

Jess Thompson

Program Administrator, Accessible Technology Initiatives

Role(s):

- Accessibility Instigator/Agitator/Evangelist

Responsibilities:

- Faculty/system accessibility training
- CATO (Committee for Accessible Technology Oversight)
- Accessible instructional technologies
- Liaise between eLearning & Disability Support Services
- Communicate about accessibility related events and opportunities
- Obsess over typos in widely distributed emails

Current Projects

[Accessibility 101 Training](#)

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[CATO \(Committee For Accessible Technology Oversight\)](#)

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Accessibility 101 Training

This 4-week, free, online, asynchronous course is designed for faculty and staff who want to learn simple and quick steps to make materials accessible for people with disabilities and better for all users. Participants do not need to be tech savvy to take this course, but familiarity with MS Office applications and Canvas will be important. There are also additional (optional) lessons on PDF accessibility, accessibility info for web developers, and a few discipline specific resources. Participants will be introduced to basic accessibility concepts, practices, and inclusive design standards. The time commitment for this course is approximately 25 hours.

Public facing lessons: <http://bit.ly/sbctcaccess> (this is updated often with more lessons)

Public facing STEM-centric Accessibility 101: <http://bit.ly/A101-STEM>

**We are not currently scheduling future sessions due to the redesign discussed in the next section.

The course is also available on Canvas Commons. (Feel free to contact me if you're about to import it -

sometimes I need prompting to upload the newest version.)

Accessibility 101 Redesign & Badging Initiative

The current version of Accessibility 101 provides a very thorough and broad introduction to accessibility. The training hits on many areas (MS Office, PDFs, Universal Design, the laws, Canvas, video captioning, etc.). Very few positions on a college campus require knowledge of accessibility in all of these areas. As a result, SBCTC is redesigning Accessibility 101 to be a collection of 9 - 12 shorter, more focused courses.

In addition to disaggregating the larger, more comprehensive course, we will be issuing badges for completion of the courses. These badges will serve as a digital record of completion for the various accessibility courses. Further, we will be designing “composite badges” (a larger umbrella badge that contains multiple smaller/individual badges) for various roles on campus (faculty, staff, web editors) in hopes of providing a more directed pathway for professional development around accessibility.

As digital credentials/records of accomplishment, badges can be shared widely and will provide us with better tracking of professional development and training completion in the system.

Read more about our redesign and badging initiative in the blog post [Accessibility 101 Redesign](#).

We hope to launch the new accessibility badging initiative in Winter or Spring of 2019.

Other members of the eLearning team involved: Steve Gance

CATO (Committee For Accessible Technology Oversight)

The Committee for Accessible Technology Oversight (CATO) was formed in response to the approval of the State Board Accessible Technology Policy. CATO has representatives from various councils and commissions, as well as the State Board in order to advise several SBCTC councils and commissions on matters of accessibility and technology, while supporting the creation of annual work plans and monitoring progress on their achievements. The committee is also responsible for making recommendations, establishing guidelines, and disseminating best practices for technology accessibility.

[CATO & Accessible Technology Policy Talking Points](#)

Other members of the eLearning team involved: Mark Jenkins

CATO Members: Warn Naf (Whatcom, ITC), Amy Rovner (Shoreline, eLearning), Karen Fusco (Olympic, DSS), Terence Hsiao (Cascadia, BAC), Kerri Holftery (Whatcom, DSS)

Access360

Access360 offers a yearlong mentorship opportunity for cross-functional campus teams as they implement accessibility policies on a broad scale to effectively, efficiently and equitably serve students, employees, and community members. Participation in Access 360 will help campuses

- create (or strengthen) how your cross functional team works collaboratively to ensure successful implementation of accessibility policies and practices on your campus;
- find time, space, and generative structures so your team can identify achievable goals and a realistic plan;
- provide scheduled support and accountability as your team moves through its plan to fully realize your campus goals.

Additionally, participating colleges will serve as case-studies for SBCTC staff to learn what areas are in need of greater support from the State Board by completing a self-study using the [GOALS Benchmark and Planning Tool](#).

Our first cohort of Access360 schools participated over the course of the 2017 - 18 academic year. As a cohort, the group made fabulous progress. Check out last year's [Summary Report](#) to learn more about the scope and progress of Access360.

2018 - 19 Access360 Cohort: Bates, Bellingham Tech, Big Bend, Clover Park, Green River, Pierce, Olympic, Renton, Spokane, Yamika Valley

Other members of the eLearning team involved: Mark Jenkins

Accessibility Compliance Inventory/Tracker

In response to the need for colleges to determine product compliance, CATO is working to develop an application that will allow members from the CTC system to contribute to an inventory of currently used technology. Our initial vision is for this web application to be made available to all members of the CTC system. To help distribute the cost of testing, we are currently exploring a subscription model in which account holders from subscribing colleges will be granted greater permissions, allowing them to view objective, third party accessibility testing/verification results. Our business model is still in development.

To support this work, we are also considering developing a network of trusted testers - people that have all completed the same training and work from the same set of standards in order to do automated and manual testing of technologies. Our first step is to research and develop a certification process for testers. Once that is established we will define the process by which certified testers can contribute to the results featured in the inventory/tracking program. If you would like to participate in some way, please feel free to reach out to me.

System Wide Captioning

In Fall 2015, SBCTC partnered with the public four-year colleges and universities to find a closed captioning vendor. After a thorough RFP process, SBCTC entered into a contract with [3Play Media](#). Any college is welcome to use 3Play Media using the [pricing schedule](#)¹ from the contract. Further, SBCTC has been working on a subsidized captioning effort to help support colleges in the CTC system. We are in the process of rolling out the Caption Hub that allows colleges to access the subsidized pricing for captions, as

¹ <http://www.3playmedia.com/sbctc/>

well as moderate requests (a feature 3Play Media does not allow).

- [Caption Hub overview video](#)
- [Caption Hub one pager](#)
- Subsidized pricing schedule that prioritizes:
 - Instructional videos
 - 15 min or less
 - Openly licensed
 - [WA 45](#)
 - Used over multiple quarters
- Colleges ready to launch the Hub should check out the [Caption Hub Toolkit](#) for some assistance on defining their process and identifying Caption Hub administrators
- Once you are ready to launch the Hub, complete the [Set-up Sign-up Survey](#) to be added to the queue

Other members of the eLearning team involved: Paul Kreemer, Mark Carbon, Brook Bane

Ally Implementation

[Ally](#) is a tool that seamlessly integrates into Canvas to encourage and track improvements towards greater accessibility in the online course venue. SBCTC has entered into contract with Blackboard's Ally in order to better support the colleges and faculty in evaluating and making their content more accessible to students with disabilities.

- [Ally overview video](#)
- [Ally one pager](#)
- Three main functions:
 - Scans materials and marks them as good or bad, while providing feedback for remediation
 - Converts files to accessible formats (HTML, ePub, electronic Braille)
 - Scans all courses to develop institutional report - can track improvement over time.

At this point in time, 33 of the 34 colleges have opted in to use Ally. Contact your eLearning office to learn more about enabling Ally in your Canvas course if it is not currently enabled.

Other members of the eLearning team involved: Steve Gance

Accessibility Advocacy

Announcements about events, training, resources, and accessibility success stories are shared on the [AccessWA Blog](#).

Each year I host a series of accessibility related webinars. Descriptions of and registration (for upcoming webinars) for the webinars can be accessed by clicking on the name of the webinar from the list below. All *registered* participants will receive webinar materials and a copy of the recording. Live captions are available for all webinars.

To keep in the loop make sure you join the [CTCAccess listserv](#)!

Recordings and materials from the 2018 Webinar series can be accessed on the [AccessWA blog](#).

Other Rabbit Holes:

- The Accessibility Roadshow:
 - Provide face-to-face workshops/trainings on accessible design.
 - Report on accessibility updates and best practices to various councils, commissions, and college governance groups.
- Assist colleges and colleagues communicate with vendors about state accessibility requirements.
- Coordinate with eLearning Coordinators' Accessibility workgroup to hold summer accessibility retreat.
- Collaborate with members of other state agencies and institutions of higher ed to promote shared resources around accessibility.
- Improve accessible practices within the State Board.
- Follow and participate in broader efforts to improve accessibility in higher ed (specifically EDUCAUSE Accessibility Constituent Group and IMS Global)
- Serve on the WA State [Disability and Inclusion Network's Business Resource Group \(DIN BRG\)](#).

Resources & Handouts

- [SBCTC Accessible Technology Policy](#)
- [Accessibility Issue Brief](#)
- [Procurement Matters](#)
- [Procurement Matters - Faculty Edition](#)
- [2018 Webinar Recordings](#)
- [Hello Publisher Representative Door Sign](#)
- [Accessibility in Canvas](#)

Questions? Contact Me! jess.thompson@sbctc.edu