Aira, A Tool To Enhance Campus Accessibility For Students And Visitors Who Are Blind Or Low Vision

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What Is Aira?

Using augmented reality, Aira connects people who are blind or low vision to a trained professional agent who is dedicated to further enhancing their everyday experience, by complementing the explorer's training and skills.

Hands-free assistance at the touch of a button, for virtually anything, anytime, anywhere

Q







Our Agents & Their Training

- Aira has hundreds of agents in almost every state in the US
- Agents work from home and are paid
- To become an Aira agent, the potential agent has to pass a series of technical and descriptive tests to even be considered
- Upon being selected as an agent, they must go through a 30 day bootcamp for training
- Final approval comes from one of our training Explorers

Aira accepts less than 1% of Aira agent applicants.

Aira Lessons Agents Live By

1

Aira is not a replacement for an Explorer's skills or O&M / travel tools. 2

Think like a pair of eyes not a brain

3

Empathize don't sympathize

4

The Explorer is always the decision maker





"Can you describe the chart on the screen?"



"What does this job posting say?"

EXPLORERS



"Can you help me make a copy?"



"What is my son pointing at?"



"Can you navigate me to Gate B23?"



"Describe me the store layout"

Some Numbers

AGENTS

EST 2015

500K+ SESSIONS

4M+

MINUTES

















Clarifying Some Myths About Aira

Myth

- Aira is just a tool for navigation.
- Aira has a significant monthly cost to the end user.
- It is difficult for an Aira Agent to assist with online tasks.
- To use Aira, you need the smart glasses.
- Users cannot get much done in only 5 minutes.

Fact:

- The majority of users use Aira for daily living efficiency, reading and online assistance.
- Aira is free for short tasks under 5 minutes
- Over 25% of our existing calls are online task based. The glasses are entirely optional. Simple & hands free
- Our average call length is just over 5 minutes. These free short tasks are great for quick visual validation, solving the final frustrating 50 feet of an O&M journey, and daily living tasks.
- For longer task support for your students, your campus or district can become an Aira Access location.

THE CHALLENGE

"The high drop-out rates among blind and low-vision students are not for reasons that are academic, but for reasons that have to do with social challenges, technology, and other barriers related to visual impairment."

– Dave Power, CEO of Perkins School for the Blind

*The National Federation of the Blind





of blind and low vision college students don't graduate

*THE NATIONAL FEBERATION OF THE BLIND



Aira's Back to School Program



STUDENTS

UNIVERSITIES





90

Success rate from Freshman to continuing Sophomore Year





Campus Experience With Aira







5

The diagram on page 47 shows the font side There are three types of muscles. I can start



Experience Student Life

The stands are filled with lots of students waving their hands with homemade signs. The marching band has just left the field and the players are exiting the locker room.

What's happening?





Sure! Your driver, John, will be here in 5 minutes in a blue Volvo. There is a bench to your right if you would like to sit while you wait.

I need to select the setting for whites.

I see the setting for

press it in until you

whites. Turn the dial 90

degrees to the right and

hear the water starting.

Independent Living

6



Can you call me an Uber?









Adding Aira to your campus

 Today over 25K businesses and locations are offering Aira as an accommodation for their blind and low vision visitors, students or employees. Immediately offering a more inclusive environment

 Partners include transportation authorities, airports, retail, university / education, and museums

 Partners can make the Aira solution available to anyone in their location, or provide it to select students / employees

 Anyone with the Aira app who walks into the partner's location would immediately be notified they are able to use Aira for free sponsored by the partner

Cost is based on student population size ranging from \$10K-\$25K





















Welcoming To All, From **Campus Tour To Alumni Visitor**

- Any visitor, from 1st time freshman to retired alumni can download the free Aira app and use it on campus to accomplish any task with no cost to the user
- Students needing assistance navigating campus
- Visitors attending sporting events, music performances, etc
- Aira becomes part of your campus accessibility infrastructure for everyone





Some Numbers

25K+ Access Locations.

Aira Access is a solution offered to businesses which allows anyone who enters into their property to use the service as an accommodation for as long as needed for free.



50+ Airports (SAN, LAX, MSP, SLC, MCO)



Tourist Attractions Balboa Park, Smithsonian Museums



Business Chains (Wegmans Grocery, AT&T Walgreens, Bank of America)



Universities (UCSD, Texas Tech, Princeton, Texas A&M, Ball State)





Aira and BrightSpace

• D2L is the first of its kind to offer Aira as an available accessibility accommodation for users of its products

• Any BrightSpace user who is blind or low vision can now connect to an Aira agent to receive real-time visual description to assist with accomplishing tasks while using BrightSpace

• As D2L is leading the way in accessibility and inclusive design, content providers can often put content on the platforms which is not accessible or inclusive to all those who need to access it

- Professors ask for discussion on inaccessible PDFs or documents
- Stem courses often require access to visual diagrams, graphs or charts
- Students may be asked to watch videos which do not have audio description

• With the tap of a button, an Aira agent can provide instant visual descriptions for the user, allowing them to complete the task while they advocate for included accessible content with that professor



