



Oklahoma ABLE Tech

Web Accessibility Higher Education Project

Web accessibility success and compliance in Oklahoma's Higher Education Institutions.

Background:

Just as the physical world of buildings and facilities can pose barriers to individuals with disabilities, the virtual environment of information and communication technology (ICT) can pose many barriers to individuals with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act prohibits discrimination of people with disabilities and requires standards to provide for accessible architecture and programs. In 2001, federal standards were adopted as part of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act to improve the accessibility of ICT. In 2004, the Oklahoma legislature passed the Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Law and 508 standards. Oklahoma's law requires state agencies, post-secondary institutions, and the Career Technology Centers to procure, develop, and maintain accessible information and communication technology. ICT includes computers, telephone equipment, multimedia, distance learning systems, software, and websites.

The federal 508 standards are now outdated, and the federal Access Board is due to release an updated set of standards within the next two years which will result in an update for Oklahoma's standards. The 2010 passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments and consumer complaints regarding inaccessible information communication technology in government and private business has resulted in a resurgence of interest in ICT accessibility compliance.

Goal: Oklahoma ABLE Tech's goal is to provide a targeted training and technical assistance program to assist Oklahoma's Higher Education Institutions to increase the accessibility and legal compliance of their institutional websites.

- Oklahoma Electronic and Information Technology Accessibility Law 2004
- Federal Section 504 and Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act
- Americans with Disabilities Act

Institution-wide web accessibility is best attained and sustained when there is leadership to support institution-wide vision and commitment toward accessibility. This support should come from many levels including an institution's governing board, administrators, and key personnel. Each must actively support, participate, and take ownership in the work and outcomes of accessibility.





Where You Are

The first section of the research project will survey all Oklahoma Higher Education Institution websites for compliance to future web accessibility standards and guidelines (WCAG 2.0). WebAIM and OK ABLE Tech will provide analysis and prepare individual reports.

Institutions will participate via a Memorandum of Understanding.



Where You Need to Be

Institutions will be provided with individual reports and analysis comparing current web accessibility to future WCAG 2.0 standards. Aggregate reporting will be provided and will not identify institutions by name. Individual reports will allow for a comparison of accessibility to other anonymous Oklahoma Higher Education Institutions.



How to Get There

Fall 2012, WebAIM and Oklahoma ABLE Tech will train stakeholders (administration and developers) at a two-day meeting to provide the specific tools, techniques, and resources needed to promote and develop an accessible web presence. Over a multi-year process, institutions will be guided through a multi-modal approach to develop a detailed plan of action resulting in improved web accessibility and compliance to the revised standards.

- Web accessibility analysis of Oklahoma Higher Education Institutions Summer 2012
- Commitment of Administrative Leadership June 2012
 - Memorandum of Understanding between participating institutions and Oklahoma ABLE Tech at Oklahoma State University
 - Institutions identify team participants
- Two-Day Training October 23-24, 2012
 - First day: 1/2 day overview for all participants; 1/2 day for administrator policy development and implementation training and 1/2 day developer training
 - Second day: web developer training
- ABLE Tech and WebAIM facilitation of the National Center on Disability and Access to Education (NCDAAE) GOALS self-study audit tool to guide institutional progress
- Years 2-4 individual technical assistance from WebAIM.org and interval training with benchmarks
- Final web accessibility analysis of Oklahoma Higher Education Institutions to determine progress and compliance with laws and standards Spring 2016
- Compliance statement of achievement offered to institutions
- Benefits: opportunity to receive targeted training and technical assistance from Oklahoma ABLE Tech, nationally recognized accessibility experts, WebAIM, and the NCDAAE GOALS Project. Create a feasible plan and expertise to develop a system-wide commitment to accessibility and the technical development skills to comply with laws and standards.
- **The estimated value of services per institution is \$22,000.**