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Sacramento State Chooses *TextAloud* to Help Students Learn

School Finds Affordable Software Solution for Students with Reading Disabilities

CLEMMONS, NC – **California State University, Sacramento** (<http://www.csus.edu>) recently chose ***TextAloud*** to help students with learning disabilities at its High Tech Center to listen and learn more easily. The award-winning Text-to-Speech program from **NextUp.com** converts text into spoken audio for listening on a PC, and can also save to audio files for easy playback on portables like the iPod®. With its easy-to-use program interface and wide array of premium voices, schools such as Sacramento State are turning to *TextAloud* to increase information retention and understanding in a learning environment.

Sacramento State purchased the *TextAloud* program for students with specific print-related impairments or learning disabilities, as studies show a marked benefit in hearing text presented visually in tandem with hearing it spoken aloud. Many of the Sacramento State students in the High Tech Center also use *TextAloud* to convert their text files to audio files, using the popular AT&T Natural Voices™.

“Since *TextAloud* reads words aloud while simultaneously highlighting them on the screen, it can assist students with reading difficulties,” comments **Melissa Repa**, High Tech Center Coordinator/Instructor. “*TextAloud*’s audio conversion utility also assists students who are auditory learners by making their information portable. In addition, the program allows students to customize features such as reading speed, voice, pitch, text size, and background colors, which may help with reading understanding as well. Students with reading difficulties appreciate that there is a low-cost reading option available to them for accessing their electronic texts.”

“One of our goals in creating *TextAloud* has always been for it to serve as a valuable tool to enhance reading, listening, and learning,” comments **Rick Ellis**, President of NextUp.com. “We’re delighted that schools like Sacramento State are choosing *TextAloud* to assist their students facing visual or learning challenges – and we will continue to champion this kind of use for the software.”

About *TextAloud*

TextAloud is a full-featured Text-to-Speech tool offering direct support for Word, PDF and HTML formats, as well as advanced pronunciation tools, an Internet Explorer Plug-In for easy listening of favorite web pages – and more.

Hailed by critics and users alike, *TextAloud* is priced at just \$29.95, and is compatible with systems using Windows® 98, NT, 2000 and XP. The program is available for fast, safe and secure purchase via <http://www.NextUp.com>. NextUp.com also offers *TextAloud* with optional premium voices from **AT&T Natural Voices™**, **NeoSpeech^â** and **Cepstral®** for the most natural-sounding computer speech anywhere. Available languages include English with U.S., U.K., and Indian accents, as well as Spanish, French, German, Chinese, Korean, and Japanese.

About NextUp.com

NextUp.com, a division of NextUp Technologies, LLC, provides award-winning Text-to-Speech software for consumers, business customers, educators, and those with visual impairment or learning disabilities. In addition to *TextAloud*, NextUp.com markets other innovative Windows software including talking personal “news agent” *NewsAloud™*, *WeatherAloud™* (a weather application that lets users select and listen to personalized weather forecasts), and stock updates and related news headlines read aloud thanks to *StocksAloud™*. Most recently, NextUp released *NextUp Talker 1.0*, an easy and affordable program that allows people who have lost their voices to use the latest in high-quality computer voices to communicate with others.

Evaluation copies of *TextAloud* are currently available upon request. To receive a review copy, or for more information on NextUp.com or *TextAloud*, please contact **Rick Ellis** at rdellis@nextup.com. Meanwhile, for images, logos, box shots, or other information or artwork on *TextAloud*, please contact publicist Angela Mitchell at **(904) 982-8043** or admitchell@nextup.com.

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