



# CMDiT

Center for Minorities and People with Disabilities in IT  
*Fostering Innovation Through Inclusion*

How Accessible is Your Talk?

# Our Panelists

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**Brianna Blaser**

AccessComputing



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Usercessible



**Ana Liu**

University of Washington (Grad Student)

# Accessibility and Universal Design of Presentations

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Brianna Blaser  
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6/25/2020

# AccessComputing

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- > **Funded by NSF since 2006**
- > **Works to increase the participation of people with disabilities in computing education through**
  - **Institutional change**
  - **Direct interventions**

[uw.edu/accesscomputing](http://uw.edu/accesscomputing)



## Ability is on a Spectrum

Not able

able

see

hear

walk

read print

communicate verbally

tune out distraction

learn

manage physical or mental health

**When does it become a disability?**

## Who might have barriers to a presentation?

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- > **Blind or visually impaired**
- > **Deaf or hard of hearing**
- > **Attention or learning related disabilities**



## What about non-disability related barriers?

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- > **Non-native speakers of English**
- > **Connected via phone to a virtual meeting**



# Universal Design

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**“the design of products & environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.”**

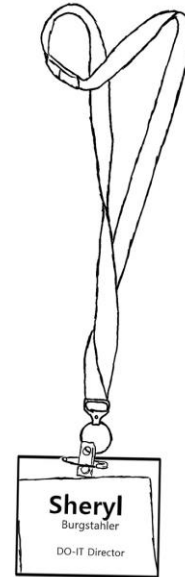
**The Center for Universal Design**  
[www.design.ncsu.edu/cud](http://www.design.ncsu.edu/cud)



## An Inclusive Environment

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- > Lets everyone participate
- > Makes everyone feel welcome
- > Engages everyone
- > Proactively considers diverse needs



# Parts of Your Presentation

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- > Preparation
- > Presentation materials
- > Videos
- > Delivery
- > Follow up
- > Posters



## Preparation

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- > **Make it clear how participants can request accommodations**
- > **Respond to requests**
- > **Consider recording**
- > **Make slides available in advance**
- > **Designate someone to manage the meeting**
- > **Be aware not all meeting software is accessible**



# Presentation Materials

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- > **Use a high contrast color scheme.**
- > **Large fonts.**
- > **Keep text brief and graphics simple.**
- > **Use more than color coding to communicate information.**
- > **Provide a short url that links to the slides.**



# Videos

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- > **Caption videos**
  - For how to: visit [uw.edu/accessibility](http://uw.edu/accessibility)
  - Edit any automatic captions
- > **Audio description**
  - Videos where there is no sound



## Example of Audio Description

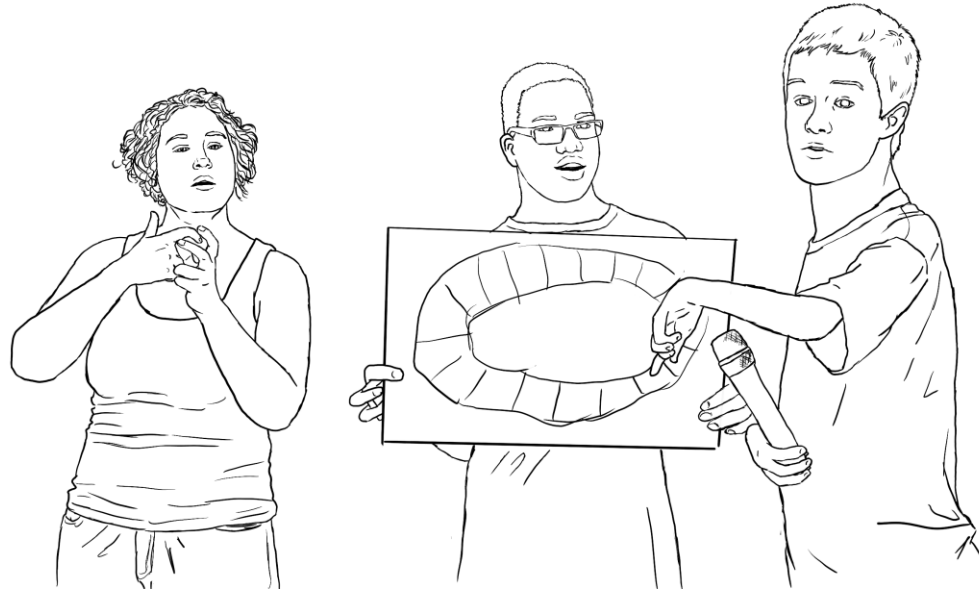
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<http://www.washington.edu/doit/videos/index.php?vid=59>

## Examples of Inaccessible Delivery

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- > “As you can see from this graph...”
- > “You never know who you’ll meet...”
- > “As you can see right here”



## Accessible Delivery

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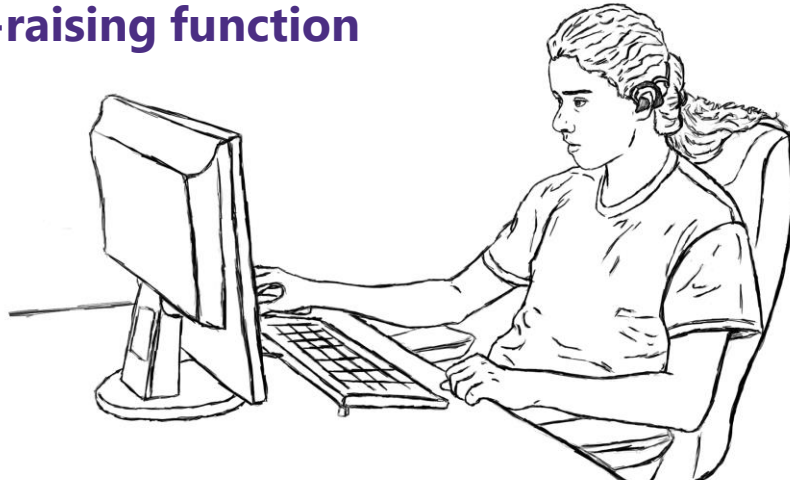
- > **Face the audience/turn on your camera.**
- > **Speak all content on your slides.**
- > **Pause after changing the slide.**
- > **Speak clearly using a microphone/headset.**
- > **Use understandable terms.**
- > **Verbally describe images and graphics.**
- > **Use multiple instructional methods**
  - Polls, breakout rooms, discussion in chat
- > **Consider using automatic captioning tools**



## Responding to Questions

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- > **Let participants know when you will respond**
- > **In person, use a handheld mic or repeat questions from the audience.**
- > **Online use chat or voice with or without the hand-raising function**



## Follow up

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- > **Make accessible slides available with clickable links to resources**
  - See [uw.edu/accessibility](http://uw.edu/accessibility)
- > **Gather feedback about accessibility**



## Posters

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- > **Similar suggestions apply**
- > **Use a large font & leave white space**
- > **Caption or title graphics**
- > **Consider suggesting questions on your poster**



## Resources

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- > **Tapia Celebration Presentation guidelines - under [tapiaconference.org/about/](http://tapiaconference.org/about/)**
  - **Links to several resources**
- > **Accessibility and Universal Design of Online Meetings at [uw.edu/accesscomputing](http://uw.edu/accesscomputing)**
- > **Email me at [blaser@uw.edu](mailto:blaser@uw.edu)**

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# My Experiences with Virtual Classes & Meetings as a Deaf Person

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Ana Liu  
6/25/2020



# About Me

Grew up in Harbin, China

**2017** Received BS in Computer Science and Technology at Tianjin University of Technology, China

**2019** Pursuing MS in Human Centered Design and Engineering at University of Washington



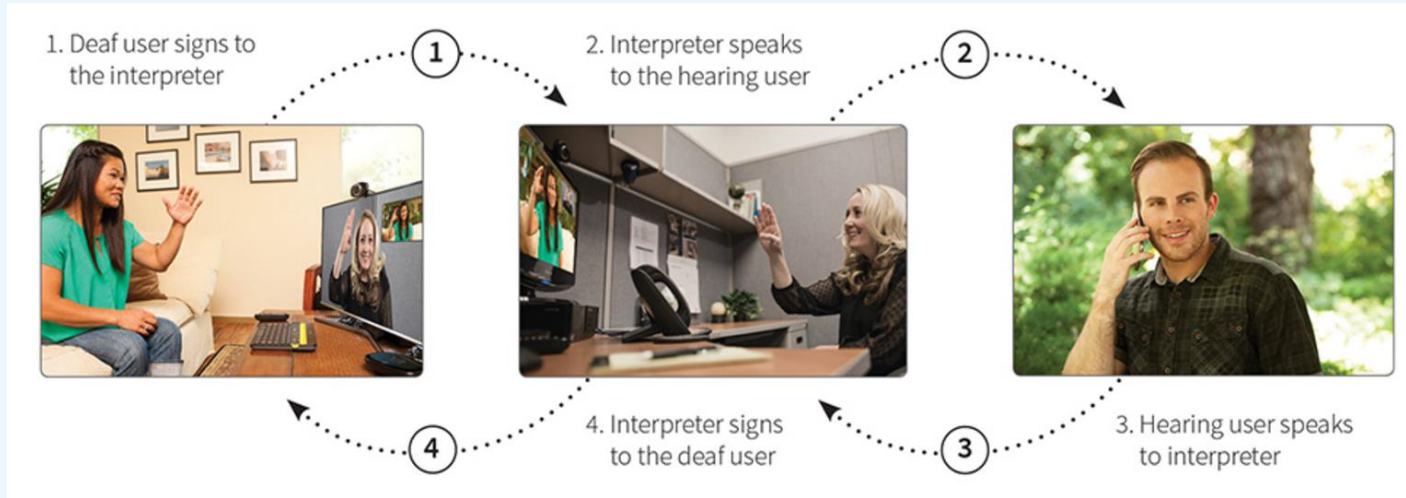
**2014** Moved to Rochester, NY

**2018** Received AAS in Applied Computer Technology at National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology

**2020** Working as a Program Manager Intern at Microsoft



# My first experience with accessibility technology



*Video Relay Services*

**Video Relay Service (VRS)** is used to place phone calls between DHH callers who use American Sign Language (ASL)



# My first experience with accessibility technology



*Video Remote Interpreting*

**Video Remote Interpreting (VRI)** is an option for connecting with an interpreter through the internet at some urgent place, e.g. clinic, hospital, etc



# My first experience with accessibility technology



*C-Print*

**C-Print**, a captioning service developed by and provided to students at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf/Rochester Institute of Technology

## With ADA, I feel empowered to ask for accommodations

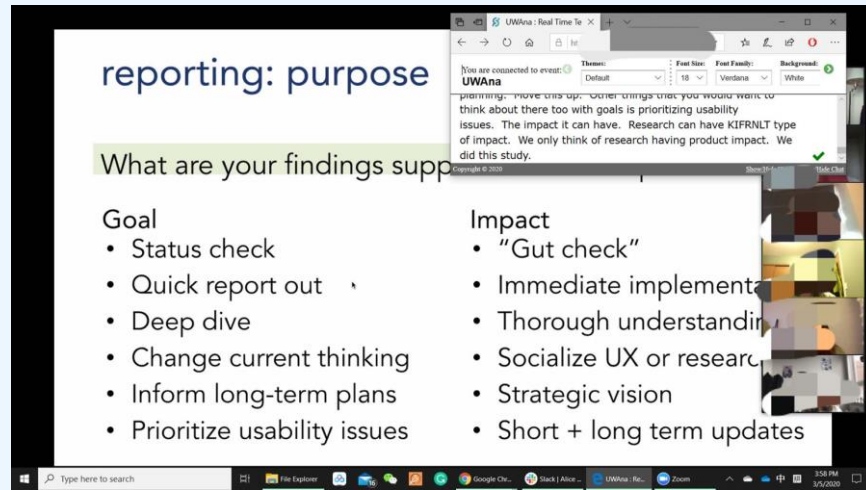
“

No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, or accommodations of any place of public accommodation by any private entity who owns, leases (or leases to), or operates a place of public accommodation.

”

- Americans with Disabilities Act Title III

# When classes moved to online...



Using real-time captions from a captionist during class

**Limitation:** difficult to pay attention to captions for the entirety of a 4-hour class

## When classes moved to online...



Participated in a group meeting with an ASL interpreter through VRS

**Limitation:** interpreters did not have context so miscommunication is common

# Final set up for my online classes

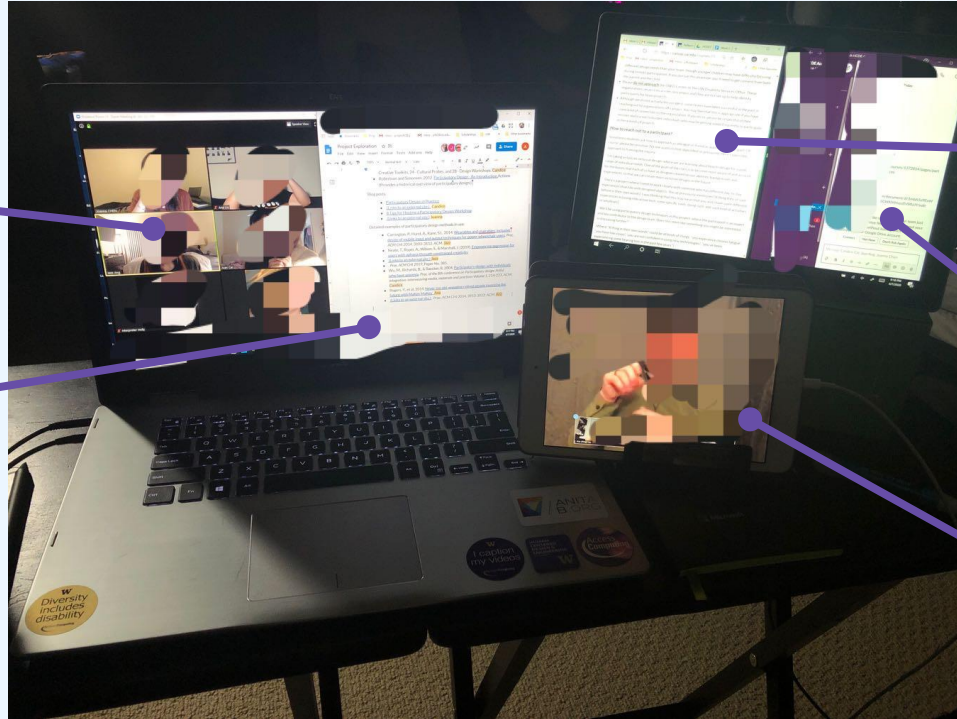
Zoom meeting

In-class activities

Synced notes from a classmate

Access to resources in Slack


ASL interpreter



*Three devices: two laptops and one iPad*



# Platforms with built-in automated captioning

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- Microsoft Teams
  - Skype
  - Google Meet
  - Google Slides
  - GoToMeeting
  - BlueJeans



# Tips for equal access to classes & meetings

1. Participate in a disability workshop to learn how to protect your rights.
2. Attend community events to receive and provide support to/from the community.
3. Reach out to disability resource office/HR to decide on accommodations and utilize resources from them
4. Communicate with your professors and managers about your accommodations ahead of time
5. Communicate with your classmates and co-workers to figure out an effective way to work together



**THANK YOU!**  
**ANY QUESTIONS?**

## More Resources:

- **[ADA Access to Buildings and Businesses \(Public Accommodations\) - Overview](#)**
- **[Video Conferencing Platforms Feature Matrix](#)**
- **[DHH-RERC and Deaf/Hard of Hearing Consumer Groups Provide Remote Workplace Guidance](#)**
- **[Checklist for teaching Deaf Students Online](#)**
- **[Pandemic Taking Unique Toll on Deaf College Students, According to New Poll](#)**
- **[Webinar Accessibility for Deaf and Hard of Hearing People](#)**

# Why an Accessible Talk?

Synge Tyson, MA, OMS, CPACC  
BWiC (Black Women in Computing)  
[bwic-owner@systemst.org](mailto:bwic-owner@systemst.org)

Managing Partner of  
Usercessible, LLC  
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# AGENDA

- Introduction
- Why Accessible?
- Achieving Inclusion
- Resources

# Why Accessible? - Poll Question

Reasons for an accessible talk:

- A. In certain areas it is a legal requirement?
- B. Accessibility leads to inclusion for more people.
- C. Most people learn with different modalities. An accessible presentation allows for people to use multiple learning methods.
- D. I was threatened. No accessible presentation, no accepted talk, no funding.
- E. My pet ate my inaccessible talk so I am building a new one and making it inclusive and accessible.

## Why accessible? - Why you?

- You value the people in your life
- Value Added
- Your hard work, Your knowledge
- When you include - You diversify
- YOU - Make it happen!

# Why an Accessible Talk?

- It is not about the law. It is about the HUMAN!
- Why not compliance? Compliance is typically considered the minimal amount you are supposed to do to diversify or accommodate.

# A Brief Introduction to Disabilities

- Sensory Impairments
- Cognitive Impairments
- Mobility Impairments
- Multiple Disabilities
- How do you experience the world? Talk with us.

# WAIT

- Accessibility is not just about technology like Zoom and screen readers.
- What do you need to achieve inclusion?
- Checklist, Templates, Actual Users
- Accessibility should be included on the menu (Inclusion).
- Working towards inclusion: Be willing to learn, listen, and change.

# Your Accessible Talk - Part 1

1. Start with inclusion and accessibility in mind from the beginning.
2. Make certain your platform is accessible. (Zoom, Webex).
3. Ensure your invitation is accessible (email - (no JPEG), social media, website).
4. Use clear language to communicate your message.
5. Use built in accessibility tools. Follow guidelines.
6. Ask co-presenters the best way to collaborate.

## Your Accessible Talk - Part 2

7. Make accessible presentations a requirement.
8. Have people with varying disabilities and devices review your content, and be willing to pay.
9. Share materials in advance with interpreters, CART, behind the scenes assistants.

# Resources

- The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) -  
<http://www.w3.org/>
- Make your PowerPoint presentations accessible to people with disabilities -  
<https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/office/make-your-powerpoint-presentations-accessible-to-people-with-disabilities-6f7772b2-2f33-4bd2-8ca7-dae3b2b3ef25>
- Zoom Phone Controls (including landline) -  
<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362663-Joining-a-meeting-by-phone>

## Resources - Page 2

- World Institute on Disability - <https://wid.org/consulting/conference-accessibility/>
- Partnership on Employment & Accessible Technology (PEAT) - <http://www.peatworks.org/>
- The International Association of Accessibility Professionals (IAAP) - <http://www.accessibilityassociation.org/>
- M-Enabling Summit - <http://www.m-enabling.com/>

# Resources - Page 3

- Usability (U. S. government website) [www.usability.gov](http://www.usability.gov)
- The American Bar Association - Accessible Meeting Toolkit - [https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/mental\\_physical\\_disability/Accessible\\_Meetings\\_Toolkit.authcheckdam.pdf](https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/mental_physical_disability/Accessible_Meetings_Toolkit.authcheckdam.pdf)
- Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities - <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/convention-on-the-rights-of-persons-with-disabilities.html> - The Convention follows decades of work by the United Nations to change attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities. It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as "objects" of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as "subjects" with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society.



**Think  
globally to  
be inclusive**

# THANK YOU

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Managing Partner of Usercessible, LLC  
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# Support Services

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**Holly Westcott**

Interpreter



**Candace Whitlow**

Interpreter

DBA C.W. Interpreting Services, LLC



**Michelle Houston**

Captioner



# Thank You!

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