

# THE UNIVERSITY OF AKRON



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

**JOHN C. GREEN, PH.D.**  
INTERIM PRESIDENT

May 8, 2019

Dr. Philip A. Allen  
Chair, University Council  
The University of Akron

Dear Dr. Allen:

Thank you for forwarding the Web Accessibility Policy proposal that was passed by University Council on April 9, 2019.

Please see the attached summary of our actions to date and actions planned to meet our accessibility obligations.

Sincerely,

Dr. John C. Green  
Interim President

c: Dr. Chand Midha, Executive Vice President and Chief Academic Officer  
Dr. Rex Ramsier, Executive Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer

## **WEB ACCESSIBILITY – UPDATE – May 2019**

Like our peer institutions, The University of Akron has a large and complicated web presence that makes full web accessibility compliance problematic. We are focusing on continuous improvement, making accessibility part of our ongoing work.

### **Some of the already completed or ongoing initiatives include:**

A paid service to create a text-only version of the main UA site, making the pages accessible to people with screen readers.

Periodic training from Instructional Services for faculty on the use of Brightspace tools to review and improve accessibility of course content. I.S. has also created and posted within Brightspace a complete guide to creating course content that all students can access.

Use of a service for Communications and Marketing to scan our main website for accessibility issues.

A methodology to up-convert webforms to accessible standards.

### **Recently implemented initiatives include:**

Working with Purchasing to develop language to add to all future RFPs.

A link in the footer of all UA pages that allows users to let us know of accessibility issues they encounter.

Development of /webaccess/ as a policy/resource site – including statements of compliance from third-party applications.

Development of the UC-initiated web accessibility policy as a guide for content creators.

### **Future initiatives include:**

Develop a form to evaluate exceptions to the web accessibility policy

Distribute training resources to content editors for the main website

Distribute access to the scanning service to web editors

Regular review of content by the content creators and departments.

### **Note:**

Some institutions have invested in additional staffing to directly review and resolve web accessibility issues, but our current plan makes use of existing staff and resources – working from the idea that an accessible website is a good website for everyone.