

MEDIA

NIH awards \$200K for researchers to create transgender voice training app

The app will help in cases where 'a person's voice does not match their gender identity'

By **Kendall Tietz** · **Fox News**

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Transgender psychologist Erica Anderson details her concerns about her industry's current protocols for children

While many of her European colleagues have recognized the need for a shift in the standards of care, Anderson blames 'hubris' for the full steam ahead approach to gender-affirming care for minors in the U.S.

[The National Institute of Health \(NIH\)](#) has awarded over \$200,000 to researchers to create a "transgender voice training" app that aims, in part, to help trans women sound more feminine.

A transgender professor and two speech therapy experts have teamed up to create the software at the cost of \$213,878 in taxpayer funds from the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, an agency of the National Institutes of Health, [according to documentation](#). The research will be conducted by the University of Cincinnati, led by Associate Professor Vesna Novak, as well as speech scientist Victoria McKenna of UC and speech-language pathologist Tara McAllister of New York University.

"Transgender and gender diverse people exhibit a significantly lower quality of life than the general public," according to [an abstract](#) of the study first reported by The College Fix. "One reason for this is voice dysphoria: distress because a person's voice does not match their gender identity (e.g., trans women with deep voices)."

MAINE LAWMAKER WARNS RESIDENTS ALARMED BY TRANSGENDER YOUTH BILL THAT STRIPS PARENTS' RIGHTS: 'HUGE OUTCRY'

The project, titled "Improving the Accessibility of Transgender Voice Training with Visual-acoustic Biofeedback," aims to improve "gender-affirming voice and communication training (GAVT)" with software to coach trans women on their "pitch and resonance" through voice exercises, which are the two main indicators of voice femininity and masculinity the abstract states.



NIH/Trans Flag (Getty Images)

[In an announcement](#) of the NIH grant, McAllister discussed the goals of the study.

"Some trans people can be negatively impacted if their voice is perceived as incongruous with their gender identity, and they may choose to work with a speech pathologist to achieve a vocal presentation that is comfortable for them," McAllister said.

"In addition to the pitch of the voice, male and female vocal tracts also differ in their resonating characteristics, but resonance is harder to understand than pitch, and harder to target in therapy." McAllister added. "The staRt software allows learners to visualize the resonant frequencies of the vocal tract, which could make it easier to adjust them to match a target that is appropriate for their personal speech goals."

TRANSGENDER RIGHTS ACTIVIST CLAIMS LAWS BLOCKING SEX CHANGE SURGERIES FOR CHILDREN ARE LIKE HOLOCAUST

Forty trans women will be randomly assigned to either an experimental group that will use the researchers' software or a control group that will use a generic voice analysis app. They will meet once a week with a speech-language pathologist for remotely administered GAVT, who will assign homework, while participants will self-report their amount of daily practice, self-efficacy and intrinsic motivation scores that will be compared between groups.



Some of the members of the WHO's official trans health committee – which will provide guidance for nations on dealing with trans individuals – are passionate pro-LGBTQ activists. (ANGELA WEISS/AFP via Getty Images)

OHIO BANS 'GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE' FOR MINORS, RESTRICTS TRANSGENDER ATHLETES DESPITE GOP GOVERNOR VETO

"The software will be released for free and thus immediately provide transgender people and SLPs with free interactive tools for GAVT; furthermore, it can later be expanded with other important features," the abstract concludes. "In the long term, GAVT software may become an essential tool to reduce gender dysphoria in transgender and gender diverse individuals, thus improving quality of life for this marginalized population."

All three researchers involved in the study previously looked at how to help transgender people be satisfied with their voices at taxpayer-funded institutions, the [College Fix reported](#).

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Transgender people "were positive about the idea of a [voice training] app and considered it more accessible and less dysphoria-inducing than human coaches as well as more effective than self-guided training," according to a survey Novak co-authored in 2022 [survey](#) in the Journal of Voice.

McAllister was part of a 2018 [study](#) that concluded that biofeedback therapy "could be a useful tool" for men who want to sound feminine. In addition, McKenna was awarded \$17,000 by the University of Cincinnati to "investigate vocal dysphoria and its relationship with mental health, with the goal to provide quantitative evidence to refute insurance denials of gender-affirming care."

Fox News Digital reached out to Professors Vesna Novak, Victoria McKenna and Tara McAllister for comment. This story will be updated with any reply.

Kendall Tietz is a Production Assistant with Fox News Digital.

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L **[laura.the.patriot](#)** ...

1 February, 2024

I don't see how, by any means, that this is necessary. How is making some 1% of people happy more important than the wars going on, fighting inflation, or fixing the border? The government needs to rearrange its priorities, or real danger could arise soon.

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katinthehat375

...

1 February, 2024

It's actually 1/2 of 1%. And real danger has already arisen.

Reply ▪  11  1 ▪ Share

A **arclite89**

...

1 February, 2024

Proof our democrat run gov't is out of control. We need massive cut backs in the size of gov't. Make these people get real jobs that are productive to the society.

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beldezar878

...

1 February, 2024

NIH trying to destroy America again first thru the virus they funded in China now this.

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A **arclite89**

...

1 February, 2024

More like .01 percent but that is okay,

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birddog222

...

1 February, 2024

Democrats have no common sense at all.

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firecracker2014669

...

1 February, 2024

I could think of 200,000 other things to spend money on them this. Even if I only spent a dollar at a time.

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R **rk597**

...

1 February, 2024

There was that study to see if penguins can be gay.

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S **ScottyNCC1701447**

...

1 February, 2024

What a waste. They should use that money to treat the mental illness, or at least give it to another disease research.

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beldezar878 ...

1 February, 2024

Remember they with Fauci directed Government funds to the Wuhan Lab.

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R

RexC ...

1 February, 2024

\$34T in debt and yet we still find ways to waste money!!! What a joke.

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kjp1607 ...

1 February, 2024

Another example of government waste. It is time to slash the bloated government budget especially when we are \$34.2 trillion in debt and have a \$1.4 trillion dollar deficit.

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B

barb2554012 ...

1 February, 2024

glad to see we're spending taxpayers hard earned \$\$ on important things. This is an example of a government that has TOO MUCH \$\$

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katinthehat375 ...

1 February, 2024

To clarify, the government doesn't have any money. They have access to TOO MUCH of OUR money.

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↩ 1 reply

D **DefendTheRepublic459** ...

1 February, 2024

This sort of waste won't end unless the feds are returned to their constitutional role.

(Edited)

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B **beachbirdie** ...

1 February, 2024

You can put on a dress and change your voice. In the End, you're still a DUDE!

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↩ 1 reply

H **HankReardon** ...

1 February, 2024

Recently went through my mom and dad's letters during WW2. Along with preserved newspaper articles of those times. Never thought I say this - but I'm glad they aren't around to see this, knowing they are together in a better place.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

canterburyone ...

1 February, 2024

This has gone from making me angry to wanting to cry in despair. Seriously, this is damaging to taxpayers' mental health.

Reply ▪  6  ▪ Share

katinthehat375 ...

1 February, 2024

And don't forget - less than 50% of Americans even pay taxes, so that should make you feel even better.

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jabro ...

1 February, 2024

men pretending to be women need an app to help them have a pretend female voice.

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↩ 2 replies

N

NoGoodNews42069

1 February, 2024

Great...our tax dollars being spent so wisely! Way to go! This has been such a pressing issue in this country! Thank you, this will greatly improve the health of our country! Keep up the great work NIH!

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↩ 1 reply

C

Conservativeskibum

1 February, 2024

Really ? This is what the NIH is wasting \$\$ on?

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↩ 1 reply

M

mule61

1 February, 2024



Whoever is in charge of the NIH should be fired and criminally charged for misappropriation of funds.

Reply ▫  5  ▫ Share

dogfacesoldier673

1 February, 2024



when will they make an App that will make their size 12 foot fit a size 7 pump?
Talk about throwing good money after bad Money!

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EndThisNow168

1 February, 2024

Shoveling taxpayer dollars out the door with reckless abandon.



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L

lambdalambdalambda

1 February, 2024

They can record Admiral Levine for free😏

Reply ▫  6  ▫ Share

B

BrucetheShark610

1 February, 2024

I can tell you from experience that the American Speech and Hearing association is pushing this. And I am required to pay dues to these guys to keep my license.

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↩ 1 reply

tominwisconsin740 ...

1 February, 2024

More wasted time and resources. How about spending the money on real problems like homelessness and drug addiction?

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L lastrealamerican? ...

1 February, 2024

Defund the NIH!!!! Who is with me?

Reply ▪  9  ▪ Share

20mmvet ...

1 February, 2024

I'm waiting for the first famous baby born of a man.

Reply ▪  14  1 ▪ Share

B BobBhere ...

1 February, 2024

Maybe the reason there voices don't match there identity is because they are men. it's amazing that we would waste money on this.

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D Demsliealot647 ...

1 February, 2024

Our tax dollars at work. There's no waste at all. None. But pay more.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

N nottypical260 ...

1 February, 2024

Unbelievable.....simply unbelievable.....

Reply ▪  11  1 ▪ Share

wonkspoc

...

1 February, 2024

A drop in the bucket of waste by our government. And yet, the first thing they talk about cutting if we don't approve them more taxes is: Social Security, Medicare, and the military.

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tripacer123

...

1 February, 2024

Wait, what? Were we not told trans men WERE REAL WOMEN? Then why do we need to spend tax dollars if they are already women? I really like that "...participants will self-report ..." part meaning no science will be involved-only feels and emotions and wasted time, money and any chance at real sci...

See more

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mike801

...

1 February, 2024

Sad thing is that \$200,000 will turn into \$2 billion when they establish the government bureaucracy to oversee it. Just saying!!

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R rick9948772

...

1 February, 2024

What a shameful waste of taxpayer dollars! That money would be a million times better spent funding Pediatric Cancer research!

Reply ▪  4  ▪ Share

republicanman20

...

1 February, 2024

I do not recognize this person as sane, just because someone is educated and articulate doesn't exclude them from realms of insanity. This particular psychologist has (just my opinion) has become the very patients he was seeing and treating when he was still a man.

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whiskeyman67418

...

1 February, 2024

If Cher doesn't care what her voice sounds like, why should they?

Reply ▪  5  ▪ Share

8 **81million,b-itcheplease** ...

1 February, 2024

Mental health treatment geared to reality will help improve their quality of life.

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K **kinglouie145** ...

1 February, 2024

smart financial move. NIH does this with an agreement that someone gets a kickback from this "award"

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H **havefuninlife20** ...

1 February, 2024

And we wonder why we are 34 trillion in debt. It never ends.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

phantasmic1511 ...

1 February, 2024

Time to put a spending freeze on the entire federal govt.

34 trillion in debt means THERE'S NO MONEY TO SPEND

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

omeomi ...

1 February, 2024

We seem to be over-funding the NIH.

Reply ▪  4  ▪ Share

E **Eyeroll??** ...

1 February, 2024

The only voice they need is the voice of reason.

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O **oldmanfromillinios** ...

1 February, 2024

This is just another example of how our tax dollars are being wasted. I think any politician caught needlessly wasting tax dollars should be held accountable. We as a country need to get needless spending under control, our 30 trillion dollar deficit should be a clue spending is out of control.

Reply ▪  1  ▪ Share

usalways2020 ...

1 February, 2024

The money would be far better spent by sending these people to psychologist.

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D DELTA2 ...

1 February, 2024

Give that money to people buying expensive gas to get to work

Reply ▪  4  ▪ Share

R RichardNoggin_dy07 ...

1 February, 2024

Good lord .. maybe I should invent a ball crushing device marketed for this purpose only and a tethered app.

think it would sell ?

If society is going to support mental illness, might as well cash in on the lunacy.

Reply ▪  5  1 ▪ Share

↩ 1 reply

R reaper163 ...

1 February, 2024

Taxation without representation

Reply ▪  6  1 ▪ Share

↩ 1 reply

R robert25834 ...

1 February, 2024

Lower quality of life ain't from how they speak...

The real reason is obvious.

Reply ▪  6  1 ▪ Share

B **BammerBoomer** ...

1 February, 2024

Adam's apple removal surgery?

Reply ▪  4  ▪ Share

J **jsmith808** ...

1 February, 2024

"We have a problem! We have chopped off genetalia, added various parts to try and make people look like different genders, and had them grow out or cut their hair. But they still sound like their biological gender, and though they still look like it as well, we have done the best we can with that a...

See more

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B **BrucetheShark610** ...

1 February, 2024

Here's an idea if your voice isn't going to match your gender, then don't try to change your gender

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2 **2/503/173** ...

1 February, 2024

Voice doesn't match your plumbing?

There's an app for that!

Reply ▪  4  ▪ Share

↪ 1 reply

D **Decie** ...

1 February, 2024

People in power have lost their minds!

Reply ▪  5  ▪ Share

P **panhandleprincess143** ...

2 February, 2024

Seriously? Someone is going to pocket this money and be \$200k richer. STOP this abuse of our money.

Reply ▪  1  ▪ Share

T **texasmakesense** ...

1 February, 2024

GOVERNMENT WASTE!

Reply ▪  12  1 ▪ Share

T **TheChief785** ...

1 February, 2024

All that tax payer money so a confused guy can sing like a woman.... I can make it happen a whole lot cheaper -a pair of \$25 pruning lopers from Home Depot will have him singing like a girl in no time...

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

A **ArtINSUR** ...

1 February, 2024

This is a riot. Their voice doesn't match their "gender identity" because they aren't the gender they think they are! See how easy? Now give me the \$200k.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

B **beallendall** ...

1 February, 2024

Are they going for the deep baritone?

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

B **beenhereB4** ...

1 February, 2024

This is being funded by you the taxpayer.
Elections have consequences. Trump 2024.

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

G **gov'nor** ...

1 February, 2024

Our money at work. Absolutely disgusting how this country wastes money. HELLO Congress...we're broke!

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

zisgary1

...

1 February, 2024

What a waste of our tax dollars.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

R **repalltheway**

...

1 February, 2024

Money should be spent on mental health services instead. All of a sudden, the world has gone mad... A silly argument, boys miraculously turning into girls.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

D **Dr.MantisToboggan647**

...

1 February, 2024

I've been pumping more and more money into my business for the tax writeoffs. I don't care if it makes my salary small. Frankly I'd rather just burn the money than give it to these maniacs

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

L **lib-smasher213**

...

1 February, 2024

Another government waste of tax dollars.

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

R **redneckfatwah024**

...

1 February, 2024

Mental illness.

Reply ▪  5  ▪ Share

S **SeventhSeal**

...

1 February, 2024

if it barks, it's a dog. If it meows, its a cat, if it chirps, its a bird. If it sounds like a man, its a man, simple

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share



QuestionEverything796



...



1 February, 2024



Still not a woman. Still a man

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share


C **CMAGus** ...
1 February, 2024
Your taxpayer money at work! Let us never forget Joe Biden hosting a Drag Queen Party at the White House and taking selfies with Drag Queens exposing themselves.
Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

F **FANTOM731** ...
1 February, 2024
I guess the NIH has to find something else to do with their money as opposed to virus enhancement
Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

D **DELTA2** ...
1 February, 2024
Just give them name of doctor that gave Michael Jackson a permanent little boy voice
Done deal
Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

T **theamazingracist000** ...
1 February, 2024
They're going to name the. App ..make believe
Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

F **forusa2156** ...
1 February, 2024
What an absolute joke!
Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

**#LibertyForward** ...
1 February, 2024
Could of paid my mortgage off
Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

8 **80srokker** ...
1 February, 2024
Get some mental health counseling and stop feeding the illness.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

uglider965 ...

1 February, 2024

More ridiculous waste of OUR MONEY!! Get these people out of government.

Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

prouducitizen ...

1 February, 2024

Enabling this mental illness is tragic and should be illegal.

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

twinmom900 ...

1 February, 2024

I'm ashamed to admit I'm a speech pathologist. My colleagues have completely lost their way.

Reply ▪  1  ▪ Share

7 **773hni3mta3432** ...

1 February, 2024

The circus has gone mainstream...

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

H **hooliganvet** ...

1 February, 2024

Our country is doomed, isn't it?

Reply ▪  4  1 ▪ Share

 2 replies

G **gungho** ...

1 February, 2024

You can't normalize abnormal people, but of course that doesn't stop government from wasting money trying to.

(Edited)

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dorian17 ...

1 February, 2024

Your tax dollars being spent on such foolishness. Somebody's getting their palm greased real good on this foolishness. The national debt is already \$34.17 T.

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

↩ 1 reply

mike801

...

1 February, 2024

You can put lipstick on a pig!!

Reply ▪  4  ▪ Share

↩ 1 reply

N **nottoday936**

...

1 February, 2024

If your voice doesn't match your "gender identity"...that should tell you something.

Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

C **capto3e**

...

1 February, 2024

Makes the 1% happy. The woke community just gets larger - anyone notice the plop, plop, fizz, fizz commercial now features a pride clothed skier who can't keep his hands off the guy next to him?

Reply ▪  1  ▪ Share

↩ 1 reply

S **satanicusa**

...

1 February, 2024

I'm cool with foreign attacks upon America as long as the DC GOV exists. Our government's domestic policies are treacherous, malicious, and intolerable. Our government offends the American People more than Iran, Yemen, NK, China, and Russia combined.

DC's foreign policies are as bad as its ...

See more

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♂ **Check_Yo_Self** ♀



...



1 February, 2024

Just make it tell lies and do it with a whiney voice. Seems pretty easy.

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F **falconjet20** ...
1 February, 2024
And the abomination continues.
Reply ▪  3  ▪ Share

gilbert54 ...
1 February, 2024
I'd say heads should roll but NIH would just laugh. Maybe start with the big guys head first?
(Edited)
Reply ▪  2  ▪ Share

S **Silverspur789** ...
1 February, 2024
We need a leader in office to remove this civilization destroyers. I would worry more about this than any climate change we might not live to see. America is sinking fast by the current foreign government puppets taking away our liberties and way of life. China, Iran, N. Korea, and Russia will conq...**See more**
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U **usafirst856** ...
1 February, 2024
Sick, mental health that's all it is.
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