

ATI Newsletter Vol. 1, Issue 8

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October 20 CSU will host a WebCast on the Target Web Accessibility Settlement

On Monday, October 1pm (PDT) the ATI will broadcast a WebCast about the recent, highly publicized settlement of the federal lawsuit against Target for having an inaccessible public website. This case had been widely followed by accessible technology advocates, businesses and legal scholars because of its impact. After losing in Federal District Court, Target settled the lawsuit for \$30 Million and stipulated to several specific requirements regarding web accessibility. The webcast will feature Larry Paradis, Executive Director of Disability Rights Advocates and attorney for the plaintiffs and Jim Thatcher, a private consultant formerly with IBM who is specifically referenced in the settlement agreement for Target to retain. Specific details about how to participate will be posted on the ATI website.

ATI Regional Meetings – Over 80 Participants at San Marcos on Sept. 26

The first ATI Regional Meeting was held at CSU San Marcos on Friday, September 26. Over 80 participants from several campuses heard an engaging Best Practices presentation from several faculty at San Marcos about steps they have taken in the classroom to enhance accessibility, and a detailed description of web accessibility procedures from the CSU San Diego's Enrollment Services. Abbe Altman from the Center for Distributed Learning led a wide variety of small group discussions in the afternoon, addressing topics of interest to those in attendance. The ATI website will include a repository of Best Practices presentations and notes from small group discussions. You can see the schedule of Regional Meetings and register for the one of your choice at <http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility/events/RegMtgs.shtml>. Special thanks are due to Linda Scott of CSU San Marcos and her team for organizing a well-run event!

Apple Makes iTunes U More Accessible

Apple has been actively engaged with the CSU to make iTunes U more accessible, as a result of the CSU system's decision not to formally adopt iTunes U until specific accessibility issues are addressed. Apple has participated in regular meetings with the CSU campuses that have initiated pilot projects to figure out how to address accessibility needs, and Apple engineers have been engaged in an accessibility review process of the new iTunes U application and storefront with ATI and campus accessibility experts. In general, iTunes U is much more accessible now, and in addition, Apple has a recently announced a cooperative agreement between Apple, the National Federation of the Blind and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, by which Apple has set the date of December 31, 2008 for making iTunes U fully accessible and the date of June 30, 2009 for the accessibility of the rest of the iTunes store, including the iTunes software. For more details, go to <http://www.nfb.org/nfb/NewsBot.asp?MODE=VIEW&ID=366>. An updated Coded Memo will be issued

soon with directions regarding implementation of iTunes U on campuses and announcing the end of the pilot project phase.

VPAT Database to be introduced at October Procurement CoP Call

Have you been stymied in trying to find an up to date VPAT (Voluntary Product Accessibility Template) for a technology purchase? Have you called a vendor to request a VPAT, only to hear “VP what?” ? Help is on the way! After months of design, build-out and beta-testing, the ATI has completed a system-wide VPAT database that will allow users to upload, link to and find VPAT’s for electronic and information technology products covered by Section 508, to find out who else in the CSU has purchased a product you might be interested to learn more about, and to add or review comments regarding accessibility of the particular product. Even though there will most likely be a few minor bugs to be worked through, the VPAT database is imminently ready to launch, and Sam Ogami of the ATI staff will demonstrate it at the next Procurement Community of Practice meeting on Tuesday, October 7 at 9:00 a.m. For information about how to join the Procurement CoP or participate in this meeting, contact Sam Ogami at sogami@calstate.edu.

CalWAC 2009 at CSU Long Beach – ATI will sponsor CSU partial scholarships

CSU Long Beach will once again be the site of the California Web Accessibility Conference from January 12 through 14. CSU employees are eligible for a \$200 partial scholarship towards registration costs, which will be handled as a part of the online registration process. This conference is a fantastic opportunity for in-depth training in web accessibility and related topics, whether you are a beginner or an experienced participant. For more information, go to <http://www.knowbility.org/calwac/>

ADA Restoration Act is Signed by President Bush

On Sept. 25, 2008, President Bush signed into law landmark legislation that will clarify and strengthen worker protections guaranteed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The law is set to take effect on Jan. 1, 2009. Both houses of Congress passed the ADA Amendments Act ([S 3406](#)) with overwhelming bipartisan support. The measure was introduced to make legislative fixes for several federal court rulings and restore the original intent of Congress when the law was enacted.

According to a summary released by the Congressional Research Service, the new law will:

- Prohibit the consideration of measures that reduce or mitigate the impact of impairment—such as medication, prosthetics and assistive technology—in determining whether an individual has a disability.
- Cover workers whose employers discriminate against them based on a perception that the worker is impaired, regardless of whether the worker has a disability.
- Clarify that the Americans with Disabilities Act provides broad coverage to protect anyone who faces discrimination on the basis of a disability.

T-Mobile Cell Phone and Sign Language Users

From DEAF411: The latest release of T-Mobile's new Sidekick 2008 on July 28th as an "all-in-one" communication device with many upgraded features is enough to spark interest in the deaf community, most notably being able to record, playback, and send video e-mails. The T-Mobile Sidekick 2008 is an upgraded version of the Sidekick LX, which includes a high resolution screen and camera, strengthened Instant Messaging ("IM") interface, with three IM client options and group chat capabilities. Its 2 mega pixel camera has the highest resolution ever on Sidekick with a 400 x 240 WQVGA display. The high quality pictures allow the user to enlarge or print higher quality photos. Video capability allows for recording and playback of brief video segments, supporting 3GP and MP4 video attachment formats. These video upgrades now make it possible to shoot a short ASL video and send it to others without having to use a digital camera to plug into your PC to upload and send emails with video attachments.