



8th Annual



ACCESSIBILITY CONFERENCE

Excellence Through Academic Partnership

April 11th, 2017 **John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

8th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference

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2017 CUNY Accessibility Conference Committee

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GREETINGS

April 11, 2017

Good morning!

Welcome to the 8th annual CUNY Accessibility Conference, the major gathering of its type on the East Coast. As such, the CUNY Accessibility Conference has been instrumental in fostering significant progress in accessibility across CUNY.

Our focus today will be on many topics, including classroom accessibility processes, teaching techniques for Faculty, guidance on online course design and Blackboard accessibility tools for Faculty, as well as universal design concepts, assistive technologies used in remedial education of students with disabilities, and Student-Faculty collaborations. You'll also learn about some new developments and products in assistive technologies from our sponsoring vendors.

Presenters include staff from Lehman College's School of Education, CUNY START, LaGuardia, Kingsborough and Queensborough Community Colleges, Baruch College, and from CUNY students.

Today we are fortunate to have as our Keynote Speaker Dr. Vita C. Rabinowitz, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost of CUNY. She has been a faculty member and mentor for more than 30 years as well as a leader in faculty development. We are gratified to have her support this Conference by her presence and are eager to hear her comments today.

Please make sure to make this a day of learning and sharing; a day of networking and re-acquaintance with colleagues and a day of harvest; the harvesting of ideas and relationships that will help you and your students reach your goals.

And of course, thank you for the privilege of sharing your valuable time with us! So on behalf of the CUNY Accessibility Conference Coordinating Committee;

Have a productive day!

Carlos M. Herrera

April 11, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

Please accept my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for a most successful 8th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference! I am so proud to have watched this conference grow from its beginning in 2009 as an in-service training on assistive technology for CUNY disability services professionals to one of the premier national conferences on access technology in higher education. Today, the CUNY Accessibility Conference attracts over 300 attendees from across the country.

This year's conference, "Excellence through Academic Partnership," will tackle timely and pressing issues related to digital accessibility in the postsecondary setting. With an emphasis on disability services professionals' partnership with faculty, this conference will share ideas and practices designed to insure truly inclusive and meaningful access for students with disabilities. In addition, this year's Accessibility Conference is a signature event of the 15th Annual CUNY Disability Awareness Month.

I am especially honored to welcome CUNY's Executive Vice Chancellor & University Provost Vita Rabinowitz as our keynote speaker. In addition to her position as Executive Vice Chancellor, Dr. Rabinowitz has a distinguished history of leadership, teaching and scholarship and has demonstrated a deep commitment to access and success for students with disabilities. I know that her vision for a robust collaboration between disability services professionals and faculty will help move the University forward in providing the best possible higher education experience for students with disabilities.

Additionally, please join me in recognizing CUNY's IT Accessibility Committee. With the support and guidance of Vice Chancellor for Technology & CIO Brian Cohen, CUNY continues to make steady progress towards universal technological access. We celebrate these accomplishments today!

Finally, I extend my deep appreciation to the Conference Planning Committee, the CUNY Council on Student Disability Issues (COSDI), the CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS) Project, and our "CUNY AT vendor community" for their support to make this year's conference the best one yet. My colleagues and I from CUNY's Central Office of Student Affairs are honored to help sponsor this conference, and are eager to learn alongside you today.

Sincerely,



Christopher J. Rosa, Ph.D.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Vita C. Rabinowitz
Executive Vice Chancellor
University Provost of CUNY
City University of New York

Since her service in this role began in July 2015, she has worked to advance university priorities related to college readiness, degree completion, comprehensive developmental education reform, and workforce development as well as performance management and assessment, among other areas. She has also established CUNY's Office of Faculty Affairs, which aims to work collaboratively with colleagues across the university to ensure that faculty are supported and recognized for their essential contributions to students, the University, and their disciplines.

For nearly a decade prior to her current appointment, Dr. Rabinowitz served as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at Hunter College, where she spent 37 years as a dedicated faculty member, taught and mentored thousands of students, and served in a variety of administrative positions. While there, Dr. Rabinowitz was the recipient of major NSF grants, including one that established the Gender Equity Project (GEP), which sought to advance women faculty in the natural and social sciences and became an incubator for faculty development. She served as co-director of the GEP for eight years. As provost, she received an NSF award to strengthen the many STEM enrichment programs and launch an Undergraduate Research Initiative.

AWARDEES

Kelvin Henry



Kelvin Henry had the opportunity to grow up on the beautiful Caribbean island of Grenada as well as the United States. In 2004, he was shot in the back and, as a result, became a paraplegic; it was a very traumatizing and life-changing event that allowed him to look at life in a different perspective. He is currently a student at Queensborough Community College, majoring in mechanical engineering technology. His interests include fashion design, photography, and mechanical engineering. In May of 2016, he won the Capital One & CUNY Entrepreneurs competition for his adaptive clothing company called Kmatikz. He plans to graduate from Queensborough in June of this year. After graduation, his goal is to further establish his Kmatikz clothing company and also further his education in Engineering. His aim is to keep on the path to success and really change the world for the better.

Mariette J. Bates



Mariette J. Bates is the Academic Director of Disability Studies programs and a Distinguished Lecturer at CUNY's School of Professional Studies. Dr. Bates began her career as an advocate for the institutionalized mentally ill, before becoming the Program Director at One to One, a foundation started by Geraldo Rivera in the wake of his expose of Willowbrook State School on Staten Island. At One to One, Dr. Bates was responsible for the grantmaking program, training and technical assistance to grantees, and for convening and training court-appointed monitors overseeing consent decrees and other institutional reforms.

Arthur Downing, Ph.D



As Baruch College's Chief Information Officer, Professor Downing provides leadership for campus-wide IT activities, including computing, networking, telecommunications, academic and instructional technology as well as enterprise administrative and academic systems. He oversees the Office of Institutional Research, applying IT resources to fulfill its mission of compiling, maintaining, and analyzing institutional and other data to support the operation, decision-making, and planning functions of the College. As Dean of the Library, he is responsible for the administration of all library services as well as an active instruction program that offers a Minor in Information Studies. Professor Downing holds three degrees from Rutgers University (AB, MLS and PhD), along with a master's degree in Linguistics from NYU.

8th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference Program and Presentation Schedule

7:30am to 8:45am	Registration and Breakfast	2nd floor Cafeteria
8:45am to 10:00am	Conference Convened	2nd floor Cafeteria
	Welcoming and Introductions	Carlos M. Herrera, Assistant Director, SSD, QCC Ashleigh Thompson, University Dean for Education Christopher J. Rosa, Interim Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
	Keynote Speaker	Dr. Vita C. Rabinowitz, Executive Vice Chancellor and University Provost, CUNY
10:10am to 11:25am		(See Presentation grid)
11:35am to 1:00pm		2nd floor Cafeteria Hound Square
1:15pm to 2:30pm		(see Presentation grid)
2:45pm		

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PRESENTATIONS

Making Multimedia Content Accessible to All: Blackboard, Softchalk, PlayPoist, and More

Denis Bejar, Mark Carpenay
Queensborough Community College

Time: 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Location: Level L, Room L.63

Creating online courses that are accessible to all students regardless of age, ability, or life situation can be challenging. This workshop explains some of the ways course content can be made accessible, benefiting all students, regardless of ability. We will review online course design, giving practical advice on making courses more accessible, the various technologies that enable access, and the barriers that can inadvertently block student engagement. Throughout the presentation, we will provide specific examples of accessibility when creating and managing online content through the Learning Management System (Blackboard), and other instructional technology platforms such as VoiceThread, Softchalk, and PlayPosit.

Denis Bejar has served as IT Academic Applications Manager/Blackboard Administrator at Queensborough Community College since 2010. In his current capacity Denis is responsible for maintaining the integrity and functionality of the Blackboard and Digication Learning Management Systems. He also designs and delivers a variety of pedagogical and technological workshops for faculty, including online teaching strategies, course design and interactive technologies. Denis has represented QCC on various eLearning Projects, off-campus workshops, CUNY Conferences, and other events. Denis also serves as an Adjunct Instructor in the Business Department. Denis holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics from Queen College and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Stony Brook University.

Mr. Mark Carpenay currently holds a Masters in Computer Science from Lehman College CUNY and has done extensive research work in the field of Computational Biology. Mr. Mark Carpenay is currently an IT Academic Technology Coordinator at the Office of Educational Technology, Queensborough Community College where he has serves, as a member of the Blackboard Team providing training and assistance to students and faculty on the effective use of blackboard and other software supported by the campus. Mr. Mark Carpenay also serves as an Adjunct Lecturer in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

Lehman College: School of Education Shares Ah-ha Moments, Lessons Learned and Recommendations from Evaluating ADA Compliance in Online Course Design

Leslie Lieman, Naliza Sadik, William Medina
Lehman College

Time: 10:10am - 11:25am

Location: Level L, Room L.63

Is your online or hybrid course ADA compliant? What does compliance in an online course require? Why and how would you start your review?

Lehman College School of Education offers all CUNY education students asynchronous-online teacher-certification test preparation modules via Blackboard. Join our team as we share our experiences (the good, the bad, and the ugly) of reviewing these online Bb modules with an initial checklist for ADA compliance and universal design (navigation, documents, PDFs, video, closed captioning, and more). Participants will have the opportunity to “hear” an online course using a screen reader. We will share specific examples of how, why and which steps to take towards improving ADA compliance in online course design. We will also identify some modifications faculty can make to online or hybrid courses and we will identify other compliance issues that might need a campus solution.

Leslie Lieman is the Educational Technology Coordinator for the Lehman College School of Education. Her work focuses on best practices and integration of technology in teaching, learning, and assessment. Leslie was the recipient of the CUNY STI Accessibility funding and has helped increase awareness and ADA compliance in online coursework. Her current effort is to support students’ successful completion of NYS Teacher Certification Exams.

Naliza Sadik, Educational Technology Assistant, expertly supports faculty on the improved use of Blackboard and Taskstream and assists faculty and students in improving their use of technology in the classroom. She is a critical member of the CUNY STI Accessibility Project team.

William Medina, College Assistant, graduated from Lehman College with Master’s Degree in Accounting. William helped navigate the fully online School of Education Certification Test Preparation Modules using a screen reader. William’s expertise has led to updating all modules making them more accessible for all learners.

PRESENTATIONS

The Strategic Technology Initiative at CUNY START: Exploring Accessibility, Engagement, and Inclusion

Susannah Thompson, Hilary Sideris
CUNY Start

Time: 10:10am - 11:25am

Location: Level L, Room L.61

It began with a Strategic Technology grant to support the use of elements of Universal Design for Learning and Assistive Technology within two of our CUNY Start campus-based programs and has taken root in teachers' classrooms! In our session, we will present a picture of how our CUNY Start Central Office team and teams at the College of Staten Island and the Borough of Manhattan Community College, in collaboration with the campus Student Accessibility Offices, have utilized our grant to support accessibility and engagement for all in the CUNY Start classroom.

Susannah Thompson is currently the Director of Curriculum and Instruction for CUNY Start and Math Start since June 2016, Susannah Thompson has an extensive background in professional development, writing across the curriculum, and adult literacy. An alumna of the NYC Writing Project (the local site of the National Writing Project) and a longtime instructor and designer of F2F, hybrid, and online curriculum for the Adult Degree Program at Lehman College, CUNY, she has always championed the integration of technology into the classroom. As both an educator and the parent of a son with learning differences, she takes both a professional and personal interest in making learning inclusive and accessible for all.

Hilary Sideris is a reading/writing professional developer for CUNY Start, an innovative semester-long program that serves incoming freshmen with developmental needs in reading, writing and math. She develops curricula that model effective approaches to teaching reading and writing and provides ongoing support to CUNY Start's reading/writing teachers as they prepare students for credit courses at CUNY.

PRESENTATIONS

Project PASS: Promoting Access, Success, and Support

Tameka Battle, Jennifer Louis
LaGuardia Community College

Time: 10:10am - 11:25am

Location: Level L, Room 2.84

This presentation will look at alternative ways to assist educators and students in Project PASS: Promoting Access, Support and Success... A Strength-Based Approach to Classroom Inclusion. This presentation will also look at the concept and principles of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and how traditional Assistive Technology helps to compliment this concept as it relates to providing strength based approaches in the classroom that provide students with barrier-free support barriers and help improve student engagement and success.

Over the last 25 years, the Center for Applied Special Technology (CAST) has conducted extensive research and explored ways of using new technologies to provide better educational experiences to students with disabilities.

Tameka Battle, Assistant Professor, Program Director of Recreation Therapy at LaGuardia Community College with over 20 years of experience in healthcare and education, developed and implemented the 1st Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program in a NYS Nursing and Rehabilitation facility that employed the use of Assistive Technology for deaf and hard of hearing individuals. It is Professor Battle's passion to explore the role of educators as conduits in providing strategies that support the concepts and principles of UDL and Assistive Technology in the classroom.

Jennifer Louis, Assistant Professor, received her B.S., M.S. in Nursing Education from Molloy College. She is a registered Nurse with more than twelve years Emergency Department nursing and Clinical Adjunct experience. Prior to coming to LaGuardia, she spent three years as a Clinical Lab Technician, Lab skill evaluator, and Simulation facilitator utilizing low, medium, and high fidelity Laerdal Patient Simulator Manikins in the Bachelors Nursing program at York College.

Using the concepts and principles of UDL, she introduced multiple ways of learning, such as Enhanced Group-work, Role Play, Advanced and Unfolding Case-Studies, Digication games, and more frequent Simulation throughout the courses.

Professor Louis believes the student we teach today will become our care-givers tomorrow.

PRESENTATIONS

Working Towards Inclusion for All Learners through Faculty Support: A Cross Campus Collaboration

Peter Santiago, Tsubasa Berg
Kingsborough Community College

Time: 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Location: Level L, Room L.76

Since its creation the Kingsborough Center for e-Learning (KCeL) has partnered with Access-Ability Services to promote an “Inclusion for All Learners” approach in hybrid and online courses at Kingsborough Community College by integrating accessibility awareness into their training and online course design support. Through the guiding principle of access KCeL has worked one on one with faculty to improve the success of students in on-line courses and in the classroom.

This presentation will discuss the process by which KCeL’s faculty training and support model was created and how it has influenced faculty and benefited students with disabilities.

Tsubasa Berg has been serving as the manager at Kingsborough Center for e-Learning (KCeL) since Fall 2015. Prior to KCeL, he worked as a manager of Kingsborough Center for Advanced Technology Training, and Sports Information Director at Kingsborough athletics.

Peter Santiago, LMHC is the Assistant Director of Access-Ability Services at Kingsborough Community College, where he works directly with a cohort of students with disabilities as both a counselor and advocate. Additionally Mr. Santiago provides consultation to faculty and staff at the college regarding equity for students. He has also served as a member of the CUNY Accessibility Conference Planning Committee for the last four years. He is a NYS licensed mental health counselor, certified by The National Board of Certified Counselors. Mr. Santiago is particularly interested in using technology to address limitations and remove barriers. He welcomes collaboration on creating programs and initiatives to benefit people with disabilities.

PRESENTATIONS

Effective Communication Techniques and Strategies for Faculty, Students, and Student Disability Services

Patricia Clarke Fleming, Ben Freier, Dr. Stella Woodroffe
Council on Student Disability Issues (COSDI)

Time: 10:10am - 11:25am

Location: Level L, Room L.76

Join three seasoned CUNY Disability Services Directors as they explore Effective Communication Techniques and Strategies from three different perspectives: Faculty, Student, and Disability Services Office. During this session, you will learn: Effective classroom strategies for faculty, CUNY Procedures for implementing Reasonable Accommodations and Academic Adjustments for Students, and the interactive process for students requesting accommodations through Student Disability Services, including the student's responsibility as well as the responsibility of Student Disability Services.

Patricia Clarke Fleming, LMHC, CRC, serves as Baruch College's Director for Student Disability Services and an integral member of the Student Affairs leadership team. Ms. Fleming embraces technology to improve access and delivery of services to CUNY students with disabilities. Ms. Fleming currently serves proudly as Co-Chair of CUNY's Council on Student Disability Issues along with Raymond Perez of Hostos Community College.

Ben Freier has over 17 years' experience working with students with disabilities in higher education. Ben currently serves as Director of Services for Students with Disabilities at Queensborough Community College where he manages a multi-faceted disability services program consistent with nationally regarded best practices. He had also been unanimously elected by his peers twice to serve as Co-Chair of CUNY's Council on Student Disability Issues, an advisory body to the Chancellery on issues of importance to students with disabilities.

Dr. Stella Woodroffe, PhD, LMHC, has over twenty-five years of experience working with adolescents and adults in high school, college, and community-based settings. She has an interest in and history of helping individuals to navigate their life transitions successfully. In her current position as Director of Access-Ability Services at Kingsborough Community College, Dr. Woodroffe recognizes a need to facilitate student transition into college as a means of promoting academic achievement. In addition to providing accommodations, she and her staff offer support services that help students understand and navigate their new responsibilities as college students.

PRESENTATIONS

The CCSD “Happy Hour”, Featuring... FREE APPS!

CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD)

Time: 1:15pm - 2:30pm

Location: Level L, Room L2.84

Many CUNY students with disabilities are “digital natives” who access much of their academic and personal information via hand-held devices. Furthermore, many students leverage their smartphones in order design their own “digital profiles” of accommodations. Many of these digital supports come in the forms of free or low-cost access-enhancing apps. During this 60 minute session, members of the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD) will feature “FREE APPS” – virtual and literal – for a fun-filled hour that highlights the top digital resources that CUNY students are using to improve their access and promote their independence and success.

CCSD is a coalition of student clubs/organizations aimed at protecting students’ rights, in particular students with disabilities. We explore politics and political action, as well as discussing and debating developments in local, state, and national politics. CCSD strives to increase awareness, opportunity and foster community amongst CUNY’s students with disabilities.

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PRESENTATION GRID

<p>10:10 am to 11:25 am</p>	<p>Session IA The Strategic Technology Initiative at CUNY START: Exploring Accessibility, Engagement, and Inclusion</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 10) Level L, Room: L.61</p>	<p>Session IB Project PASS: Promoting Access, Success, and Support</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 11) Level L, Room: L2.84</p>
<p>11:35 am to 1:00 pm</p>	<p>Luncheon - 2nd floor Cafeteria Vendor Showcase - Hound Square (Landing between first and second floor)</p>	
<p>1:15 pm to 2:30 pm</p>	<p>Session IIA To be determined</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 14) Level L, Room: L.61</p>	<p>Session IIB The CCSD “Happy Hour”, Featuring... FREE APPS!</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 14) Level L, Room: L2.84</p>
<p>2:45 pm</p>	<p>Conference Adjourned</p>	

PRESENTATION GRID

<p>Session IC</p> <p>Effective Communication Techniques and Strategies for Faculty, Students, and Student Disability Services</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 13) Level L, Room: L.76</p>	<p>Session ID</p> <p>Lehman College: School of Education Shares Ah-ha Moments, Lessons Learned, and Recommendations from Evaluating ADA Compliance in Online Course Design</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 9) Level L, Room: L.63</p>	<p>10:10 am to 11:25 am</p>
<p>Luncheon - 2nd floor Cafeteria Vendor Showcase - Hound Square (Landing between first and second floor)</p>		<p>11:35 am to 1:00 pm</p>
<p>Session IIC</p> <p>Working Towards Inclusion for All Learners through Faculty Support: A Cross Campus Collaboration</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 12) Level L, Room: L.76</p>	<p>Session IID</p> <p>Making Multimedia Content Accessible to All: Blackboard, Softchalk, PlayPoist, and More</p> <p>(Summary on pg. 8) Level L, Room: L.63</p>	<p>1:15 pm to 2:30 pm</p>
<p>Conference Adjourned</p>		<p>2:45 pm</p>

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We advocate for the protection and safeguarding of our users' data in our interactions with our customers, with other companies, and with governments. Companies must work to maintain user trust in

Access

These principles are true for every person, regardless of nationality, race, gender or religion. Any action that systemically discriminates against any class of people is harmful to the whole of society.

Diversity and Inclusion



Turnitin is committed to creating an inclusive and diverse working environment. In June of 2016, we were one of 33 technology companies to sign the first [Tech Inclusion Pledge](#), in which we agreed to complete the following:

- Implement and publish company-specific goals to recruit, retain, and advance diverse technology talent, and operationalize concrete measures to create and sustain an inclusive culture
- Annually publish data and progress metrics on the diversity of our technology workforce across functional areas and seniority levels;
- Invest in partnerships to build a diverse pipeline of technology talent to increase our ability to recognize, develop and support talent from all backgrounds.



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iRead Initiative

Turn blind and low vision reading challenges into 2017 NYC Reading Challenge! iRead Initiative offers FREE training and connects students and individuals to FREE accessible online libraries including Bookshare to access 500,000 books, textbooks & more!

New York Vision Week 2017 – Event Series for All Abilities

If restaurants have Restaurant Week and fashion has Fashion Week, then why not New York Vision Week event series. Google, colleges, NGOs & NYPL Andrew Heiskell Library have partnered to create an inclusive vision!

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[CUNY Assistive Technology Services \(CATS\)](#)

CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS) is a team of assistive technology specialists. Our mission is to stay on the forefront of assistive technologies and provide support for those technologies used by students with disabilities who attend the various CUNY campuses. We provide CUNY's assistive technology specialists with resources, equipment, and software testing and reviews, along with real life case studies of CUNY student-based experiences with assistive technologies.

[Media Accessibility Project](#)

The Media Accessibility Project (MAP) provides the following services: audio and video (a/v) captioning services for use by deaf and hard of hearing students; transcripts of a/v materials for use by students with learning disabilities; and audio description of videos used by visually impaired students. The MAP also provides training to campus DS/AT staff, Faculty and other parties on best practices in this area. By engaging with Faculty, Instructional Designers and other content producers, the Project will maximize the availability of captioned a/v content in on-line, hybrid and traditional learning spaces and courses.

For more information on CATS/MAP, contact: 718-281-5014

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Cats.cuny.edu is CUNY's online portal to information and resources on the three COSDI Special Projects. Visit us on the web at **www.cats.cuny.edu**

[Learning Disabilities Project at Hostos Community College](#)

The mission of the Learning Disabilities Project is to develop students' self-understanding of their own strengths and limitations. The Learning Disabilities Project addresses these needs by assisting students in receiving evaluations and reviewing their learning disability assessments in a supportive and friendly environment. Furthermore, training for faculty and staff at CUNY is provided on a regular basis to support the continued growth of our students.

Raymond Perez: rmperez@hostos.cuny.edu

Chris Fleming: cflaming@hostos.cuny.edu

For more information contact the LD Project at: 718-518-4459

CUNY DISABILITY SERVICES DIRECTORY



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Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education	(212) 650-7000
The CUNY School of Law	(718) 340-4207
The Graduate School and University Center	(212) 817-7000
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Hunter College	(212) 772-3129
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