**“Capti Loves NY” Program Makes Capti Voice Reading Support Tool Free for NY Educators**

*Chartmtech Labs, in partnership with My Blind Spot, kicks off the “Capti Loves NY” Literacy Program, making Capti Voice, an award-winning reading support tool, free exclusively for NY educators and students. The Program was made possible by My Blind Spot and a group of SBU faculty and graduates.*

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**Stony Brook, Jan. 22, 2017** – Charmtech Labs, the creator of [*Capti Voice*](http://www.captivoice.com), the popular reading support tool, announces a free [“Capti Loves NY” Literacy Program](http://captivoice-3323509.hs-sites.com/capti-loves-ny-newsday) exclusively for NYS Educators and students.

[A 2016 study](http://www.nysed.gov/news/2016/state-education-department-releases-spring-2016-grades-3-8-ela-and-math-assessment-results) found that 60% of all NYS students in grades 3-8 were *not* proficient in English Language Arts. The situation is similar nationwide, with over [60% of students](http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/subject/publications/main2013/pdf/2014451.pdf) reading below their grade level. And this is exactly the problem that Charmtech Labs is aiming to solve with its Capti Voice technology.

The problem is complex and there are many contributing factors as to why students to fall behind. Of the [2.6M K-12 students](https://data.nysed.gov/enrollment.php?year=2016&state=yes) enrolled in NYS in 2016, [240k+ (or 8.8%)](#http://www.nysed.gov/common/nysed/files/programs/bilingual-ed/factfigures_2016.pdf) were English language learners, a population with graduation rates at only 33% – less than half of the overall graduation rate. The NYS DOE reported that [450k+ (or 17%) K-12 students](http://www.p12.nysed.gov/sedcar/goal2data.htm) were receiving special education services in 2014, to help them cope with a variety of learning disabilities including dyslexia, ADHD, vision impairments, etc.

Capti Voice – the [“Best Special Needs Solution of 2017”](https://www.cs.stonybrook.edu/about-us/News/Capti-Voice-Awarded-EdTech-Digest%E2%80%99s-2017-Award-Best-Special-Needs-Solution) according to EdTech Digest – is a reading support tool helping K-12 teachers differentiate instruction and support reading for *all* students, and especially for English Language learners and students with learning disabilities. Capti is also used in Higher Ed. to increase reading productivity and to provide accommodations to adults with disabilities.

Capti offers students and teachers easy access to high-quality text to speech, OCR to digitize PDFs and images, active reading tools, contextually aware reference tools, vocabulary building tools, and other supports. Capti can be used with any content, including Web pages, printed media, 500k+ Bookshare books, Google Drive, and Microsoft’s OneDrive, across a variety of devices anywhere and anytime.

Capti Voice has clients across 25 states. In New York, for example, Capti is used by a number of school districts and SUNY Colleges, Cornell University, and the NYS Department of Education. “Capti is just a teacher's dream! It is replacing at least five apps we are using now,” says AT Professional, Cynthia Reilly.

The “Capti Loves NY” Literacy Program will make premium Capti functionality (except for OCR image-to-text conversion) free for all NY educators and their students. Out-of-state educators will pay $20 per student or $4,000 per school per year to use the premium version of Capti Voice.

“The Capti Team is a product of the New York State education system” – said Dr. Yevgen Borodin, the CEO of Charmtech Labs, “and ‘Capti Loves NY’ is our thank-you to NY educators for teaching us and our children.” NY Educators can sign up for the Literacy Program at any time [by following this link](http://captivoice-3323509.hs-sites.com/capti-loves-ny-newsday).

The free Program will end in June 2018, after which NY educators will be able to continue using a limited version of Capti for free. However, most NY public schools will be able to get financial assistance through an agreement with the New York State Instructional Technology Contract Consortium (ITCC).

The [“Capti Loves NY” Literacy Program](http://captivoice-3323509.hs-sites.com/capti-loves-ny-newsday) was made possible with generous funding from [My Blind Spot](https://myblindspot.org), as well as faculty and graduates of [Stony Brook University](https://www.stonybrook.edu/)’s [Computer Science Department](https://www.cs.stonybrook.edu/).

“I have been tracking the evolution of Capti Voice since its inception. What resonates so personally for all of us at My Blind Spot is that Capti Voice speaks authentically to our mission of inspiring access for people of all abilities.” – says Albert J. Rizzi, M.Ed., CEO of My Blind Spot, “Capti Voice literally places, universally and inclusively, barrier free access to digitized information and communications into the hands of students and academics of all ages and all abilities. What better tool to have in our hands as we look to build possibilities in our lives.”

In addition, Charmtech Labs received a $25,000 grant and 40 hours of in-kind consulting expertise from the Lebanon, NH-based Center for Translation of Rehabilitation Engineering Advances and Technology (TREAT), which helped set up the Program. “There is tremendous potential for Capti Voice to make a positive impact on the education of children in New York State and across the country. We are pleased to have helped Charmtech Labs achieve their goals,” states Richard Greenwald, PhD, TREAT co-director.

Charmtech Labs is an Education Technology company founded in 2010 and now operating out of Stony Brook University’s [Center for Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology](http://www.cewit.org/). Capti Voice was developed with SBIR grant funding from NIDILRR, NIH, NSF, and The U.S. Department of Education.

As a creator of a valuable universally accessible technology, Charmtech was distinguished with several prestigious awards, including the [FCC Chairman’s Award for Advancing Accessibility](https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairman-wheeler-honors-innovators-accessibility). For his work, Charmtech’s CEO, Dr. Yevgen Borodin, was named a [2015 MIT Technology Review Innovator Under 35](http://www.technologyreview.com/lists/innovators-under-35/2015/humanitarian/yevgen-borodin/).

[My Blind Spot](https://myblindspot.org) (MBS) is a New York based non-profit whose mission is to inspire accessibility for people of *all* abilities. MBS provides outreach, advocacy, education, and services that champion authentically inclusive cultures that embrace accessible and usable digital infrastructures. MBS has partnered with industry giants like Morgan Stanley, Intuit, and American Airlines, ensuring that people with a disability can execute in their communities, in the workforce, and in life. MBS also works with state agencies, local municipalities, and educational institutions including the NYS DMV, Suffolk County, and the State of Washington. MBS is an affiliated nonprofit member of the New York State Preferred Source Program.

[TREAT](http://www.treatcenter.org) is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Medical Rehabilitation Research Resource Network (MR3). Funding is provided by the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research (NCMRR) in the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health & Human Development (NICHD) through awards R24HD065703 and P2CHD086841.