



EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

BUFFALO STATE • The State University of New York

Fall 2025

Kickoff Meeting

Provost's Welcome

Facilitated and organized by:

Grace O'Leary

Content Accessibility Support Specialist

Student Accessibility Services

contentaccess@buffalostate.edu

Kathy R. Doody, Ph.D.

Professor, Exceptional Education

**SUNY Accessibility Advocates and Allies (AAA) Faculty
Fellowship program**

Doodykr@buffalostate.edu

SUNY Accessibility Advocates and Allies Faculty Fellows

- The Provost's Office and Office of Student Success have created the SUNY Accessibility Advocates and Allies (AAA) Faculty Fellowship program.
- The Faculty Fellows are a community of faculty leaders and champions committed to promoting and growing accessibility practices in and out of the classroom on their campuses.



— Our charge



- Explore models and strategies to build and expand a culture of access;
- Share their expertise and experience as we work towards solutions to broaden adoption of accessibility practices;
- Connect with other communities of practice, faculty, and campus leaders with a shared vision;
- Grow as faculty leaders to design and execute a plan to engage their campus community in the work of access.

Proposal for Buffalo State's project

By **April 24, 2026**, all campuses must comply with **ADA Title II** and Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG).

Faculty Responsibility:

Review and update all Brightspace course content to be fully accessible.



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By the BSU numbers

- **Documents in Brightspace:** ~42,492
- **Current accessibility Score:** 70%
- **Goal:** Full accessibility
- **Common Issues Identified:**
 - Scanned image PDFs (largest issue)
 - Poor color contrast
 - Missing image descriptions (alt text)
 - No headings or titles
 - Tables without headers

Broom out the bad!

- We often use BS shells as repositories to keep “stuff” we think we might eventually reconfigure and use again.
- These are generally hidden from students as we keep them for reference
- Remove any old resources you keep in BS and move them into a Google Drive folder or OneDrive
- Your Ally score will immediately improve!



Proposed Action Plan

- Collaboration between:
 - Student Accessibility Services (SAS)
 - Instructional Design and Distance Learning
 - Electronic and Information Technology (EIT) Accessibility team
 - Faculty, staff, and student workers



Faculty Training Strategy



Pair faculty with student workers (work-study, interns, GAs)



Training includes:



Use of **Deque University** modules



Sessions with **campus librarians** on OCR and scanned PDFs



In-person or virtual workshops



Using tools like **Ally** (in Brightspace) and Microsoft Word's **Check Accessibility**

Steps to implementation

- Faculty run **Ally Course Report** to identify problem documents
- Provide identified content to student workers
- Prioritize and discuss documents for remediation
- Students correct accessibility issues using available tools
- SAS and librarians provide ongoing support
- Faculty replace inaccessible content in Brightspace with remediated versions



Benefits to faculty and students



Improves
compliance and
accessibility

Student workers
gain valuable tech
and accessibility
skills

Promotes
collaborative learning
and universal design
practices

Expected Outcomes

- Inclusive teaching practices across SUNY
- Institutional policies emphasizing accessibility
- Stronger campus-community partnerships



Next steps

- We will be sending all department chairs a Microsoft Forms survey to express interest in the work study student and GA training collaborative
- We will host a series of training sessions for faculty and their department's student workers to attend
- We encourage faculty to bring documents to the training sessions so facilitators can provide real time support in making content accessible

Scan Me:

Buffalo State Resources

[SAS Accessibility
Support Webpage:](#)



[Request Deque
Registration:](#)



[Accessibility
Checklist: MS Word
and PowerPoint:](#)



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Additional Outside Resource

[Oswego University: Accessibility Written and Video Tutorials](#)



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What to expect and look out for

- **Libcal will have listing of all training sessions - Fall 2025 & Spring 2026 semesters**
- ***Daily Bulletin* will have notification of upcoming trainings**
- Both, in-person and virtual session will be available
- Each session will provide an opportunity to:
 - Review existing Brightspace content
 - Work on accessibility issues
- Opportunities to meet one-on-one for personalized training



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Current Live (virtual)

September Sessions: Fall 2025:

- [Monday September 1: MS PowerPoint Training @ 2PM](#)
- [Tuesday September 2: MS Word and Ally Training @ 9AM](#)
- [Wednesday September 3: MS PowerPoint Training @ 10AM](#)
- [Thursday September 4: MS Word and Ally Training @ 1230PM](#)
- [Friday September 5: MS PowerPoint Training @ 11AM](#)

➤ (Session descriptions can be found in LibCal):



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Other Resources:

- Visit the [SAS Accessibility Support Webpage](#)
 - Review and follow the [Accessibility Checklist](#) for assistance with creating MS Word Documents and PowerPoints
 - [Request to Register for Deque University](#)
 - And explore recommended trainings
 - Explore both **internal** and **external** accessibility links and resources
- (QR Codes can be found on the previous slide)



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Conclusion

- SUNY is committed to inclusive education
- Faculty are key to driving accessibility, best practices, and DEI
- Take action and effectuate change on your campus

