SREB
Educational Technology Cooperative

Access and Affordability

Keynote – *Affordability*
Wednesday, September 14

Open Education: The Moral, Business & Policy Case for OER

Dr. Cable Green
Director of Open Education
Creative Commons

The Internet, increasingly affordable computing and bandwidth, open licensing, open access journals and open educational resources (OER) provide the foundation for a world in which a higher education can be a basic human right. Governments and foundations are supporting this shift with a move to open policies: requiring public access to publicly (and foundation) funded resources. Dr. Cable Green, Director of Open Education at Creative Commons, will provide an overview of open licensing and OER, and discuss specific examples where institution, provinces / states, nations and foundations have moved the default on funding from "closed" to "open." He will also explore new OER projects that are pushing open education further into the mainstream.

Breakout: Finding OER, Barriers, and Proper Marking

Spend some quality time with Cable Green with hands-on demos of how to find existing OER (and provide proper attribution), a full discussion of the barriers and solutions for implementing OER, and how to properly mark your own copyrighted works with Creative Commons licenses.

Video https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gJWbVt2Nc-I

Cable Green

Cable works with the global open education community to leverage open licensing, open content, and open policies to significantly improve access to quality, affordable, education and research resources so everyone in the world can attain all the education they desire. His career is dedicated to increasing access to educational opportunities for everyone around the world. He's a leading advocate for open licensing policies that ensure publicly funded education materials are freely and openly available to the public that paid for them.

Cable has 20 years of academic technology, online learning, and open education experience and helped establish the Open Course Library. Cable holds a PhD in educational psychology from Ohio State University, and enjoys motorcycling and playing in the mountains with his family. He lives in Olympia with his wife and two boys.

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Educational Technology Cooperative

Keynote – *Access*
Thursday, September 15

Getting Up to Speed on Accessibility and Compliance

Dr. Tracy Gray
Managing Director
American Institutes for Research
Center on Technology and Disability

Web accessibility and compliance have gained national attention as we spend more time online with growing dependence on digital tools at school, work, and home. Even with the increased availability of assistive and instructional technologies, students with disabilities often encounter barriers to accessing educational content, resources and tools due to poor design and technical incompatibilities. Numerous federal and state laws, coupled with communications from the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education, make clear that provisions for accessibility extend into digital spaces – websites, digital content, videos, course management systems and digital learning materials. What does this mean for you as an educational leader? How can you ensure fair and equal access for all of your students, particularly those with disabilities, before problems arise? Learn more about the implications of disability law, its application to digital spaces and learning, steps you can take to ensure compliance with the law, and how you can use the principles of Universal Design for Learning to be proactive in addressing issues of access to meet all student needs.
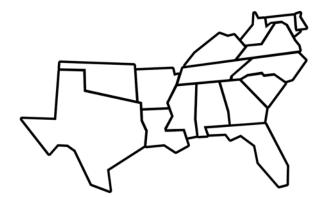

Tracy Gray

Tracy is a nationally recognized expert in the implementation of assistive and educational technology to enhance teaching and learning. She has led four national centers funded by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. Dr. Gray currently directs AIR's efforts with the Center on Technology and Disability to provide materials, tools and resources to key stakeholders to improve outcomes for students with disabilities. Dr. Gray directed the development of the 2016 National Educational Technology Plan that provides a blueprint for the nation to better leverage technology and digital learning to meet the needs of all students, particularly the disadvantaged. She led the development of PowerUp WHAT WORKS, has served as the principal investigator for two U.S. Department of Education projects related to STEM education, was vice president for youth services at the Morino Institute and was responsible for the design and implementation of the Youth Development Collaborative. Gray also was the deputy executive director and chief operating officer for the Corporation for National Service. Dr. Gray received her M.A. and Ph.D. from Stanford University and A.B. from the University of California, Riverside. She is bilingual in English and Spanish.

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K-12 Breakout Sessions:

Dr. Tracy Gray and Ms. Devon Wellington

Breaking Down Silos and Building Bridges — Between Instructional and Assistive Technology

We have seen dramatic shifts in the use of innovative technologies and digital resources to enhance teaching and learning in formal and informal settings. These tools and related resources offer the opportunity to meet the needs of all students, particularly those with disabilities. However, digital does not always mean accessible, and in some cases, emerging technologies can lead to the exclusion of students with special needs. With an increased focus on Universal Design for Learning, coupled with a push to leverage the power of technology, state and local education leaders have an unprecedented opportunity to break down the general and special education funding silos to create innovative programs that benefit all students. To make this a reality, it will require creative planning, increased collaboration and the blending and braiding of available funding streams. Breaking down silos and building bridges between technology teams, assistive technology specialists, special and general educators will be essential to ensure that technology can meet the needs of all students.

Assistive Technology and Accessibility: What You Need to Know and Why

An increasing number of educators see the potential of personalized learning to meet the needs of a student population that has grown more diverse, with a wide range of academic and learning needs. Assistive and instructional technologies, are powerful tools to achieve this goal. As more than 60% of students with disabilities spend 80% of their time in general education classrooms, it is important that educators understand how these digital devices, software and resources offer a once-unimaginable array of options for tailoring lessons to meet student needs, particularly those with disabilities. Learn about the growth of these tools and the increased focus in federal K-12 policy that mandates equal access to these technologies, programs and resources to provide equal opportunity for all students.