

# 6th Annual CUNY

## Accessibility Conference

# Student Success in the Digital Age

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**Friday, May 1st, 2015**  
**John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

**ADA** 25 1990-2015  
AMERICANS WITH  
DISABILITIES ACT





# 6th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference

## Acknowledgements and Special Thanks to:

### 2015 CUNY Accessibility Conference Committee

- Shivan Mahabir, CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS)
- Ben Freier, Queensborough Community College
- Carlos Herrera, Queensborough Community College
- Crystal Vasquez, Stella and Charles Guttman Community College
- Christopher Leydon, CUNY School of Professional Studies
- Ron Bissessar, Baruch College
- Peter Santiago, Kingsborough Community College
- Joseph Sherman, CUNY Computing & Information Services
- Howard Hines, Deaf & Hard of Hearing Program
- Christina Mujica, John Jay College of Criminal Justice
- Jhony Nelson, LaGuardia Community College
- Raymond Perez, Hostos Community College

### John Jay College of Criminal Justice

- Lynette Cook-Francis, Vice President of Student Affairs
- Christina Mujica, Executive Coordinator, Office of Student Affairs

### CUNY Central Office for Student Affairs

- Dr. Frank D. Sanchez, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
- Dr. Paulette Dalpes, Deputy to Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs & Chief of Staff
- Dr. Christopher Rosa, University Assistant Dean for Student Affairs

### CUNY Council on Student Disability Issues (COSDI)

- Stella Woodroffe, Kingsborough Community College, Co-Chair
- Sudi Shayesteh, Hunter College, Co-Chair

### CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS)

- |                 |                    |                       |               |
|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
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| Danny Villaroel | Sylvio Kuplevatsky | Kaddifa Brown         | Amy Flannery  |

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Dear friends and colleagues:

Greetings, and welcome to the 6th Annual CUNY Accessibility Conference. Today we again gather to discuss topics of great relevance and importance to our students, our University and our communities. We also meet to renew professional bonds, recognize past achievements and support future leaders, all while sharing a wide breadth of knowledge and practices on student accessibility throughout CUNY.

Recently, CUNY Chancellor Milliken stated his commitment to the diversity of the CUNY student body as well as the University's support of expanded online courses, two topics of critical importance to students with disabilities and to the CUNY professionals who serve them. As our University embarks along this still relatively un-charted path, it is imperative that the accessibility of these new tools and channels be a central aspect of their design, procurement and implementation. As has been shown in the past, while many of these instruments and methods can make higher education more obtainable, they may also create un-anticipated barriers to access by students with disabilities.

With these issues in mind, the CUNY Accessibility Conference Coordinating Committee has chosen Student Success in the Digital Age as the unifying theme for a program of wide-ranging presentations on topics as diverse as accessible course authoring, digital text books and accessible apps. Updates on work initiated by the CUNY IT Accessibility Task Force will be part of today's event and Conference Keynote Speaker Andrew Cioffi, Assistant Director of Disability Services at Suffolk University in Boston Massachusetts, will bring us his insights on the accessibility of online and hybrid learning as well as guidance on how to better integrate technology into all aspects of a disability services operation.

Accessibility Conference Awards will be presented today to four colleagues who have made lasting contributions to the field of student disability services throughout CUNY and the recipients of the Matthew Goldstein Scholarships will be announced by Student Affairs Vice Chancellor Frank D. Sanchez of the CUNY Central Office of Student Affairs.

So, as we commemorate the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, let us celebrate the progress that has achieved while acknowledging how much more needs to be done. On behalf of the Accessibility Conference Committee, I thank you for your presence and support as well as for your commitment to and work on behalf of students with disabilities.

Carlos M. Herrera  
Assistant Director, SSD QCC  
Coordinator, IT Accessibility Task Force



## Keynote Speaker

**Mr. Andrew Cioffi**  
**Assistant Director of Disability**  
**Services, Suffolk University**

Andrew Cioffi is a graduate of Suffolk University in Boston Massachusetts, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a Master of Education in Foundations of Education. Andrew has returned to Suffolk University professionally as the Assistant Director of Disability Services. His areas of expertise include accessibility of online and hybrid learning, integration of technology into all aspects of a disability services operation, as well as training faculty, staff, and students on the usage of academic and assistive technology, in addition to the creation of alternative format course materials, with particular focus on materials for blind and low vision students, and ultimately, universal design. Andrew's adjunct teaching experience includes Anatomy and Physiology, First Year Seminar, Career Exploration and Development, Issues in Postsecondary Disability Services, and Assistive Technology in Postsecondary Education. Currently, Andrew serves as the chair of the New England AHEAD Assistive Technology Committee.

**Program and Presentation Schedule  
Friday, May 1st, 2015  
John Jay College of Criminal Justice**

8:00 to 8:50 am	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>	2nd floor Cafeteria
9:00 am to 9:45 am	<b>1st Session</b>	(see Presentation grid on page 6)
10:00 am to 11:00 am		2nd floor Cafeteria
	<b>Welcoming remarks</b>	Carlos Herrera, <i>Assistant Director, Coordinator IT Accessibility Task Force</i>
	<b>Accessibility Conference Awards</b>	Dr. Christopher Rosa, University Assistant Dean for Student Affairs
11:00 am to 12:00 pm	<b>Keynote Address</b>	Andrew Cioffi, Assistant Director of Disability Services, Suffolk University
12:15 pm to 1:00 pm	<b>2nd Session</b>	(see Presentation grid on page 6)
1:00 pm to 2:30 pm		2nd floor Cafeteria
	<b>Goldstein Scholarships Presentation</b>	Dr. Frank D. Sanchez, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs
	<b>Vendors Session</b>	2nd floor Cafeteria
	<b>Lunch</b>	2nd floor Cafeteria
2:45 pm to 3:30 pm	<b>3rd Session</b>	(see Presentation grid on page 6)
3:45 pm to 4:30pm	<b>4th Session</b>	(see Presentation grid on page 6)
4:30 pm	<b>Conference adjourned</b>	

## Presentation Grid

9:00am-9:45am	CUNY IT Task Force <u>Room: L2.85NB</u>	How to Choose Textbooks in the Digital Age <u>Room: L76NB</u>	Accommodating Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in a Technical World <u>Room: 1.124NB</u>	Engaging Students with Disabilities through e-Portfolio Storytelling Technology <u>Room: 1.129NB</u>
10:00am-11:00am	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>			
11:00am-12:00pm	<b>Keynote Address</b>			
12:15pm-1:00pm	Livescribe Smartpen and Note Taking Tips <u>Room: L2.85NB</u>	CATS/MAP AT Overview <u>Room: L76NB</u>	Ubiquitous Technology for College Success: Apps and More <u>Room: 1.124NB</u>	Introduction to Blackboard, Designing Accessible Content <u>Room: 1.129NB</u>
1:00pm-2:30pm	<b>Goldstein Scholarship Presentation, Vendor Showcase, and Luncheon 2nd floor Cafeteria</b>			
2:45pm-3:30pm	Apps and Technology Share- A Student Disability Services and Library Collaboration <u>Room: L2.85NB</u>	Collaborating to Meet the Challenge: Course Authoring for Accessibility and Functional Needs <u>Room: L76NB</u>	Beyond Accessible Course Content: Universal Design in Online Course Development <u>Room: 1.124NB</u>	New Technologies for ADA Compliance, Language Interpretation, and Accessibility in the Education Environment <u>Room: 1.129NB</u>
3:45pm-4:30pm	"Hey reading your memo was really insightful and is going to cause a lot of social change." Documentary Film <u>Room: L2.85NB</u>	CCSD - Continuing to Empower More than 9,000 Students With Disabilities! <u>Room: 1.129NB</u>	Apps and Approaches: Peer-Driven Tech Education to Empower Learners with Print Disabilities <u>Room: 1.124NB</u>	How to Choose Textbooks in the Digital Age <u>Room: L76NB</u>

## **CUNY IT Task Force**

**Arthur Downing, Chief Information Officer, Baruch**

**Adina Muliken, Baruch**

**Wendy Lader, Director of Management Analysis and Communication,  
Computing and Information Services**

**Kathy Raymond, Senior Associate General Council, CUNY**

**Carlos Herrera, Assistant Director, Services for Students with  
Disabilities, IT Task Force Coordinator**

**Joseph Sherman, Accessibility Specialist, CUNY Computing &  
Information Services**

**Daniel Shure, Creative & Web Services, Office of Communications &  
Marketing, CUNY**

**Gerlando Termini, Creative & Web Services, Office of Communications &  
Marketing, CUNY**

Join members of the CUNY IT Accessibility Task Force as they report on the initiatives taken and progress made by the Task Force since its formation last year by Assistant Vice Chancellor and CIO Brian Cohen. A number of University-wide initiatives have been set in motion as a result, including development of a CUNY model for video captioning, design of Faculty training on online course accessibility practices, review of library access and the testing of new tools and practices in the design of cuny.edu web pages.

The **CUNY IT Accessibility Task Force** has is comprised of representatives from across CUNY, charged with assessing and recommending actions to ensure maximum accessibility for all students.

## How to Choose Textbooks in the Digital Age

**Peter Santiago, Assistant Director of Access-Ability Services at KCC**

Want to learn about textbooks in the digital age? Want to make sure the textbooks you choose can be used by all of your students?

This presentation will focus on select textbook formats and how to choose formats that are accessible to all students. By the end of the presentation, attendees should have a working knowledge of:

- the various textbook formats and their levels of accessibility
- sources for obtaining accessible textbooks
- benefits to choosing accessible textbooks
- Open Textbooks for community and two year colleges

**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 manages the Assistive Technology Center on campus, provides consultation to faculty and staff at the college regarding equal access for students with disabilities, and actively works to increase diversity awareness in the KCC community as a member of the Enough is Enough committee and the Equity Task Force. He has also served as a member of the CUNY Accessibility Conference Planning Committee for the last two 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.

## **Accommodating Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in a Technical World**

**Sarah Damsky, Co-ordinator, Columbia University**

As instructions increasingly embrace a multimedia environment in the classroom, Disability Services providers need to stay one step ahead to ensure that all information is accessible to students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing. This presentation will cover the various services and technologies used by Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals both in and outside of the classroom including speech-to-text services and the captioning of videos and podcasts.

Sarah Damsky's interest in working with people with disabilities began when she was earning her Master's Degree in Social Work at Columbia University from 2001-2003. One year after graduating she returned to Columbia in a professional capacity in the Disability Services office, where she worked until moving to London in 2008. While overseas she remained in the field, working with adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Upon returning stateside she held the role of Director of AccessAbility at CUNY City College before returning to Columbia Disability Services part-time while working in a mental health clinic and pursuing hours towards clinical social work licensure. Sarah continues to teach in the Mental Health Counseling Master's Program at City College. Sarah is also a yoga instructor who co-leads an annual international retreat and has trained in accessible yoga with Matthew Sanford.

## Engaging Students with Disabilities through e-Portfolio Storytelling Technology

**Dr. James P. Lawler, Professor of Disability Studies and Service-Learning**

**Ms. Hope Goldfarb, Community Organizer, AHRC New York**

**Dr. Brian Gregory, Academic Technology Consultant**

The focus of the presentation is how e-Portfolio system technology can help higher-functioning (i.e. less impaired) students with developmental and intellectual disabilities in courses of study and in programs of socialization in an inclusion initiative at a major metropolitan university. The presentation highlights descriptively how the blog and journal functionality of e-Portfolio technologies can increase the comfort and confidence of the students with disabilities in learning and personally reflecting on study topics equivalently with students without disabilities. Importantly, the presentation indicates empirically the benefits of e-Portfolio technologies in furnishing high-quality visual resume storytelling technologies, such that students with disabilities may be competitively positioned for industry opportunities once they finish their studies at the university.

**Dr. James P. Lawler** is Professor of Disability Studies, Information Technology and Service-Learning at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems of Pace University in New York City. Dr. Lawler originated diverse courses and inclusion programs in which undergraduate students of the university have mentored “one-on-one” young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities at AHRC New York City, a leading non-profit organization. The highlights of Dr. Lawler’s initiatives include numerous person-centered presentation technologies, such as e-portfolio resume storytelling tools, that are improving the learning skills and the sociality of the young adults with disabilities to be highly inclusive and productive students. Through the involvement of Dr. Lawler’s students, in the semesters of study, those with disabilities at the university are leveraging the opportunities afforded by powerful state-of-the-art-technologies to be marketable and notably successful

in society. Dr. Lawler is recognized by Community Partner Awards and the national Jefferson Award Medal for Community Service for his services with young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities in the city.

**Ms. Hope Goldfard** is an Alumni of the Dyson School of Arts and Sciences of Pace University in New York City and is a Community Support Professional at AHRC New York City, a non-profit organization for people with developmental and intellectual disabilities. Ms Goldfard is a participant in mentoring “one-on-one” people with disabilities in computer literacy, life planning and resume storytelling skills through e-portfolio tools. Ms. Goldfard is an “instrument of change” in the lives of young adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities that are participating in inclusion programs at Pace University. She is playing a “pivotal role” in improving the learning skills and the sociality of the young adults with disabilities for them to be proud and successful in society. Ms. Goldfard is a recipient of the competitive Melissa Riggio Higher Education Scholarship for her proactive services with those with developmental and intellectual disabilities at AHRC New York City and Pace University

**Dr. Brian Gregory** is an Academic Technology Consultant in the Office of Academic Technologies at Pace University. Dr. Gregory is a coordinator of diverse instructional technologies, including e-portfolio tools, with faculty and students at the campuses of the university. Dr. Gregory is concurrently an Adjunct Professor in Communication Studies and Educational Technology.

## Livescribe Smartpen and Note Taking Tips

### **Reginald Coupet, Disability Accommodations Specialist**

This presentation will discuss and demonstrate the benefits of using the Livescribe Smartpen in and out of the classroom. We will review note-taking strategies used with the Smartpen to enhance the quality of notes taken by students. We will also discuss applications commonly used with the pen. So, whether you are new to or familiar with the Livescribe Smartpen, this presentation will have something for you.

**Reginald Coupet** started as a Volunteer at Queensborough Community College's Disability Services in the summer of 2011. He was then hired as an Assistive Technology Specialist for CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS) where he learned a vast amount of knowledge on the various Assistive Technologies that are on the market. Reginald currently works as a Disability Accommodations Specialist at Baruch College. Whether training students on using Assistive Technology or training faculty and staff on various new technologies available to aid students, Reginald strongly believes that a fun and interactive approach is the most effective way to break down barriers that often hinder learning.

## CATS/MAP Assistive Technology Overview

**Shivan Mahabir, Manager**  
**Athanasia “Tania” Kalaitzidis, AT Specialist**  
**CUNY Assistive Technology Services**  
**Media Accessibility Project**

This Assistive Technology overview will include tools and software implemented and supported by CUNY. Assistive technologies enable students to overcome barriers and further their education by helping them in the classroom and at home. CATS provides training to the staff and faculty who, in turn, train students to use these tools. Assistive technologies can range anywhere from software, such as screen readers and magnifiers, to hardware, such as a digital smart pen, adjustable monitors and keyboards, and AAC communication devices. Each student’s individual needs, challenges, and strengths will determine which assistive technology is most suitable. These demonstrations will give you an insight on how our training is done, and we hope you learn something valuable.

**Shivan Mahabir** currently manages CUNY Assistive Technology Services (CATS) and the Media Accessibility Project (MAP). He started working for CUNY as a College Assistant in 2010, working his way up to his current managerial position, proving his leadership skills. He is also a member of the CUNY Accessibility Conference Committee, CUNY Online Accessibility Committee and Assistive Technology Certificate Program.

**Athanasia (Tania) Kalaitzidis** is the lead captionist for the Media Accessibility Project. She provides training and resources to faculty and staff on the best practices to make their course work accessible. This includes Microsoft Word Documents, Microsoft PowerPoint Documents, and captioning for videos. Tania currently holds an AAS in Internet Technology from Queensborough Community College.

## **Collaborating to Meet the Challenge: Course Authoring for Accessibility and Functional Needs**

**Kevin Tucker, University Director of Student Life**

**Michael Schultz, Senior Emergency Management Consultant, CUNY School of Professional Studies**

**Andrew Boyarsky, Project Director, CUNY SPS**

**Ray Perez, Director of Accessibility, Hostos CC**

The CUNY School of Professional Studies in partnership with the CUNY Office of Student Affairs developed an engaging online course targeted to City workers tasked with serving in emergency facilities and services to increase awareness to accessibility issues and to inform them of appropriate practices in addressing access and functional needs for person with disabilities.

**Kevin Tucker** is the University Director of Student Life at the City University of New York. In this capacity he liaisons with student life, student activities, and student leadership and engages staff across twenty-four institutions to develop meaningful, CUNY-wide co-curricular engagement and leadership opportunities for students. He also serves as the Executive Director of CUNY's Malave Leadership Academy, a program designed to develop students' civic leadership and democratic engagement competencies.

**Michael Schultz** is a Senior Emergency Manager with City University of New York's School of Professional Studies. He has been working in disaster response and emergency management for a decade having previously served with the American Red Cross and the New York City Office of Emergency Management. At OEM he worked on the development and evaluation of plans, training, materials, and facilities for Access and Functional Needs as part of the Human Services unit. Further, he has decades of experience with graphic communications and online learning including his thesis work at NYU. He has developed online and classroom based training and materials, 3D simulations,

animation, interactive media, and videos. Mike also serves in a voluntary capacity on the board of the NYU alumni association, the Reach 4 America Foundation, and is a national disaster responder with the American Red Cross.

**Andrew Boyarsky** is Project Director for the CUNY School of Professional Studies. During most of the 1990s, he worked almost exclusively overseas leading a range of emergency relief projects in Ukraine, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Republic of Georgia. While working abroad, Andrew worked for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and Catholic Relief Services, building projects from the ground up, working out in the field, and developing strong partnerships with local counterparts. The programs he managed during those years served well over a million refugees, displaced, and socially vulnerable populations.

During the past 15 years Andrew has been involved in training and development, having started and run his own computer training company. As the Program Manager for Project Management and IT at the American Management Association, he led the effort to bring curricula online and developed a number of online, blended, and webinar course offerings. Currently he manages a large scale emergency preparedness program for the City of New York and leads a team that is involved in development of training curricula, drills and exercises for the Regional Catastrophic Planning Team of NY-NJ-CT-PA. He has developed and produced a wide range of classroom and online courses as well as performance support systems. His most recent training programs were instrumental in the regional emergency responses to both Hurricanes Irene and Sandy.

He has been a speaker on E-learning and virtual world course development at the NOAA Games and Simulations Conference, Federal Consortium on Virtual Worlds Conference, the Defense Gametech Conference, Learning and Entertainment Evolution Forum, and at the North American Simulations and Gaming Association Conference. Andrew is an adjunct faculty member at

Baruch College, Borough of Manhattan Community College, and the CUNY

School of Professional Studies. As an adjunct faculty member, he has developed and launched several project management certification programs.

Andrew earned his B.A. in International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, and a Masters in the Science of Management at the Arthur D. Little School of Management (now the Hult International School of Business). He earned his Project Management Professional certification in 2003.

**Mr. Raymond Perez** comes to us with ten years of diverse and progressively responsible experience in higher education disability services administration. He began his career at Brooklyn College as an Assistive Technology Specialist designing leading-edge technology solutions to address digital access barriers. He went on to serve as a Disability Accommodation Specialist, interpreting disability documentation and creating accommodation profile that promoted access and success for students with disabilities.

Based upon the richness and depth of Mr. Perez' experiences working with students with disabilities CUNY hired him as part of the inaugural class of CUNY LEADS counselors; in this role, he promoted the career readiness and transition to competitive employment for Brooklyn College students with disabilities. Sparked by a desire to assume leadership roles in postsecondary disabilities services, Ray served as the Assistant Director of Disability Services at Baruch College, where he helped coordinate much of the day-to-day operations of the College's disability services program. In December 2014, Ray was hired as the Director of the Accessibility Resource Center at Hostos Community College. Ray considers himself very fortunate to learn and serve alongside Hostos' world class faculty, outstanding professional staff, and remarkable students.

Ray is currently completing his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology .He has earned



his Master of Arts in Mental Health Counseling and his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology at Brooklyn College. Devoted to student engagement and leadership development, he proudly serves as the moderator of the CUNY Coalition for Students with disabilities and was appointed by Chancellor Milliken to serve on the University Student Senate's Election Review Committee.

## **Continuing to Empower More than 9,000 Students With Disabilities!**

### **The CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities**

The presentation provides information about the CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities (CCSD), a CUNY-wide Organization that strives to ensure all students with disabilities are represented throughout the City University of New York. The CCSD will chart the future path for the disability community to become the equal partner of public higher education and government in developing responsible leaders, caring citizens, and a healthy, diverse and inclusive society.

The CCSD is committed to increasing awareness, opportunity and foster community amongst CUNY's more than 9,000 students with disabilities. CCSD was founded in 1989 by three students with disabilities who, without the academic preparation by the City University of New York and a network of supportive peers, would not have been able to successfully acquire a college degree and pursue meaningful careers. The founders of CCSD had a goal: to develop an organization that would assist students with disabilities with achieving their educational and professional aspirations. CUNY Coalition for Students with Disabilities continues to work on fully integrating students with disabilities into mainstream college life.

## **Ubiquitous Technology for College Success: Apps and More**

**Linda Hecker, Lead Educational Specialist, Landmark College**

It's all about educational technologies and Apps! But how does one determine which Apps are most effective in eliminating access barriers for college students with LD and/or ADHD? This session will discuss use of Universal Design for Instruction© principles and survey-based feedback from college students with LD, ADHD, and ASD to evaluate popular college-level Apps. Research findings will be shared.

**Linda Hecker**, M.Ed., has taught at Landmark College since it was founded in 1985, serving in multiple roles: directing tutorial and teacher training programs; teaching English, study skills, and music classes; and serving as an academic advisor and dean. She was appointed to the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training in 2001, and currently serves as Lead Education Specialist. She frequently presents workshops, seminars and graduate courses for educators and parents. Ms. Hecker is the author of numerous articles and book chapters, including work on multisensory learning and supportive technology. She received her B.A. from Brandeis University and her M. Ed from the University of Hartford.

## **Introduction to Blackboard, Designing Accessible Content**

**Denis Bejar, IT Academic Applications Manager, QCC**

**Mark A. Carpenay, Acting Academic Technology Coordinator, QCC**

This workshop provides an overview and introduction to the major tools within Blackboard Learning Management System. We will cover topics such as creating a contact page, adding announcements, and how to open the course to students. Other topics will include: creating content areas, creating course links, uploading content, and using the Discussion Board.

**Denis Bejar** is a native of Lima, Peru and has lived in New York, since 2000. Since 2010, Denis has served as an IT Academic Applications Manager/Blackboard Administrator at Queensborough Community College. In his current position Denis is responsible for preserving the Blackboard Learning Management System, and conducting a variety of pedagogical and technological workshops for faculty including online teaching strategies. 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 Queens College and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Stony Brook University.

**Mark Carpenay** holds a Masters in Computer Science from Lehman College and has done extensive research work in the field of Computational Biology. Mr. Carpenay is currently an Acting IT Academic Technology Coordinator at the Academic Computing Center, Queensborough Community College where he has served in this role for the last eight months. As a member of the Blackboard Team he provides training and assistance to students and faculty on the effective use of blackboard and other software supported by the campus. Mark also serves as an adjunct lecturer in the Mathematics and Computer Science Department.

## Apps and Technology Share

**Stephanie Arriola, Student Disability Specialist**

**Lauren McCarthy, LEADS Advisor, Lehman College**

**Rebecca Arzola, Government Documents-Collection Development Librarian**

**William Medina, Senior at Lehman College**

**Justin Perez, Student at Lehman College**

To share with professionals of higher education and disability services a practical snapshot on engaging students to share what they use in higher education to support their educational needs for a successful academic career.

**Stephanie Arriola**, Student Disability Services Specialist, began working for Lehman College-CUNY in December 2014. Prior to Stephanie's arrival at Lehman College, Stephanie worked at Teachers College, Columbia University where she was a disability services coordinator for three years. Stephanie earned a Bachelor's degree in History and Italian from SUNY Binghamton. During her academic career at Binghamton University, Stephanie studied abroad in Italy and became a peer advisor for students seeking to study abroad. Her passion in helping college students led her to pursue a career in higher education.

**Rebecca Arzola** is Assistant Professor and Government Documents-Collection Development Librarian at Lehman College, City University of New York (CUNY) where she began working at Leonard Lief Library, August 2009. Rebecca obtained her MEd in Special Education from Lehman College and was a Special Education Teacher in the New York City Department of Education for six years. She went on to receive her MSLIS Advanced Certificate in Archives from Pratt Institute, New York. She is a member of American Library Association, Government Documents Round Table and METRO's Government Documents Special Interest Group.

**Lauren McCarthy** is the LEADS Advisor in the Office of Student Disability Services, Lehman College, where she began working in May 2011. As a LEADS

counselor, Lauren assists students with career and academic guidance, and necessary skills for job search and retention. Lauren received her bachelor's degree in sociology, with a concentration in social work, from East Stroudsburg University of Pennsylvania. Lauren went on to receive her master's degree in educational counseling from National University, San Diego, CA. Lauren has worked as a guidance assistant and counselor for children with behavioral and emotional needs, teaching them social and academic skills.

**Willima Medina** is currently a CUNY Service Corps member placed at the Lighthouse Guild as a tutor/teacher, preparing visually impaired students for college and high school equivalency exams. William obtained his Associate's degree in Business Administration with a specialization in accounting from Bronx Community College, making the Dean's list twice and the President's list in the final semester. After graduation this May, William will work as an intern in the accounting department of the Hudson Valley VA Hospital for the summer of 2015. William is planning to go back to Lehman for the fall 2015 to pursue a Master's degree in accounting and is also planning to sit for the CPA exam.

**Justin Perez** is a student at Lehman College majoring in Computer Science. Justin has chosen to pursue computer science as a career because he wants to help young kids with disabilities by creating software that can help them in their education and their social life. When Justin was in elementary school, he did not receive adequate instructional support, and as a result, he could neither read nor complete math problems. At the age of 10, Justin was introduced to Dragon Naturally Speaking, which at the time was very difficult to use but was also very helpful for Justin because of his limited use of hands. After using Dragon, Justin learned how to read instantly given that the program requires one to read selections in order to train the program. Dragon has changed his life, and he wonders what he would be doing right now without this program. As a result, Justin wants to be one of those guys that develop software that will change a child's life the same way his was changed.

## **Beyond Accessible Course Content: Universal Design in Online Course Development**

**Antonia Levy, Instructional Technology and Multimedia Manager, CUNY School of Professional Studies**

**Christopher Leydon, Student Services Coordinator, CUNY SPS**

The presentation will: (1) discuss accessibility initiatives at CUNY, especially as they relate to online learning; (2) consider accommodations and accessibility issues that are specific to online students; (3) review our experiences seeking to increase accessibility through collaborations among staff, faculty and students; and (4) recommend a few best practices for applying universal design principles to online course design.

**Antonia Levy** is an East German transplant to New York and is currently the Instructional Technology and Multimedia Manager at CUNY School of Professional Studies. Working in faculty development and instructional technology, she is very interested in the implementation of universal design as part of the struggle for more equality in higher education. Antonia is also finishing her dissertation in sociology at the Graduate Center, and has been teaching for the past years as an adjunct instructor at several CUNY colleges.

**Christopher Leydon** is the Student Services Coordinator at CUNY School of Professional Studies, where he oversees student accommodations, assistive technology, and other aspects of disability services, as well as working to optimize the accessibility of online courses. Christopher began his career in student disability services at the CUNY Graduate Center, while completing a doctorate in comparative literature and a certificate in medieval studies. He has extensive experience teaching literature and writing in the CUNY system and is currently developing a course for the Disability Studies MA program at CUNY SPS. This is his second year serving on the CUNY Accessibility Conference Planning Committee.

## New Technologies for ADA Compliance, Language Interpretation, and Accessibility in the Education Environment

**Tony W. Strong, Williams Sound**

Facility access is more than just wheelchair ramps and Braille signage: It includes equal access to facilities, technology and equal access to information. Hearing Assistance is also part of the way we access information and access technology for facilities management with regard to the ADA.

**Tony W. Strong** is the National Sales Manager for Williams Sound, a global designer and manufacturer of wireless communication technology serving personal and professional listening needs worldwide since 1976. Tony is a hands-on presenter who has worked in the Pro Audio industry for many years as an integrator, sound engineer and sales management professional. He offers extensive experience speaking about the benefits of differing technologies for hearing assistance and simultaneous interpretation in a multitude of applications.

**“Hey, reading your memo was really insightful and is going to cause a lot of social change!”... said no one EVER!” How Documentary Film Brings Disability Activism to a New Level**

**April Coughlin, PhD Candidate, Syracuse University**

Disability activism has taken on many forms throughout history. From protests, to sit-ins, to marches and speeches, change has come! This presentation explores the use of documentary film and journalistic story-telling to educate and inform about the need for disability access on college campuses. Included in this presentation will be a brief discussion of what led to the documentary, a viewing of the film, followed by a discussion of changes that have resulted.

**April Coughlin** has worked as a high school teacher in New York City for 6 years. She is currently pursuing a PhD in Inclusive Education with a focus on Disability Studies at Syracuse University. April has been a wheeler for 29 years and is an avid disability advocate. Her doctoral studies are focused on disability, access and equality, specifically looking at the self-reported lived experiences of high school students with physical disabilities in New York City schools. April is committed to increasing awareness and education about the need for inclusion of students with physical disabilities in schools.

## **Apps and Approaches: Peer-Driven Tech Education to Empower Learners with Print Disabilities**

**Chancey Fleet, Assistive Technology Coordinator, NYPL**

Find out how the New York Public Library connects patrons who have difficulty reading standard print to a community of practice created and powered by peers. Pick up our guide to accessible literacy resources online. Check out our patrons' top app recommendations for accessing text, visual and navigational information, and note-taking. Share tips for coaching lifelong learners to take charge of their technology education by clarifying goals, networking with peers, and understanding successful strategies for managing (rather than feeling managed by) technology.

**Chancey Fleet** is Assistive Technology Coordinator at the Andrew Heiskell Braille and Talking Book Library at the New York Public Library. She is committed to demystifying accessible technology for work/education/dreams, advocating for robust universal design features in tech products and services, and building a wise, resilient and resourceful community of support among peers with disabilities and our allies to make technology work for all users.

## COSDI Special Projects

### 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.

**For more information contact CATS at: 718-281-5014**

**Shivan Mahabir - [Shmahabir@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Shmahabir@qcc.cuny.edu)**

**Ben-Ami Freier - [BFreier@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:BFreier@qcc.cuny.edu)**

**Athanasia "Tania" Kalaitzidis - [AKalaitzidis@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:AKalaitzidis@qcc.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 [rmpererz@hostos.cuny.edu](mailto:rmpererz@hostos.cuny.edu)**

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

### 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 contact MAP at: 718-281-5014**

**Shivan Mahabir [Shmahabir@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:Shmahabir@qcc.cuny.edu)**

**Ben-Ami Freier - [BFreier@qcc.cuny.edu](mailto:BFreier@qcc.cuny.edu)**

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Catsweb.cuny.edu is CUNY's online portal to information and resources on the three COSDI Special Projects. Visit us on the web at [www.catsweb.cuny.edu](http://www.catsweb.cuny.edu)

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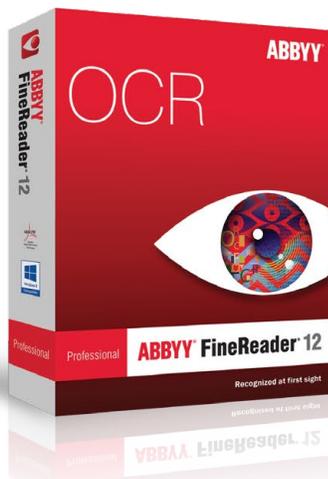
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