IITG Mid Year Project Report

Name of Principle Investigator:
Jeff Hung

IITG Project Title (truncated)
2018-Farmingdale-Hung-Enhanced Learning... 3D Modeling through AR/VR

1) Please consider the original timeline and deliverable targets. How is your project progressing compared with the original estimates?
After I attended the SUNY FACT2 Symposium in the Fall, I realized there were few improvements can be made to improve the project and better utilize the funding. Therefore, few changes were made in the project. In regard to the timeline, there has been a delay in the project due to IT and budget related issues (see the following questions for details).

2) How is spending progressing when compared with the original budget estimates? (You may also choose to detail issues regarding access to funds in the next three questions).
Spending our budget has been unexpectedly challenging. We have had to restructure our budget a few times due to fact that certain items we were trying to purchase were not approved by the IT department. The replacement items that were recommended by the IT department were unfortunately not compatible with the VR/AR devices that we had already purchased.

3) Please provide feedback regarding your experience with the project execution, in particular any issues or roadblocks you've encountered that may have been unexpected.
In addition to what was mentioned in the previous question, we have had issues with receiving IT approved quotes for IT related equipment in a timely fashion. On many occasions, it took several weeks and a couple of follow up emails before we got a response. Also, after some initial troubleshooting we were able to attach the grant account to a P-card which made ordering items much easier. However, once it became time to certify the p-card at the end of the month we were unable to charge the proper account, which eventually had to be overridden by the purchasing department. We currently still do not have funds allocated in our account which has stopped us from purchasing for quite a while. Thankfully, we have recently been given the go-ahead to continue purchasing. However, we will still face the same issue when we have to certify the p-card at the end of the month. The procurement process has been a major roadblock for us.

4) What are your positive observations or pleasant surprises about your team's interaction or project process that might be helpful to other PI's?
External suggestions like SUNY FACT2 Symposium was definitely a pleasant surprise to our team. It has improved our project tremendously.

5) Please describe any challenges you've encountered working with your project team that you've found solutions for that might be helpful to other PI's.
When my Provost asked how we are doing on the project, we told her about the IT and budget related issues. She immediately told us to get her involved when this happens again. She will help us with these types of administrative issues.