional voting practices and developing technology that have possibilities for further study (6 meetings)
  - As ideas are developed comment on advisability and feasibility
  - Test concepts at Beta sites with comprehensive analysis



- Dissemination of research
  - Project specific training
    - 4 prior to 2012 elections
    - 6 at conclusion of project
  - Sessions at Workshops and Conferences
    - 9 during life of grant
  - Develop written training materials

# [ Rutgers University ]

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- Rutgers University
  - Lisa Schur, PhD
  - Doug Kruse, PhD
  - Meera Adya, PhD
  - James Schmeling, JD
  - Peter Blanck, JD, PhD
  - Election Administration Team

# [ Rutgers University ]

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- Conduct and analyze a national randomized survey of voting-age citizens following the 2012 elections
  - Sample will be representative, except people with disabilities will be oversampled to focus on their experiences: 2000 people with disabilities, 1000 people without disabilities
  - Phone survey will use standard polling procedures, with additional measures to ensure participation by the full range of people with disabilities

# [ Rutgers University ]

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- Survey will investigate polling place accessibility for those who voted in 2012, and past and expected accessibility problems for those who didn't vote in 2012
  - Analysis will provide overall portrait of polling place accessibility in 2012, with comparisons between people with and without disabilities, and among major types of disability
  - Results will be widely disseminated through the RAAV website, media, and scholarly conferences and publication

# [ Election Data Services ]

- Election Data Services, Inc.
  - Kimball Brace
  - Election Administration Team
- Maintain Voting Equipment Usage for every jurisdiction in nation since 1980
- Contractor & subcontractor to EAC for Election Administration & Voting Survey
  - 2004, 2006, 2008\*, 2010\*
    - \*subcontractor

# [ Election Data Services ]

- Update database for disability equipment information
- Set up system for jurisdictions to update own data
- Allow jurisdictions to search database for similar equipment or size
- Work with vendors to coordinate their input

# [ External Evaluation Team ]

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- EE Team will be established via subcontract
  - External to RAAV
- Usability and Accessibility of technologies

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- The Research Alliance for Accessible Voting (RAAV) was established to advance the state of elections and voting through applied research, development, evaluation, dissemination and implementation of concepts and technologies that increase access to and participation in democracy.
- Collaboration between
  - RAAV, EAC, NIST, ITIF
  - Vendors, Voting Communities, and many more

Thank You

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