

ATI Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 4

June 25, 2008

This issue of the ATI Newsletter is dedicated to the memory of Penny Petersen, from CSU Long Beach, one of the ATI's pioneers and champions. Penny passed away unexpectedly last Friday after she had a massive stroke the day before. We aren't sure how we will be able to move forward as we had before, knowing that we can't just pick up the phone and ask her opinion (of which she had strong ones) or to see if she could quickly check something out for us. Penny's vision and persistence helped to establish the ATI. We had just completed a consulting contract with her when we got the news that she had left this world, and we are truly at a loss because we knew we could count on her to do important work for us, and that we'd enjoy the process. We grieve with her family, friends and colleagues throughout the CSU system and beyond.

Revised Coded Memo is issued:

On June 12, the Chancellor's Office issued a revision to the original coded memorandum (Coded Memorandum AA-2008-21) that makes two changes with respect to the Procurement priority. (1) The threshold for purchases that are required to take Section 508 into account will be \$15,000 on September 1, 2008. In the original Coded Memo, that threshold was to be \$2,500. (2) Campuses are instructed to add a new element to their Procurement Plans, to develop criteria related to the impact of a procurement and a description of how the criteria will be used in the procurement process. The intent is for campuses to apply the most resources in the most critical purchases.

What's New on the ATI Website:

Check out our website for a document that describes the methodology that was used to review Learning Management Systems for accessibility. It's in the section labeled "Accessibility Projects" under "Learning Management Systems":

http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility/Accessibility_Projects/LMS_AccessibilityEval.shtml

Visit from Adobe:

Adobe has asked the CSU system to participate in a "Lighthouse" process with them, whereby we will be given pre-release access to products in development, influencing the product design. Mark Turner has taken the lead to structure the CSU's participation with respect to the accessibility aspects of this process. The first product to be reviewed will be Adobe Acrobat. Mark will coordinate the involvement of several CSU participants.

Tom Jewett joins WAI working group:

Tom Jewett, ATI Web advisor, has been invited by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C, the Web standards-setting body) to join their working group that is developing examples of how to use the new Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0.

Development of Tool to assist in the 508 Procurement Process:

Thanks to Cal State Long Beach, Dominguez Hills and Cal Poly Pomona for reviewing a preliminary version of a wizard type of tool being developed for the ATI by Jim Tobias, a consultant and accessibility expert. Jim, Sam Ogami and Deborah Kaplan learned a lot from these consultation sessions. The next version of the tool will be reviewed by campuses in the Bay Area in early July, and a remote session will also be planned for campuses that couldn't be involved for the in-person sessions.

New video stories of faculty for the ATI:

Jean Wells just returned from a trip to San Jose State, where she had a very productive meeting with the ATI Training Task Force, developing training goals and objectives. She also organized a video shoot session with two San Jose State faculty members who have taken the initiative to implement ATI in their classrooms. Special thanks to Keith Sanders, who shot the video and to Mary Breiling, who arranged for the video session and the training team meeting. Jean is looking for more outstanding faculty members who have made positive changes in how they use technology for accessibility.

The University of California is joining CAM:

A MOU is about to be signed between the CSU and UC to establish a pilot project for most of the UC campuses to participate in the Center for Accessible Media. The campuses will receive training in how to use CAM from Mark Turner, CAM Director, and an evaluation of their experience will be conducted at the end of the pilot to see whether the project should be extended.

ATI Advisory Board:

The ATI Advisory Board meets with Deborah Kaplan every Tuesday morning to assist in the establishment of policy, planning and implementation of the ATI. Members are Debra Brum (Cal Poly Pomona), John Charles (CSU Easy Bay), Gil Gonzalez (CSU Monterey Bay), Marty Schulter (San Jose State), David Levin (CSU Northridge) and Ted Lucas (CSU Channel Island). We are grateful for their insights and advice, not to mention their willingness to start every Tuesday with an 8:15 a.m. meeting!

Disability Policy:

The U.S. House of Representatives Judiciary Committee unanimously passed the ADA Restoration Act, which is primarily aimed at reversing a string of very negative rulings from the Supreme Court regarding employment rights of people with disabilities and the legal definition of disability. For more information, join the Justice For All E-Mail Network, a service of the American Association of People with Disabilities: <http://www.aapd.com/JFA/index.php> If you are interested in disability public policy, this is a very useful resource, with regular and timely information, There is a subject matter area related to access to technology with lots of great information.

Also, Congressman Ed Markey from Massachusetts recently held a hearing on draft legislation to enhance access to broadband technology and services for persons with disabilities. It was a remarkable hearing, with some great witnesses representing people with disabilities. To view the webcast, go to http://energycommerce.house.gov/cmtes_mtgs/110-ti-hrg.050108.Disabilities.shtml