

### ESTABLISHING AN INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE DESIGN PROGRAM FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY

Joseph J. Lawler, Keshia M. Peters, Alyssa M. Spomer and Katherine M. Steele Mechanical Engineering, University of Washington, Seattle, WA

# What is Husky Adapt?

- A program at the University of Washington where teams of students take on design challenges each year
- Works to foster an inclusive, sustainable and multidisciplinary community supporting accessible design



# What is Sustainable Design?

- A design process focused on preservation and continuation
- Ensures work is organized enough to be iterated upon and improved



# **Design Projects 2017-2018**

How do we ensure sustainability of projects between years?

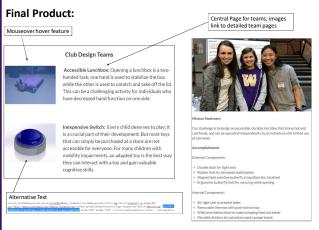
How do we share results with the broader community?

### Need:

 A website that ensures the sustainability of the club and showcases past accomplishments

#### Process:

- Performed Case Studies on other research pages
- · Selected information to be posted; in line with guiding questions
- · Organized with user interaction in mind



The website workflow is now more intuitive and organized making the information accessible, ensuring the sustainability of accessible design.

# **Design Challenges 2018-2019**

How do we reach out to need experts for design project ideas and partnerships?

How do we pick design projects for impact?

#### Need:

 System for reaching out to need experts and creating design challenges for next year

### Product:

- Survey is inclusive and sets expectations for need experts and teams; incorporated feedback from experts in the field
- Centralized repository of community members contact information
- Interview document for meetings with need experts to ensure the correct information is gathered
- One page summary of each design challenge for incoming student teams providing more direction and detail





#### Future:

- Documentation to be used in the future, ensuring the continuation of accessible design
- Expand our network of community members, continuing to increase the impact that HuskyADAPT can have.

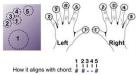
Student teams and need experts are set up for success by establishing realistic expectations and desired outcomes before the design process even starts.

# **Furthering a Design Project**

Is there any design project or piece of a project you would like to pursue or prepare it for another design team?

### **Design Project:**

- Queso is a super third grader! He is looking for better ways to play more challenging video games. He is especially interested in being able to play Minecraft with only his left hand.
- With this implementation the student's writing potential will expand





### Easy Type:

- Customized PENTI One-handed Keyboard
- Minimal force required to type due to touch keyboard, opens doors to playing online games
- Allows Queso to grow typing skills
- Regular PENTI keyboard implementation and Simplified PENTI keyboard for games

#### Continuation:

- · Researched most used keys to optimize keyboard
- · Implemented shortcuts for most used words in users age group
- Remapped the keyboard according to Queso's ability with his right hand

Iterated upon an existing design to improve the user experience and versatility of the keyboard.







### References

1. Importance of Accessible Design resources from Alyssa/Dr. Steele

# Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Erin Ciliv, the Husky Adapt faculty and community members for their advice and direction throughout this project. I also thank the Mathers Fund to Empower and Improve Human Ability for their on-going support of HuskyADAPT.