

From: SUNY Cortland President's Office [<mailto:communicator@cortland.edu>]

Sent: Monday, January 29, 2018 12:07 PM

Subject: Technology Accessibility Is Everyone's Responsibility

To SUNY Cortland Faculty and Staff,

Last summer, SUNY Cortland, along with numerous other institutions, was notified by the Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights (OCR) that the content on our website was not compliant with technology accessibility requirements. Several offices (President, Communication, Marketing, Admissions, Athletics, and Information Resources) worked diligently with OCR to remediate content throughout the fall. In late November, OCR was satisfied that not only had we remediated the pages they had initially identified, but also that the College was committed to continuing remediation of all digital content on the campus (this goes far beyond webpages).

All technology applications and content are required to meet state and federal technology accessibility standards. This includes all content: email messages, Word/Excel/PowerPoint/PDF documents, web and social media content, etc. This also applies to all applications: Microsoft Office, Email, Blackboard, etc. (even small applications faculty may use in their teaching).

To address compliance requirements, Information Resources established a new committee recently, the Technology Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC). Members have already begun to identify and address non-compliant content and applications.

We need your help. Technology accessibility compliance is the responsibility of anyone creating content or selecting applications. If you are considering a new application, please make sure you contact Information Resources before acquiring it (even if it is free).

Information Resources has begun offering training to ensure that Office documents (Word, Excel, PowerPoints), PDFs and email messages are compliant. To sign up for training, please visit the Tech Help tab within myRedDragon. (Note: An email message announcing the first trainings went out earlier today.)

Technology accessibility is not only the law; it is the right thing to do to ensure equal access for all.

Thank you.

Erik J. Bitterbaum

President