



**Your Voice Matters:
Calling for the First African American English Text to Speech Voices**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: FRANKLIN SMITH
ISAAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
312 DOLOMITE DRIVE, SUITE 216
TORONTO, ON M3J 2N2 CANADA
905-850-6848 X225
FRANKLIN@ISAAC-ONLINE.ORG
WWW.ISAAC-ONLINE.ORG

Toronto, Canada – July 30th, 2020: The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication (ISAAC) is pleased to announce that [Acapela Group](#), [AssistiveWare](#), [PRC-Salttillo](#), and [Tobii Dynavox](#) are joining forces to create the first African American English Text to Speech voices. This partnership will produce four voices: a male adult and child, and a female adult and child.

Are you a member of the African American AAC community? To learn more about how you can contribute to the discussion and voice talent selection, please visit <https://www.acapela-group.com/news/first-african-american-english-digital-voices/>. The participation of African American AAC users and their families, as well as African American SLPs and AAC experts, is key to the success of this project.

It will take about a year to create these voices. Important decisions will need to be made, such as selecting the accent to use as a model for creating the African American English speech synthesizer.

ISAAC is delighted to support this strong partnership of corporations committed to providing authentic voice solutions for people who use AAC.

For more information on this project, contact:

[Lateef McLeod](#), ISAAC VP, Leadership Chair for PWUAAC (*until September 30, 2020*)

[Kevin Williams](#), ISAAC VP-Elect, Leadership Chair for PWUAAC (*as of October 1, 2020*)

ISAAC is an international membership organization with head offices in Toronto. ISAAC's goal is to create worldwide awareness about how AAC can help individuals without speech. ISAAC accomplishes this by sharing information and promoting innovative approaches to research, technology and literacy through AAC.

####