Overall Schedule

**Monday, November 15**
9 am – 5 pm  Registration Desk Open
9 am – Noon  AM Beverage Break
10:30 am – 1 pm  Preconference Sessions
1 – 2:30 pm  Lunch (on your own)
2:30 – 5 pm  Preconference Sessions
3:30 – 4 pm  PM Beverage break

**Tuesday, November 16**
8 am – 4:30 pm  Registration Desk Open
10:30 – 11 am  AM Beverage Break
9 am – Noon  Preconference Sessions
Noon – 1:30 pm  Lunch (on your own)
1:30 – 4:30 pm  Preconference Sessions
3 – 3:30 pm  PM Beverage Break

**Wednesday, November 17**
7 am – 4:30 pm  Registration Desk Open
8 – 9 am  Breakout Sessions
9 am – 6:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 – 10:15 am  Breakout Sessions
10:15 – 11:15 am  Exhibit Hall Refreshment Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
12:20 - 2:15 pm  Keynote Lunch Featuring Jaipreet Virdi
2:15 – 3:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
3:30 – 4:30 pm  Breakout Sessions
4:30 – 6:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Reception

**Thursday, November 18**
7:30 am – 5 pm  Registration Desk Open
8 – 9 am  Breakout Sessions
9 am – 4:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 – 10:15 am  Breakout Sessions
10:15 – 11 am  Exhibit Hall Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
12:30 – 2 pm  Lunch Meetups (or on your own)
2 – 3 pm  Breakout Sessions
3:15–4:15  Roundtables
4:30 – 6 pm  ATHEN Get Together
Friday, November 19
8 am – 12:45 pm  Registration Desk Open
9:15 – 10:15 am  Breakout Sessions
10:30 – 11:30 am  Breakout Sessions
11:45 am – 12:45 pm  Breakout Sessions

Find conference evaluation forms at accessinghigherground.org/evaluate

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PLAZA BUILDING CONCOURSE LEVEL
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Special Events

Exhibitor Reception
Wednesday, November 17, 4:30 - 6:30 pm
Plaza Exhibit Hall
Join us in the Exhibit Hall for hors d’oeuvres & refreshments (Cash Bar).

ATHEN Get Together
Thursday, November 18, 4:30 - 6 pm
Location TBA
Stop by the ATHEN Get Together to meet other ATHEN members and to have some refreshments.

Keynote Luncheon
Wednesday, November 17, 12:20 - 2:15 pm
Plaza Ballroom A/B/C

Roots in Resistance: A Social History of Captioning
Jaipreet Virdi
Though the history of closed captioning has largely been framed as a history of legislative changes for accessibility and technological progress that turned captioning decoder set-up boxes into decoder chips, it is also a social history. In this talk, Jaipreet Virdi considers the history of captioning, tracing its roots in resistance, from a silent film actor’s innovative splicing of film, to deaf people’s demands for access to television broadcasts, and finally, to the shifting twenty-first century social media landscape.
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Monday, November 15

Full-Day Preconference Sessions

9 am - 5 pm  Registration Open
9 am - Noon  AM Coffee Break
10:30 am - 5 pm  Preconference Sessions
1 - 2:30 pm  Lunch (on your own)
3:30 - 4 pm  PM Coffee Break

Notes

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Complete session details can be found at accessinghigherground.org
Monday, November 15
Full-Day Preconference Sessions, 10:30 am - 5 pm

Accessible Adobe InDesign Layouts to Produce Accessible PDFs
Bevi Chagnon, President and Founding Partner, PubCom—Publishing Communications

Day-long pre-conference hands-on workshop teaches how to construct Adobe InDesign files that export “graciously” to accessible PDFs with minimal remediation afterwards. We expect new InDesign features in the fall, so this workshop will incorporate them into a doable workflow for graphic design and publishing. Lots of tricks, tips, and strategies.
Governor’s Square 14

The Nuts and Bolts: Alternate Format Production Intensive
Susan Kelmer, Alternate Format Production Program Manager, University of Colorado Boulder

Alternate Format Production is a requirement for Disability Services offices on almost every university and college campus. This session will walk you through from request to delivery of alternate format materials for students with print disabilities, with a focus on the tools and methods you will need to do the job right.
Governor’s Square 15

Accessibility Testing Workshop (Virtual Session)
Karl Groves, Founder & President, Tenon.io

This all-day training event covers all of the core principles of accessibility, focusing on what accessibility is, how users with disabilities use computers, and how to test a web/software system for accessibility.
Governor’s Square 11
Monday, November 15

Half-Day Preconference Session, 2:30-5:30 pm

**Joys of Native App Testing (Zoom Only)**

*Naveesha Maharaj, Accessibility Consultant/SME, Deque*

*Oscar Pata, Senior Accessibility Consultant, Deque*

How to test on native iOS and Android providing comparisons between the two devices, techniques used and common scenarios.
Tuesday, November 16

Full-Day Preconference Sessions
8 am - 4:30 pm  Registration Open
10:30 – 11 am  AM Coffee Break
9 am – 4:30  Preconference Sessions
Noon – 1:30 pm  Lunch (on your own)
3 – 3:30  PM Coffee Break

Notes

Complete session details can be found at accessinghigherground.org
Tuesday, November 16
Full-Day Preconference Sessions, 9 am-4:30 pm

Creating More Robust Infographics – Beyond Alt-Text
*Dax Castro, Accessible Document Specialist*

Learn specific techniques for PowerPoint, Word, Excel, Adobe Illustrator and InDesign that produce more robust user experiences for charts, graphs and Infographics. Discover new ways to present infographics beyond simple alt-text.

**Governor’s Square 11**

Revamp Your Accessibility Training
*Christa Miller, Director of Inclusive Media Design, Virginia Tech*

Are you tired of giving the same old accessibility presentation time and again? Does the effort not match the gain? Join this 1-day workshop on applying universal design for learning to create powerful, memorable training.

**Governor’s Square 16**

Create Accessible Documents in Word, PowerPoint, & Excel
*George Joeckel, Online Training Program Manager, Utah State University / WebAIM*
*Jonathan Whiting, Director of Training, Utah State University / WebAIM*

Participants in this full-day workshop will review the fundamentals of creating accessible documents in three ubiquitous applications: Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, & Excel. Participants will also review how to use Adobe Acrobat Professional to optimize the accessibility of well-structured PDF exports from these applications.

**Plaza Ballroom D**

Mobile Testing Workshop (Zoom Only)
*Gian Wild, AccessibilityOz*

WCAG2.1 does include some mobile accessibility requirements; but many think it doesn’t go far enough. Enter the Mobile Site Testing Guidelines: developed by a bipartisan group of accessibility companies.
Using the Capability Maturity Model to Advance Accessibility and Inclusivity

Cheryl Pruitt, Director, Accessible Technology Initiative, California University Chancellor’s Office
Leon McNaught, ATI Program Manager, CalStateLA
Sue Cullen, Director of Universal Design & IT Accessibility, Tech for All

Explore policy and how the Capability Maturity Model (CMM) supports the California State University Accessible Technology Initiative implementation. The CMM provides a framework to build capacity as a system or campus and reveals when to leverage outside expertise. Come discuss the progress, challenges and plans for an inclusive culture.

Governor’s Square 12
Full-Day Preconference Sessions

7 am – 4:30 pm  Registration Open
8 – 9 am  Breakout Sessions
9 am – 6:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 – 10:15 am  Breakout Sessions
10:15 – 11:15 am  Exhibit Hall Refreshment Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
12:20 – 2:15 pm  Keynote Luncheon
2:15 – 3:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
3:30 – 4:30 pm  Breakout Sessions
4:30 – 6:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Reception

Notes

Complete session details can be found at accessinghigherground.org
Wednesday, November 17

Breakout Sessions, 8-9 am

Accessibility is a Moving Target
AmyJune Hineline, Community Ambassador and QA Engineer, Kanopi Studios

Despite our best efforts, it’s difficult to future proof a website for accessibility standards. Your code and design may follow current standards, but will your careful compliance become obsolete when new guidelines are released? We will review a holistic approach for the complete lifecycle of an accessible website — including how to iterate on existing content without impacting the hard work you put in during the build. Much like SEO...your work is never done.
Governor’s Square 10

Beyond VPAT, Importance of Accessibility Culture Aspect in Vendor Selection
Srinivasu Chakravarthula, Sr. Accessibility Program Manager, Watermark

When information about accessibility is requested, often vendors submit their VPAT; but is that enough? An inclusive culture helps ensure a company considers accessibility of their products proactively. How do you know if a company has an inclusive culture in place? This presentation covers how you can find out and make an informed decision.
Governor’s Square 11

Techquity: Bring Access and Inclusion to All Students on Your Campus
Rachel Kruzel, Territory Sales Director, Texthelp
Katherine Hamilton, Brand Manager, Sonocent Ltd.

Techquity, or the intersectionality of technology and equity applies to our work given the changing landscape of education and our world. In this session, we’ll explore the concept of techquity and how you can use it to bring new levels of access and inclusion to all students supported by campuswide DEI initiatives, including disability and race.
Governor’s Square 12
Using the JAWS Screen Reader to Create Better Digital Content (Bring Your Own Device)
Rachele DiTullio, Accessibility Engineer, TPGi

Knowing how to use a screen reader makes you a better content creator and web developer. Learn the basics of using the JAWS screen reader to navigate webpages and documents. Find out the common issues that using a screen reader can detect, as well as ways to improve your content for people with vision and cognitive impairments.

Governor’s Square 15

EPUB Crawl: Demystifying Automated eBook Accessibility Testing (EPUB Session)
Okan Guney, President, Logictran

Accessible eBooks are an important consideration for publishers and educators alike. Unfortunately, the topic can be difficult to approach. There are technical barriers to diagnosing and remediating eBook accessibility concerns. Logictran aims to broaden this conversation with its new eBook accessibility tool. This novel piece of software will perform industry-standard accessibility validations on user-submitted eBooks and provide users with clear direction and solutions.

Plaza Ballroom D

From a Grassroots Effort to University Policy: How Northwestern Changed Its Approach to Digital Accessibility
Jim Stachowiak, Director of Assistive Technology, Northwestern University

This presentation follows Northwestern’s transition from a digital accessibility grassroots effort to a systematic approach. It will highlight a committee’s success in establishing and implementing a digital accessibility liaison network, an accessible purchasing process, and a university digital accessibility policy on limited available resources.

Plaza Court 1
Website Liability Legal Update (Including Winn-Dixie) (Virtual A)
Ken Nakata, Principal, Converge Accessibility (Remote Speaker)

This presentation lays the groundwork for understanding website liability, with a special focus on how the Winn-Dixie decision affects the current legal balance. Then the presentation focuses on common day-to-day questions—and how they have been answered by Federal courts.
Plaza Court 2

Strategies for Using the Microsoft Immersive Reading Tools (Virtual B)
Karen McCall, Senior Advisor, Accessible Document Design, Karlen Communications (Remote Speaker)

This session provides information on how accessible the immersive reading tools are for those using screen readers and text-to-Speech tools. Topics include strategies on how to use the immersive reading tools that are available to anyone. This is a lecture and demonstration session.
Plaza Court 3

Scaling Web Accessibility – University of Phoenix Accessibility SMEs (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)
Janet Fukuda, Digital Accessibility Specialist, University of Phoenix
Robert Becker, Sr. Accessibility Manager, University of Phoenix

Web accessibility is a shared responsibility. Learn how the University of Phoenix was able to scale accessibility with the support of administration and how you can too.

Creating Accessible Social Media Content
Emily Shuman, Director, Rocky Mountain ADA Center

Social media is now the number one way people connect with each other and an estimated 20% of the population has a disability. If your social media content isn’t accessible, you’re significantly limiting your reach and effectiveness on these platforms and making it harder for people to connect with you. This course will cover how to make social media content more accessible to everyone and why it’s worth doing.
Plaza Ballroom E
Four Design Strategies to Prevent Most Accessibility Issues
Valorie Sundby, Principal Digital Accessibility Engineer, Optum
Nora Stern, Senior Digital Accessibility Engineer, Optum
Lori Neff, Senior Digital Accessibility Engineer, Optum
Considering four behaviors as part of the design process, accessibility becomes part of the software development life cycle from the get-go. These behaviors are: 1) Define page structures, 2) Understand Color and Contrast, 3) Help everyone understand images, and 4) Document three aspects of an element. We’ll discuss how design deliverables can become an active participant in the prevention of accessibility issues, leveraging our expertise in accessibility, design and project coordination.
Governor’s Square 10

How to Develop an Efficient Accessibility Testing Process
Lyssa Prince, ICT Accessibility Program Manager, Oklahoma State University
This session will cover how to develop an accessibility testing process using six steps, from defining or choosing a checklist all the way to working with your audience to correct accessibility barriers found during the assessment.
Governor’s Square 12

Using the JAWS Screen Reader to Create Better Digital Content (Bring Your Own Device) (Continued)
Rachele DiTullio, Accessibility Engineer, TPGi
Knowing how to use a screen reader makes you a better content creator and web developer. Learn the basics of using the JAWS screen reader to navigate webpages and documents. Find out the common issues that using a screen reader can detect, as well as ways to improve your content for people with vision and cognitive impairments.
Governor’s Square 15
Creating a Campus-Wide Digital Accessibility Initiative  
*Kate Percival, Digital Accessibility Analyst, State University of New York at Oswego*

Creating an accessible digital culture within a college campus requires collaboration and effort from multiple departments and constituencies. SUNY Oswego’s Digital Accessibility Analyst, Kate Percival, will discuss planting the seeds of institutional change, empowering others to do their part, developing a strong support network to keep the conversation going, and our revelation of how accessible the word “accessible” is.  
*Plaza Ballroom D*

Annotations for All: Creating Accessible and Understandable Annotated and Marked-Up Content (Virtual A)  

One of the best ways to help students think about and improve their writing is to demonstrate the process with an annotated document that includes commentary and corrections. McGraw Hill, working with student reviewers, has developed a learner- and AT-friendly solution to help all students wade through this type of complex content with ease.  
*Plaza Court 2*

The Revolving Door: Moving Libraries to an Accessible Digital Environment (Virtual B)  
*Kathryn Weber-Hottleman, IT Accessibility Coordinator, University of Connecticut (Remote Speaker)*

In order to uphold the mission of serving all patrons, including those with disabilities, it has become paramount for libraries to support accessible websites, programming, and, of course, books. Learn how to engage your audience as accessibly as possible and discover resources that will support you throughout your library’s digital lifecycle.  
*Plaza Court 3*
How and What Syllabi Analysis Can Tell Us About Accessibility, Teaching, and Learning (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)
Melissa Green, Technology Accessibility Specialist, University of Alabama

This session will share the methodology and results of a text analysis of undergraduate course syllabi seeking to identify mentions of “accessibility,” “universal design,” WCAG, and other related concepts. This information is being used to assess where and how accessibility is taught and learned at a large public research university and to inform outreach and education efforts.

Perceptions of e-Learning by d/Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing (DHH) Students
Austin Gehret, Rochester Institute of Technology

The presentation will begin with an overview of the Cognitive Theory of Multimedia Learning (CTML). It will then provide an introduction to the online tutorial designed for d/Deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) students. Finally, we will present student survey responses to the tutorial within the framework of CTML design principles.

Exhibit Hall Break (Plaza Exhibit Hall), 10:15-11:15 am

Breakout Sessions, 11:15 am – 12:15 pm

Accessible Infographic Techniques Beyond Alt-Text
Dax Castro, Accessible Document Specialist

In this session we will explore several presentation methods for more robust interpretation of infographics. Learn several solutions for things like Organizational and flow charts, circle diagrams and other formats to create information rich experiences.

Governor’s Square 10
I Didn’t Know Word Could Do That!
Catherine M. Stager, Assistive Technology Specialist, FRCC BCC
Dustin Raiken, Assistive Technology Assistant, FRCC BCC

Microsoft Word is a tool that many of us use but there are many ways Word can support us and users with disabilities that are not well known. This session will feature some of the tips developed in the very short “IDK Word” documents we have developed to help students work more efficiently. We will offer the chance to learn and practice these tips.

Governor’s Square 11

Holistic Accessibility Across the Penn State University
Binky Lush, Manager, Discovery, Access and Web Services, Penn State University Libraries
Philip Voorhees, Manager, IT Accessibility Team, Penn State University

Penn State University’s commitment to accessibility has led to a proliferation of accessibility groups, committees and communities of practice across campuses, colleges and departments and much has been accomplished. In this session, we will discuss how we worked to combine these University-wide efforts and created an Accessibility Leadership Coordinating Group to develop a holistic 5-year plan that strategically addresses accessibility with a common University vision.

Governor’s Square 12

Independence, Compliance, and Beyond: Practical Solutions for Creating Accessible Media
Lars Ballieu Christensen, Senior Advisor, SensusAccess
Tanja Stevns, Special Ed. Teacher, SensusAccess

This presentation will focus on practical solutions for creating accessible media, particularly in online environments and will discuss how technology can be used to support self-sufficiency and independence both for students but also for staff and faculty at educational settings.

Governor’s Square 14
How can Campus-Wide Digital Technologies (Such as Wayfinding, Digital Signage, & Self-Service Kiosks) be Made Accessible?

Laura Miller, Corporate Business Development Manager, Vispero

Digital technologies such as wayfinding, bill payment kiosks, information kiosks, interactive digital signage, library catalog kiosks & more, abound on college campuses. This interactive discussion will focus on how accessibility experts can insert themselves into these projects both proactively and retroactively to ensure that they are accessible.

Governor’s Square 15

Taking the Tears Out of Text Language Markup – A Journey

Brian Richwine, Senior Accessibility Strategist - Learning Technologies, Indiana University Bloomington
Carrie Hansel, Interim Manager, Indiana University

We will share how a conversation between colleagues from different groups about the frustrations and tedium involved both in adding language markup to multilingual documents and in convincing others to do it led to the development of a language markup tool that makes it pushbutton easy. Advice from varied staff helped improve the tool usability.

Plaza Ballroom D

Assistive Technology Tools that Facilitate Reading and Writing Skills (Bring-Your-Own Device)

Nanci Shepardson, Senior Educational Technologist, Wilson Language Training

Text to Speech, Speech to Text, and Word Prediction are powerful tools that facilitate the writing and reading process. Discover how to activate these tools and teach your students how to leverage them to facilitate work completion.

Plaza Court 1
Wednesday, November 17

Intro to Audio Description (Virtual A)
Elisa Lewis, Content Marketing Manager, 3Play Media (Remote Speaker)

This session will cover the basics of how to add audio description to online video, legal requirements for audio description, video player compatibility, examples and demos, how to create audio description, and benefits of audio description outside of accessibility.

Plaza Court 2

Global Certified Accessible Third-Party Certification for EPUBs (EPUB Session) (Virtual B)
Charles LaPierre, Technical Lead, DIAGRAM and Born Accessible, Benetech
Michael Johnson, Director of Content Partnerships, Benetech (Remote Speakers)

Benetech’s Global Certified Accessible program is the first third party certification program that stamps publisher EPUBs as conforming to the Accessibility 1.0 Specification. Learn about the program itself, our global partners, and those publishers and conversion vendors who have already been certified since our launch 3 years ago.

Plaza Court 3

Implementing a Captioning Program at MIT (Zoom Only) (Virtual C)
Kathy Cahill, MIT

MIT settled a captioning lawsuit brought by NAD (National Association of the Deaf) in 2020. This presentation covers the steps that MIT took to implement captioning of video throughout the Institute.

Rachel Kruzel, Territory Sales Director, Texthelp

The AT and accessibility fields are constantly evolving given the dynamic nature of technology and our world. Staying on top of these changes and updates is essential. In line with the tradition of past
Trending Tech Tools sessions, the latest updates, tools, software programs, and key topics that support and impact these fields will be discussed.

**Plaza Ballroom E**

**Keynote Luncheon, 12:20 – 2:15 pm**

**Roots in Resistance: A Social History of Captioning**  
*Jaipreet Virdi*

Though the history of closed captioning has largely been framed as a history of legislative changes for accessibility and technological progress that turned captioning decoder set-up boxes into decoder chips, it is also a social history. In this talk, Jaipreet Virdi considers the history of captioning, tracing its roots in resistance, from a silent film actor’s innovative splicing of film, to deaf people’s demands for access to television broadcasts, and finally, to the shifting twenty-first century social media landscape.

**Plaza Ballroom A/B/C**

**Breakout Sessions, 2:15 – 3:15 pm**

**Making Campus Easier to Navigate with Accessible Navigation Technology**  
*Mike May, Chief Evangelist, GoodMaps*  
*Leslie Johnson, Assistant Director, Assistive Technology, Michigan State University*

New blind students often receive only basic orientation and mobility. This is likely not to be repeated each semester when their class schedule and navigation changes. Some apps address rough outdoor navigation. GoodMaps offers an accurate campus indoor/outdoor experience where installed. Learn about apps that provide this essential wayfinding service so students can navigate confidently and independently throughout their college journey. Experience a live demo of indoor navigation by Mike May.

**Governor’s Square 10**
Making Social Media Accessible
Keith Bundy, Accessibility Community Consultant, Siteimprove, Inc.

Social media is becoming increasingly popular in higher education. Yet many social media posts are not accessible for users with disabilities. This presentation will discuss the importance of social media at the university level. The presenter will also talk about various aspects of social media accessibility. In addition, the presentation will focus on how to make posts in multiple social media forums accessible.

Governor’s Square 11

Accessibility Metadata – A Digital Textbook Superhero! (EPUB Session)
Erin Lucas, Sr Director of Digital Accessibility, RedShelf

Are you struggling to keep accessibility at the forefront of your decision-making process when it comes to selecting and adopting digital course materials? In the age of digital learning, where can you turn to make easier, more accessible decisions for every student? Enter Accessibility Metadata — the unsung superhero of today’s digital content.

Governor’s Square 12

Decoding Label and Name for Accessibility
Jonathan Whiting, Director of Training & Evaluation, WebAIM

WCAG requires that interactive elements have a “label” and “name” (often called “accessible name”), but the way these terms are used in WCAG does not always match how they are used by Web Developers. This hands-on lab will learn how WCAG defines label and name, and practice how to identify the WCAG label and name in common components like images, links, buttons, and form fields. We will also discuss the new WCAG 2.1 requirement for “Label in Name” and the danger of using ARIA labels.

Governor’s Square 14

The Online Accessibility Hub: What Makes a Great Institutional Accessibility Website?
David Sloan, Principal Accessibility Engineer, Research and Strategy Lead, TPGi

An online accessibility hub is an institutional website that can
play a pivotal role in helping advance digital accessibility across campus. With the help of real-world examples, learn what kinds of accessibility information and functionality can help different stakeholders across campus build skills and knowledge, and meet their accessibility responsibilities.

**Plaza Ballroom D**

**CommonLook’s Free Software for Higher Education**
*Paul Rayius, Vice President of Training, CommonLook*

This presentation will explain the program and benefits to higher education institutions to take advantage of the free use of CommonLook PDF and CommonLook Office tools. The tools are designed to ensure PDF files are fully accessible and standards compliant.

**Plaza Court 1**

**Demystifying PDF Accessibility: Clearing Those Pesky Errors + Unfamiliar Tips (Virtual A)**
*Brittany Usman, Instructional Designer, The University of Texas at Arlington (Remote Speaker)*

Most of us know the “easy” PDF errors to fix – such as not setting the language or not adding alt text to images. But, what about those harder errors about annotations not being tagged, tables failing regularity, and “other elements” not having alternate text? Join me to learn how to clear these pesky errors and pick up some lesser-known tips!

**Plaza Court 2**

**Exploring the Library Accessible Content Ecosystem (Virtual B)**
*Michael Johnson, Director, Content Partnerships, Benetech*
*John Unsworth, Dean of Libraries University of Virginia*
*Kara Kroes Li, Director of Product Management EBSCO*
*Charles Watkinson, Associate University Librarian University of Michigan (Remote Speakers)*

There is great progress being made with regard to accessible content being made available on campus via the library. However, there is still a great deal to be done. This session celebrates the successes and points our areas for improvement.

**Plaza Court 3**
Accessibility and Interactivity: Ensuring Everyone Participates in the Digital Future (Zoom Only) (Virtual C)
Rick Johnson, Vice President of Product Strategy, VitalSource Technologies
Stacy Ray, Bookshelf Installed Apps Product Manager, VitalSource Technologies

As digital content becomes more interactive, will learners be left behind? No! Come see how interactivity and content transparency can seamlessly work with assistive technology to make sure all learners are accommodated with digital textbooks.

How the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Resolves Digital Accessibility Investigations
Mary Lou Mobley, National Disability Expert, U.S. Dept. of Education

The attorneys who lead OCR’s National Web Accessibility Team will discuss the types of allegations they handle under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as how they identify barriers to access for people with disabilities, resolution strategies, and their with vendors.

Plaza Ballroom E

Breakout Sessions, 3:30 – 4:30 pm

Make it Stop! The Case Against, and Alternatives to, the Test-for-Free Model
Rob Carr, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Institutions and organizations have fallen into a pattern of testing software and platforms that vendors sell and providing test results and/or consultation. For free. I think that this model works against everyone but the vendors that we work with. This isn’t anti-vendor at all. Though, I do think that we should talk about possible ways to stop this and still uphold our ethical and legal responsibilities not to discriminate against people with disabilities.
Governor’s Square 10
Assessing the Accessibility of Web 2.0 Tools (Bring-Your-Own Device)

**Wendolyn Velez-Torres, Senior Instructional Technologist, Coppin State University**

Web 2.0 technologies have allowed faculty to reach students in a whole new way. When used effectively, these tools can help focus the attention of students and help faculty reach different kinds of learners on different levels. Not all Web 2.0 tools are accessible to people with disabilities. This hands-on session will discuss and illustrate what to look for when you are evaluating Web 2.0 Tools. Participants will get concrete examples of what to look for as well as scoring template they can use for evaluation. Please bring an Internet Enabled Device to fully participate.

**Governor’s Square 11**

New W3C-WAI Guidance on Making Content Usable for People with Cognitive and Learning Disabilities

**Lisa Seeman, Athena ICT**  
**Rain Michaels, Google**  
**John Kirkwood, City Mouse**

The Cognitive and Learning Disabilities Accessibility Task Force of the Web Accessibility Initiative (WAI) has published “Making Content Usable for People with Cognitive and Learning Disabilities”. This panel will discuss aspects of the document, such as: Objectives for usable content, personas (examples) and user needs.

**Governor’s Square 12**

Decoding Label and Name for Accessibility (Continued)

**Jonathan Whiting, Director of Training & Evaluation, WebAIM**

WCAG requires that interactive elements have a “label” and “name” (often called “accessible name”), but the way these terms are used in WCAG does not always match how they are used by Web Developers. This hands-on lab will learn how WCAG defines label and name, and practice how to identify the WCAG label and name in common components like images, links, buttons, and form fields. We will also discuss the new WCAG 2.1 requirement for “Label in Name” and the danger of using ARIA labels.

**Governor’s Square 14**
Wednesday, November 17

Perspectives on Teaching Accessibility
Sarah Horton, Senior Research Assistant, University of Southampton

Effective teaching is an essential skill for advancing accessibility, whether in an education program or by influencing colleagues, coworkers, and leadership. Through perspectives drawn from research with experienced accessibility teachers, attendees will learn new ways to explain, explore, and motivate learners to engage with accessibility topics.

Plaza Ballroom D

See Life’s Possibilities Clearly by Choosing the Proper Assistive Technology
Kimberly Cline, Director of Sales North America, LVI America

Discover the correct assistive technology for your campus by properly defining the environment and developing the appropriate mindset to produce extraordinary success. Determine and choose the assistive technology for each unique case. Key questions to focus on when choosing the best assistive technology for individuals with low vision will be discussed that will lead to proper decision making.

Plaza Court 1

Finding Common Ground Around Digital Accessibility (Virtual A)
Lorenzo Milani, Mr, SAGE Publishing
Lorna Notsch, SAGE Publishing (Remote Speakers)

Drawing on our experience as accessibility specialists, we provide practical suggestions on how to communicate and collaborate around product and platform accessibility. We discuss how to establish a mutually beneficial relationship between customer and vendor based on transparency, shared expectations, and concise and accurate feedback.

Plaza Court 2
EPUB Reading Apps Roundup – How to Assess EPUB Reading Systems and How You Can Stay Up to Date on Which to Recommend (EPUB Session) (Virtual B)

George Kerscher, Chief Innovations Officer, DAISY Consortium
Richard Orme, Chief Executive Officer, DAISY Consortium
Charles LaPierre, Technical Lead, DIAGRAM and Born Accessible, Benetech
Joseph Polizzotto, Alternative Media Supervisor, UC Berkeley (Remote Speakers)

This session will present the evaluation of EPUB reading Apps from retailers, library vendors and publishers. You will learn how the different platforms compare in terms of navigation, visual adjustments, screen reader support and other personalization options. We will also explain how the information on Apps are regularly updated.

Plaza Court 3

Tips for Using Read&Write Text-to-Speech (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)
Karen McCall, Senior Advisor, Accessible Document Design, Karlen Communications

Read&Write is a Text-to-Speech (TTS) tool used by many people with learning, cognitive or print disabilities. TTS tools are different from screen readers. This session highlights the identifies the features of Read&Write that support student success. Topics including accessing documents and PDF multilingual content.

How the Department of Education’s Office for Civil Rights Resolves Digital Accessibility Investigations (Continued)
Mary Lou Mobley, National Disability Expert, U.S. Department of Education

The attorneys who lead OCR’s National Web Accessibility Team will discuss the types of allegations they handle under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, as well as how they identify barriers to access for people with disabilities, resolution strategies, and their with vendors.

Plaza Ballroom E
Wednesday, November 17
Exhibit Hall Reception, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Plaza Exhibit Hall
Thursday, November 18

Full-Day Preconference Sessions
7:30 am – 4:30 pm  Registration Open
8 – 9 am  Breakout Sessions
9 am – 4:30 pm  Exhibit Hall Open
9:15 – 10:15 am  Breakout Sessions
10:15 – 11:15 am  Exhibit Hall Refreshment Break
11:15 am – 12:15 pm  Breakout Sessions
12:30 – 2 pm  Lunch (On your own)
2 – 3 pm  Breakout Sessions
3:15 – 4:15 pm  Roundtables

Notes

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Complete session details can be found at accessinghigherground.org
Breakout Sessions, 8-9 am

First-Generation Students, Inclusivity, and Alternative Formats  
*Lisa Andion, Dr., Blackboard*

First-generation students struggle to succeed. An inclusive classroom that recognizes and adjusts to the needs of first-generation students can have a positive impact on their success. This session asks the question, “How can learning technology help my first-generation students succeed?” Ally provides students with alternative formats to course content to meet their unique needs.  
**Governor’s Square 10**

Panel: Do PDFs Belong in Our Accessible Future?  
*Krista Greear, Accessibility Strategist, Blackboard Ally  
Dan Comden, Access Technology Center Manager, ATS  
Dax Castro, Accessible Document Specialist, AbleDocs  
Susan Kelmer, Alternate Format Production Program Manager, University of Colorado Boulder*

PDFs are notoriously challenging to make accessible and everyone has them. Some take a strong stance that PDFs are not a desirable choice for delivering content in an accessible manner; others disagree. This panel is to explore some of these perspectives as we discuss the future of accessibility and PDFs place in it.  
**Governor’s Square 11**

Exploration of the New and Improved Read&Write for Google Chrome Toolbar and PDF Reader  
*Rachel Kruzel, Territory Sales Director, Texthelp*

In keeping up with the dynamic educational landscape, Read&Write for Google Chrome and the accompanying PDF Reader have undergone a complete rewrite over the last year. This session will explore how these tools from Texthelp provide increased functionality in LMS’s, on the web and with a wide range of content, supporting students like never before.  
**Governor’s Square 12**
ARIA Foundations, Patterns, and Components for Improving Web Accessibility Development
Dennis Lembree, Director of Accessibility, Diamond

Learn all about ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) from foundational development concepts to advanced techniques. Many use cases with code examples will be examined in this comprehensive session. Note: first hour will be beginner level material. The second half will cover more advanced topics.

Governor’s Square 15

Making an Online Science Lab Accessible to All
Carrie Hansel, Interim Manager, Indiana University
Gina Londino-Smolar, Senior Lecturer, Indiana University - Purdue University of Indianapolis (IUPUI)
Maggie Ricci, Principal Online Instructional Technologist, Indiana University

Interested in learning more about using universal design for learning in an online lab? Come hear how we combined the principles of multiplicity, clear goals, intentional planning for learner variability, flexible methods, and timely feedback. Be prepared to learn our process and practice your knowledge on example activities.

Plaza Ballroom D

Breaking Through the Apathy Fog: An Awareness Campaign for Digital Accessibility in Higher Education
Michele Bromley, IT Accessibility Coordinator, Portland State University

One of the biggest barriers to digital accessibility in higher education is limited awareness. This presentation will detail Portland State University’s efforts to facilitate lasting accessibility change through awareness and capacity building, focusing on practical resources, sustainable support models, and strategic communication.

Plaza Court 1
Thursday, November 18

**Designing the Digital Accessibility Gateway: Using Data to Create Sustainability and Culture (Virtual A)**

Jessica Guess, Program Manager for Accessibility Compliance, University of Cincinnati

Jermaine Fields, Software Applications Developer, University of Cincinnati  
(Remote Speakers)

The University of Cincinnati has created the Digital Accessibility Gateway to provide the right data, at the right time, to the right people. This creates a sense of ownership and a culture of accessibility across the entire university. This presentation will cover the who, what, why, and how of the development and roll out of the tool.

**Plaza Court 2**

**Academic Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Postsecondary Students with and Without Disabilities (Virtual B)**

Catherine Fichten, Dawson College, Adaptech Research Network  
Rosie Arcuri, Adaptech Research Network  
Susie Wileman, Research Associate, Scholar in Residence, Dawson College

We surveyed postsecondary students with and without disabilities to find out how Covid-19 affected their academic lives. Results show that many students had difficulties learning and studying with remote learning and that students with disabilities experienced more challenges. Students, faculty and campus professionals will provide testimonials.

**Plaza Court 3**

**Tools for Automating the Creation of MP3s (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)**

Joseph Polizzotto, Accessibility Technologist, Wake Technical Community College

Post-COVID, students may prefer to listen to texts rather than look at a screen. With this context in mind, we will demonstrate how to automate the creation of MP3 files by using freely available tools. You’ll learn how to create audio whose features can be adjusted to students’ preferences and to the varied complexity of course content.
OCR’s Year in Review
Mary Lou Mobley, National Disability Expert, U.S. Dept. of Education
Patrick Alexander, Senior Regional Attorney, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education

The Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the ADA, as well as civil rights laws protecting people on the bases of race, color, and national origin; gender; and age. Come to this presentation to learn more about noteworthy disability cases that arose within the past year, including areas of emphasis.

Plaza Ballroom E

The Essentials of Modern Born Accessible Publishing on Your Campus (EPUB Session)
George Kerscher, Chief Innovations Officer, DAISY Consortium
Erin Kirchner-Lucas, Sr Director, Digital Accessibility, RedShelf
Darren Evans, Director Virtual Learning Community, Wake Technical Community College

Campus management and staff should be aware of the modern digital publishing Standard EPUB 3. This presentation will provide the high-level perspective of all aspects of the ecosystem that makes EPUB 3 the most accessible publishing standard ever created. The session will include a comprehensive resource list for implementation on the campus.

Plaza Court 4

Breakout Sessions, 9:15 – 10:15 am

Icebreakers into Accessibility
Elizabeth Codick, Graduate Student, Rochester Institute of Technology
Elissa Weeden, Associate Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology

This interactive session will have the audience perform an ice breaker that can raise awareness around accessibility and the design of accessible interactions. After the icebreakers are completed the group will come back together, share their thoughts
Thursday, November 18

about the experience, and the presenter will give a rationale of the activities.

Governor’s Square 10

Cross Departmental Accessibility Focus: College-Wide Student Success and Online Courses

Steven Bianco, Coordinator, Accessibility and LMS Administration, Florida SouthWestern State College
Angie Hartsell, Director, Office of ADAptive Services, Florida South Western State College
Rozalind Jester, Assistant Vice Provost, Online Learning, Florida SouthWestern State College

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) continually works towards meeting and exceeding the level of access to all students, faculty, and staff to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion within the College. Active relationships and frequent faculty and staff training efforts ensure collaboration and expert guidance throughout the College.

Governor’s Square 11

COVID-19 and the Accessibility Spotlight

Christa Miller, Director of Inclusive Media Design, Virginia Tech
Korey Singleton, George Mason University
Lori Kressin, University of Virginia
Mark Nichols, Virginia Tech

Once digital accessibility efforts were just a response to accommodations. As VA institutions adopted e-learning solutions, digital accessibility professionals began to collaboratively advance common goals. This initiated the Virginia Higher Education Accessibility Partners, a collaborative partnership of accessibility-focused professionals.

Governor’s Square 12

Why Universal Design for Learning (UDL) / Inclusion Matters (Virtual A)

Anne Osowski, College of Charleston
Gretchen Scronce, College of Charleston
Debby Marindin, College of Charleston

(Remote Speakers)

Learn about practices that can be implemented that will make
teaching more accessible and effective, in an online or in-person environment. See examples of these practices in action in College of Charleston’s OAKS (D2L) learning management system. Learn why making these second nature is good for everyone - faculty, staff, AND students.

**Plaza Court 2**

**ARIA Foundations, Patterns, and Components for Improving Web Accessibility Development (Continued)**

*Dennis Lembree, Director of Accessibility, Diamond*

Learn all about ARIA (Accessible Rich Internet Applications) from foundational development concepts to advanced techniques. Many use cases with code examples will be examined in this comprehensive session. Note: first hour will be beginner level material. The second half will cover more advanced topics.

**Governor’s Square 15**

**Accessible Documents Made Easy: Introducing T-Base’s Self-Serve Transcription Tool**

*Jeff Jullion, National Account Executive, Education, T-Base Communications*

Learn how a new self-serve document transcription tool is revolutionizing the process for transcribing accessible instructional materials, making it possible for educational institutions to provide their students with alternate formats in a quick, effective and affordable way.

**Plaza Ballroom D**

**Three Behaviors for Developers Getting Started with Accessibility**

*Valorie Sundby, Principal Digital Accessibility Engineer, Optum*

*Nora Stern, Senior Digital Accessibility Engineer, Optum*

Eliminate 85% of accessibility defects by adopting three developer behaviors: Validate html, integrate a testing tool, and keyboard test. A surprising number of defects are preventable by adopting these three web developer behaviors.

**Plaza Court 1**
Thursday, November 18

Common Accessibility Questions by Online Learners (Virtual B)
Elizabeth Simister, Product Accessibility Manager, Blackboard, Inc
Remote Speaker

This session is intended to provide instructors insights into the most common questions that the Blackboard Accessibility Team has received by online learners and some techniques for improving the student experience.

Plaza Court 3

How has COVID-19 Affected Mobile Tech Use by Students with Disabilities? (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)
Susie Wileman, Research Associate, Scholar in Residence, Dawson College
Alice Havel, Research Associate, Scholar in Residence, Dawson College
Mary Jorgensen, Research Associate, Adaptech Research Network
Catherine Fichten, Co-Director, Faculty, Dawson College, Adaptech Research Network
Catherine Gravel, , Adaptech Research Network

We surveyed 121 students with disabilities and 51 without disabilities and asked them about smartphone and tablet technologies they used to do schoolwork during the COVID-19 pandemic. We also asked a subset of 24 students what technologies their professors asked them to use during the pandemic and what problems they encountered.

Plaza Ballroom E

OCR’s Year in Review (Continued)
Mary Lou Mobley, National Disability Expert, U.S. Dept. of Education
Patrick Alexander, Senior Regional Attorney, Office for Civil Rights, U.S. Dept. of Education

The Office for Civil Rights of the U.S. Department of Education enforces Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the ADA, as well as civil rights laws protecting people on the bases of race, color, and national origin; gender; and age. Come to this presentation to learn more about noteworthy disability cases that arose within the past year, including areas of emphasis.

Plaza Ballroom E
Spoken Presentation in HTML
Irfan Ali, Spoken Presentation in HTML, ETS/W3C
Janina Sajka, W3C
Paul Grenier, W3C
Markku Hakkinen, Educational Testing Service

The Pronunciation Task Force created a specification intended to fill this technology gap. This first public working draft comes after years of gap analysis, use cases, and user scenarios. The Specification for Spoken Presentation in HTML describes two possible technical approaches. Either approach will improve this situation. We seek feedback from authors and implementors on which approach will work best. Also: Are there approaches that are not described in this document?

Plaza Court 4

Exhibit Hall Break, 10:15 – 11:15 am

Plaza Exhibit Hall

Breakout Sessions, 11:15 am – 12:15 am

The Bigger Picture of Learning Technology: Leveraging Digital Transformation (Dx) to Advocate for UDL
Katherine Hamilton, Content and Community Manager, Sonocent

Covid’s impact on the learning landscape has triggered a faster Digital Transformation. 72% of college leaders are concerned about the value of Education. They are prioritising ‘investment in technologies’ and a ‘seamless learning experience’. This is our opportunity to advocate for UDL by promoting learning technologies built on inclusive design.

Governor’s Square 10

25 Million Requests for Greater Access: A Review of Student Preferences for Course Accessibility
Krista Greear, Accessibility Strategist, Blackboard Ally

All students want and need greater access. Blackboard Ally is laser-focused on increasing course content access to all students and will share global data to demonstrate the ways in which stu-
dents are demanding more flexibility and utility.

**Governor’s Square 11**

**Accessibility in Procurement: How to Read a VPAT**  
*Terrill Thompson, Manager, IT Accessibility Team, University of Washington*

At the University of Washington, most IT products and services are procured with no help from accessibility experts. Therefore, decision makers must be able to evaluate accessibility risk on their own. This session will discuss how we do this at the UW, and will demo the training we provide to stakeholders on how to read a VPAT.

**Governor’s Square 12**

**Case for Adding Accessibility in Undergraduate Computer Science and Engineering Curriculums**  
*Caroline Hart, Undergraduate Student, University at Buffalo (SUNY)*

Accessibility should be part of an Undergraduate’s education within the field of Computer Science. Students who hold negative views about adding accessibility to the curriculum tend to hold ableist views on why accessibility is required. Students are extremely unlikely to learn these skills on their own without any formal education.

**Governor’s Square 14**

**Managing Alternate Media Student Staff Remotely in the Pandemic and Beyond**  
*Annissa Stout, Alternate Media Coordinator, University of Arizona  
Chris Storms, Document Conversion Coordinator, University of Arizona*

UArizona DRC rapidly shifted into a remote environment for student staff in the past year and developed a hybrid return-to-the office for student workers in Fall ‘21. We’ll highlight several challenges and successes in our new environment related to management, communication, technology use and training which allow continued collaborative work.

**Plaza Ballroom D**
Low Cost, High Impact User Research with People with Disabilities
*David Sloan, Principal Accessibility Engineer, Research and Strategy Lead, TPGi*

Effective user research with people with disabilities helps move digital resource design from a focus on technical compliance to ensuring the resource successfully addresses genuine needs of people with disabilities. Learn ways of reducing effort and cost of user research with people with disabilities, while still gathering high impact input that helps create more accessible and usable digital resources and products.

**Plaza Court 1**

Browser Extensions for All – “We’re Different, We’re the Same” (Virtual A)
*Rosie Arcuri, Dawson College, Adaptech Research Network*
*Maegan Harvison, Dawson College, Adaptech Research Network*
*Christine Vo, Dawson College, Adaptech Research Network*
*Francesco Salvo, Dawson College, Adaptech Research Network (Remote Speakers)*

Among changes in information and communication technologies are mainstream technologies that can be used by students with, and without disabilities as assistive aids. We review the availability and usability of browser extensions and plug-ins for Chrome, Edge, Firefox, and Safari. Recommendations and security tips will be provided.

**Plaza Court 2**

Curricula on Web Accessibility: Build, Compare, and Select Courses on Web Accessibility (Virtual B)
*Daniel Montalvo, Accessibility Education and Training Specialist, W3C (Remote Speaker)*

The WAI curricula provides teaching modules to help you create courses on digital accessibility, or to include accessibility in other courses. The modules cover accessibility foundations that apply broadly, and specific skills for developers, designers, content authors, and others.

**Plaza Court 3**
Thursday, November 18

Bookshare Reader: A New Beginning for Accessible Reading with Bookshare (Zoom Only) (Virtual C)
Charles LaPierre, Technical Lead, DIAGRAM and Born Accessible, Benetech

Bookshare’s “Read Now” functionality is getting a brand-new online reading system that leverages the latest technology, allowing for a feature rich and accessible reading experience including fully supporting MathML in Bookshare books. Come see the new Bookshare Reader in action.

Automated Generation of Tactile Mathematics
Volker Sorge, Progressive Accessibility Solutions

We present a workflow for the generation of tactile mathematical content from commonly used mathematical markup. The workflow exclusively employs freely available open source tools and results in embossable output that is a combination of literary Braille and Nemeth Code together with diagrams set as tactile graphics.

Plaza Ballroom E

Simplifying Web Accessibility at Any Scale
Jay Pope, Web Accessibility Specialist, Pope Tech

Web accessibility can sometimes feel complicated or difficult, but it doesn’t have to be. We will explore practical things anyone can do to significantly improve web accessibility. We will do a live demonstration on how to use WAVE. We will also discuss strategies for scaling single-page testing to testing thousands of pages across the portfolio of websites of higher education institutions.

Plaza Court 4

Lunch on your own, 12:30 – 2 pm

Breakout Sessions, 2 – 3 pm

Beyond “99 Red Balloons” – A Pragmatic Guide to Alternative Text
AmyJune Hineline, Community Ambassador and QA Engineer, Kanopi Studios
Images support and add context to our information and concepts. They can act as visual cues and help some users orient themselves on a page. Media include images for conversions; having images on posts leads to a higher clickthrough rate and ROI. Images can be simple and easy to add alternative text, but they can also be more complex like infographics, charts, or maps. Let’s take a nostalgic walk through the 80s music scene and ensure our alt text conveys the information in a meaningful way.

**Governor’s Square 11**

**Accessible Color: Dos and Don’ts**  
*Dax Castro, Accessible Document Specialist*

It is often thought that accessible documents cannot be colorful, beautiful or complex. In this session you will learn how to select colors that work together to present the most inclusive and accessible material.

**Governor’s Square 12**

**Automatic Accessibility Checks on Online Courses: Supporting Teachers in Getting Their Homework Done**  
*Gottfried Zimmermann, Professor, Stuttgart Media University*

At Stuttgart Media University, we are starting a campaign on automatically checking the contents of internal online courses on a voluntary basis. At the time of the AHG conference, first evaluation results will be available and shared with the audience. There will be also time for Q&A.

**Governor’s Square 14**

**The Intersection of Universal Design and User Experience (UX)**  
*Jodi Arnold, UX/UI Analyst, Northern Arizona University  
Kelly Roberts, Executive Director, Northern Arizona University*

This topic will explore the principle of Universal Design (UD) and how they intersect with the principles of User Experience (UX) and how they can be applied to design barrier-free digital environments.

**Governor’s Square 15**
Easily Make Your Website and Digital Content More Accessible, Usable, and Readable with ReachDeck
Rachel Kruzel, Territory Sales Director, Texthelp
James Deignan, Business Development Director, Texthelp

Higher ed institutions need an easy to use, cost-effective solution to help ensure the accessibility of digital content. Texthelp’s new tool, ReachDeck improves an institution’s accessibility, readability, and reach of online digital content. ReachDeck scans for readability and WCAG errors while also providing tools to support website visitors.

Plaza Ballroom D

Streamlining Captioning Services: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic
Sarah Herpst, Accessibility Analyst, Indiana University
Tomas Gregg, Accessibility Analyst, Indiana University

The shift to online learning in Spring 2020 brought with it an increase demand for captioning. Join us as we share our experience scaling the caption services to meet the growing needs of students. We will discuss the process for evaluating vendors, tips for automating your caption workflow, and effective ways to communicate these changes.

Plaza Court 1

How to Read a VPAT and Accessibility Conformance Report (Virtual A)
Gian Wild, AccessibilityOz (Remote Speaker)

How do you read a VPAT and associated Accessibility Conformance Report? Gian Wild talks through the layout of a VPAT and how to properly interpret the associated Accessibility Conformance Report.

Plaza Court 2

Bookshare Making Math Accessible One Image at a Time (Virtual B)
Charles LaPierre, Technical Lead, DIAGRAM and Born Accessible, Benetech (Remote Speaker)

Images of math equations unfortunately is the norm for digital textbooks and a huge percentage of those have no alt-text de-
scriptions. Bookshare aims to rectify this by detecting images containing math and adding a description of the equation to the image initially and ultimately replace the image with MathML.

Plaza Court 3

Finding Our Place: Creating a Culture of Accessibility at the University of Texas at San Antonio (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)
RaLynn McGuire, Learning Experience Accessibility Specialist, University of Texas at San Antonio
Vanessa Garza, Learning Experience Accessibility Specialist, University of Texas at San Antonio

Can a university shift from a stand-alone accommodation model to a proactive approach to accessibility? This presentation will focus on the journey of creating the role of accessibility specialist, increasing campus-wide partnerships and visibility, gaining support for new initiatives, and creating an accessibility policy.

Help! How Can I Deal with Increased Needs Without Increased Staff Levels?
Terrill Thompson, Manager, IT Accessibility Team, University of Washington
Sheryl Burgstahler, Director, UW-IT Accessible Technology Services, University of Washington
Hadi Rangin, IT Accessibility Specialist, University of Washington

Do you feel that you are not even addressing the tip of the iceberg when it comes to supporting IT accessibility needs on your campus? The speakers will engage with participants to identify promising practices for making the most of limited resources in moving toward a more accessible IT environment on campus at a time of great need.

Plaza Ballroom E

Roundtables, 3:15 – 4:15 pm
Friday, November 19

Full-Day Preconference Sessions
8 am – 12:45 pm  Registration Open
9:15 – 10:15 am  Breakout Sessions
10:30 – 11:30 am  Breakout Sessions
11:45 am – 12:45 pm  Breakout Sessions

Notes

Complete session details can be found at accessinghigherground.org
Friday, November 19
Breakout Sessions, 9:15-10:15 am

Understanding the Digital Tools and Technology at Your Fingertips – You Don’t Need to be an Expert!
Crystal Rose Hill-Farrell, Accessibility Specialist, Wesleyan University

Digital technology is for everyone, but can be overwhelming. By knowing which questions to ask, and how to find answers, we can increase our knowledge without the need to become an expert in any one program. By using an individualized approach to working with others, we can provide access to a wider range of individuals within a reasonable budget.

Governor’s Square 10

Audio Description: There’s an App for That!
Joel Snyder, Dr., Audio Description Associates, LLC-Audio Description Project of the American Council of the Blind
Petr Kucheryavyy, Sr. Manager, Accessibility Center of Excellence, Spectrum/Charter

This session will immerse participants in the possibilities for access to media via smartphone for people who are blind or have low vision.

Governor’s Square 11

The Evolution of Innovative Technology for Accessible STEM
Vijayshree Vethantham, Vice-President, Partner Engagements, Continual Engine US LLC
Rajiv Narayana, Chief Learning Officer, Continual Engine US LLC
AnnMarie Dittell, Accessibility and Compliance Manager, Pearson Education

Technology alone cannot solve the issue of inequity as an increasing number of institutions continue seeking demonstrated approaches to accessibility. We will share our experience managing the delicate balance between sophisticated technology, collaboration, workflows, and change management to drive affordable, effective, and scaled accessibility outcomes in STEM disciplines.

Governor’s Square 12
Flexible Trainings to Guide Instructors Towards Accessibility
Laura Jervis, Instructional Designer, University of Florida
Stephanie Richardson, Instructional Developer, University of Florida

Many instructors in higher education don’t yet have the knowledge and skills to create accessible digital course content. We will explore examples of trainings about common accessibility issues for a beginner audience. See how the University of Florida helps instructors move towards applying basic accessibility strategies.
Governor’s Square 15

Teach Access: On a Mission to Ensure Products are Born Accessible
Kate Sonka, Executive Director, Teach Access
Chris Yoon, Program Manager, Microsoft
Cyndi Wiley, Digital Accessibility Lead, Iowa State University

Teach Access unites industry, academia, and disability advocacy groups to introduce students to accessible design and development principles. Recent achievements will be shared, including Virtual Study Away, resource development, accreditation efforts, Faculty Grants, and what the next 5 years will bring to ensure products are “born accessible”.
Plaza Court 1

Accessible Interactive Simulations for Science Learning (Virtual A)
Emily Moore, Director of Research and Accessibility, PhET Interactive Simulations, University of Colorado Boulder
Brett Fiedler, University of Colorado Boulder

Remote Speakers

Interactive science simulations are commonly used in college courses. Here we introduce PhET Interactive Simulations, free online simulations that support learning through science inquiry. We will then share our research into creating simulations accessible through visual, auditory, and haptic displays, and resources for supporting effective use.
Plaza Court 2
Friday, November 19

Underpinning Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Initiatives with a Universal Design Framework (Virtual B)
Sheryl Burgstahler, Director, Accessible Technology Services, University of Washington (Remote Speaker)

Universal Design (UD) has emerged as a promising framework for addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion issues on our campuses, including those related to IT. Post-pandemic campus-wide planning efforts present a unique opportunity to explore how a UD Framework can increase the quality of all that postsecondary education has to offer.

Plaza Court 3

Easy Accessibility for Chemistry
Volker Sorge, Progressive Accessibility Solutions

We present a web service for easy, automatic generation of accessible and fully interactive chemical diagrams. Accessibility is provided via interaction, self-voicing, highlighting and magnification. The service supports both individual work as well as bulk conversion via an API.

Plaza Court 4

Breaking the Cycle: Building Accessibility into the Content Development Process (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)
Jeff Singleton, Principal, Converge Accessibility
Natalie Hadley, Vice President, Outlook Business Solutions

Addressing accessibility after an audit won’t stem the flow of inaccessible content your institution creates every day. We’ll introduce a methodology for building accessibility into the content development process from concept to consumption. We’ll also look at the value of involving disabled users during development.

Breakout Sessions, 10:30 – 11:30 am

Understanding the Digital Tools and Technology at Your Fingertips – You Don’t Need to be an Expert! (Continued)
Crystal Rose Hill-Farrell, Accessibility Specialist, Wesleyan University
Digital technology is for everyone, but can be overwhelming. By knowing which questions to ask, and how to find answers, we can increase our knowledge without the need to become an expert in any one program. By using an individualized approach to working with others, we can provide access to a wider range of individuals within a reasonable budget.

**Governor’s Square 10**

**Affecting Digital Accessibility Change Through Scalable Procurement Workflows**  
*Michele Bromley, IT Accessibility Coordinator, Portland State University*  
*Jerrod Thomas, Senior Director of Academic and Technology Services, Portland State University*

Portland State University put a great deal of effort into planning, building, and piloting a resource rich, risk and impact based approach to accessibility review for technology procurement. This presentation will detail our accessibility change efforts in this area and lessons we learned while generating associated workflows and resources.

**Governor’s Square 11**

**Finding Sustainability Through Digital Accessibility**  
*Mike Paciello, Vice President, ADAmerica, AbleDocs*

We’ll help you recognize the need for different approaches and best practices for successfully implementing a campus-wide digital accessibility strategy.

**Governor’s Square 12**

**Turning Math into HTML (Virtual A)**  
*Joseph Polizzotto, Accessibility Technologist, Wake Technical Community College (Remote Speaker)*

Creating accessible STEM content is easier when HTML is your final format. Starting from an MS Word document with math equations, we will demonstrate how to output to HTML by using freely available tools. You’ll learn how to create HTML content whose flavors of math can be adjusted to students’ unique AT needs and preferences for “mathspeak”.

**Plaza Court 2**
A Qualitative Analysis of Remote Learning Benefits and Barriers Among Students with Disabilities (Virtual B)

Rebecca Mushtare, Associate Professor, State University of New York at Oswego
Amy Fisk, Assistant Dean for Accessibility, State University of New York at Geneseo

Remote Speakers
This session will share stories and findings from interviews conducted with self-identified SUNY students with disabilities about the benefits and barriers experienced as remote learners during the pandemic. Discussion will center on pedagogical strategies and policies for inclusive and accessible campus communities.

Plaza Court 3

Browser Extension to Support College Learning

Catherine M. Stager, Assistive Technology Specialist, FRCC BCC
Jeff Vickery, Assistive Technology Support, FRCC BCC
Dustin Raiken, Assistive Technology Assistant, FRCC BCC

Explore browser extensions and their support for users with disabilities. As AT, some browser extensions greatly improve access to information for folks with disabilities. This hands-on session will offer experience with extensions that have helped students at Front Range Community College as well as the “Getting Started Guides” for AT at Home.

Plaza Court 4

How to get Faculty Interested in Alt Text: Providing Purpose in UDL and Access Training (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)

Justi Echeles, Course Development Manager / Accessibility Specialist, Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU)

This session begins with lessons learned from the past three years of faculty training on accessibility and Universal Design. The focus is on finding purpose to foster faculty interest and buy-in through varied yet integrated trainings on course design, inclusivity, equitable access, and Universal Design for Learning, among others.
Breakout Sessions, 11:45 am – 12:45 pm

Evaluating Web Accessibility: How Hard Can it Be?
Jonathan Whiting, Director of Training & Evaluation, WebAIM

There are many things that anyone can do to evaluate the accessibility of a webpage. However, a thorough evaluation requires much more than a quick test with an accessibility tool or two. During this workshop, discover the many steps needed to evaluate something as simple as a single checkbox, and learn where you can find resources to help you evaluate your own web content.

Governor’s Square 10

A11y, AI, & Machine Learning: Opportunities & Threats
Christopher Land, Accessibility Training Manager, Level Access

Discussion on new technologies impacting people with disabilities, both good and bad, including innovations on the horizon and around the corner presenting promise and risk.

Governor’s Square 12

Upcoming Changes to the Standards: A Look at PDF/UA-2
Paul Rayius, Vice President of Training, CommonLook

The ISO is expected to release PDF/UA-2 in January of 2022. This presentation will discuss the upcoming changes to the accessibility standard and how to prepare for it.

Plaza Court 1

Dump the Documents: Examples of “No File Downloads” Approach to Accessibility (Virtual A)
Joan Concilio, Web Specialist, Penn State College of Medicine

Over the past five years, the websites of Penn State College of Medicine went from including more than 2,700 downloadable files to fewer than 30. This session will look at why this is important from an accessibility (and general usability!) perspective and share ideas on how it can be achieved at other institutions.

Plaza Court 2
Friday, November 19

Building a Culture of Accessibility: Accessing Wellness Resources to Improve Learning Environments (Virtual B)

Heather Flett, Director Postgraduate Wellness Office, Postgraduate Medicine, UofT, University of Toronto
Tina Martimianakis, MA, MEd, PhD,, Director of Medical Education Scholarship and Associate Professor, Department of Paediatrics Scientist and Associate Director, Collaborations and Partnerships Wilson Centre for Research in Education, Hospital for Sick Children, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto Toronto, Ontario

This interactive workshop will describe and explore the effects of the Hidden Curriculum (HC) through cases that highlight cultural barriers to accessibility in medical education. This workshop will demonstrate a mechanism for programs to monitor the HC and identify priorities towards improved wellness and accessibility for learners.

Plaza Court 3

Campus-Wide Development and Practices of an Independent Accessible Technology Office

Allyson Bartley, Accessible Content Specialist, CSU, Chico
Brandy Cervantes, Instructional Support Assistant, CSU, Chico

Participants in this session will learn our approach and strategy in creating a stand-alone accessible technology team. We will share promising practices and resources that have contributed to our growth, as well as trials and tribulations along the way.

Plaza Court 4

Peer-Focused Assistive Technology Support (Virtual C) (Zoom Only)

Cassandra LePoulttre, Assistive Technology Advisor, Smith College

The assistive technology advisor for Smith College, Cassandra LePoulttre, has trained and supported her peers in the transition from in-person to remote instruction. As a student employee, Cassandra will relate the effectiveness of peer-focused support, and how this helps to provide a bridge between administrative and student perspectives.
Exhibit Hall Map

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Adobe (Computer Lab Sponsor)
Adobe is changing the world through digital experiences. We help our customers create, deliver and optimize content and applications.
www.adobe.com/accessibility

Pope Tech (Bag Sponsor)
Booth #6
Web Accessibility Testing & Reporting
Pope Tech’s web accessibility platform is designed with higher education in mind. We provide institution-wide WAVE scanning and reporting for your whole .edu. With an easy-to-use platform that provides: Scalability, Reliability, & Responsive Support, there are so many reasons why higher education institutions are choosing Pope Tech.
https://pope.tech

ReadSpeaker (Gold Sponsor)
Booth #5
ReadSpeaker, a leader in TTS, provides accessibility tools with certified integrations in Blackboard, Canvas, BrightSpace and other LMS providers. Utilizing the best voices in the market, our tools enhance the online learning experience for ALL learners AND provide the flexibility and compatibility to provide accommodations for testing using UDL methodology.
www.readspeaker.com/education

Texthelp Inc. (Gold Sponsor)
Booth #12
Helping every young person achieve their full potential
Hello, we’re Texthelp... We believe that literacy is every student’s passport to academic, social and professional success. It’s our genuine desire to help students understand, learn and express themselves. Our suite of smart, user-friendly, literacy, language, and STEM tools for personalized learning allow your students to pick and choose the functionality that supports their unique needs and preferences, enabling them to fully engage with the subject matter and excel in the classroom. Texthelp software continues to be used daily by millions of students and educators throughout schools, colleges and universities worldwide.
https://www.texthelp.com/education/
Ai-Media Technologies (Bronze Sponsor)
Booth #9
The only one-stop captioning shop.
Ai-Media Technologies is proud to be the world’s only one-stop captioning & broadcast technology shop founded by people who are Deaf, employing people who are Deaf or Hard-of-hearing and serving people who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. Our full compliment of captioning, CART, language translation (multi-lingual), post-production (Recorded Media), human and ASR services, closed captioning equipment and technical expertise in the areas of academic captioning, large event accessibility, broadcast television, and streaming accessibility are equaled by none
www.ai-media.tv

S-Comm. Inc. (Bronze Sponsor)
Booth #3
sComm is the manufacturer of the UbiDuo. The UbiDuo communication device enables deaf or hard of hearing and hearing to communicate with each other face-to-face when the interpreter is not available. The UbiDuo allows deaf or hard-of-hearing users to converse with hearing anywhere, anytime, in any setting. Learn more about the UbiDuo at www.sComm.com

Commonlook (Bronze Sponsor)
Booth #14
CommonLook® is a world-leading provider of software products and professional services enabling government agencies and corporations to meet their obligations for electronic document accessibility to achieve compliance accessibility standards, including WCAG, PDF/UA and Section 508. CommonLook also leads in PDF accessibility through contributions from its key executives to standards-setting entities.

Watermark Insights LLC (Bronze Sponsor)
Insights Inspire Progress. Built for higher ed, Watermark’s solutions give institutions the insights they need to improve, evolve, and empower student success. The Watermark suite offers a hub of insights to promote continuous improvement, efficient reporting, streamlined communication, and cross-campus collaboration.
https://www.watermarkinsights.com/
Sponsors & Exhibitors

The Axia Group
Booth #4
We’re a group of trusted advisors committed to working closely with our clients to meet their accessibility goals while maintaining cost efficiency. We are trainers, teachers, designers, motivators, and strategic support consultants who love improving the world—one user experience at a time—while having fun in the process.
http://www.axia-group.com

Glean (formerly Sonocent)
Booth #8
Glean is the antidote to information overload for improved learning, productivity, and student success. Our inclusive learning technology empowers students of all abilities to take meaningful audio notes with a proven note taking process. Our technology doesn’t take notes for you, instead it scaffolds how you learn from information so you build effective note taking skills. Designed for colleges and universities, Glean for Education facilitates learning across campus with a suite of note taking tools that build 21st century skills and streamline student support. The Glean Team’s note taking specialists work with educators and students alike to unleash learning potential
www.glean.co

Habitat Learn Inc.
Booth #13
Habitat Learn is an ecosystem of accessible products and services created to remove the barriers to learning through human-centered design.
https://www.habitatlearn.com/

LVI America
Booth #11
Creating Opportunities
LVI America is a subsidiary of LVI Low Vision International. With the mission to make every day easier for people with visual impairments, LVI develops, produces and sells visual aids with high standards for reliability, simplicity and serviceability. In the year of 2018, LVI celebrated 40 years in the industry. With a wider product range and strength both nationally and internationally, LVI will work towards even more innovative solutions that will make every
day easier for people with visual impairments.
https://lviamerica.com/

Sensus ApS
Booth #10
SensusAccess - alternate media made easy
Sensus is a company specializing in developing inclusion technology as well as working as expert accessibility advisors for government bodies. Sensus is behind the award winning SensusAccess service, SensusLibrary, and SensusComply
https://sensusaccess.com
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