BRIDGING THE ACCESSIBLE TECHNOLOGY SKILLS GAP

DEFINING THE GAP
In Fall 2022, Teach Access surveyed its growing membership, partners, and networks about the state of accessibility within their organizations.

Generally, respondents reflect a growing awareness toward adopting accessibility practices, but those intentions remain unrealized in practice, continuing to be impeded by the lack of talent available with accessibility skills.

- 77% of respondents say it is important or very important for their organization to hire designers and developers with accessibility skills.
- 75% of respondents see a moderate to significant increase in demand for employees with accessibility skills in their organization in the last 5 years.
- 81% of respondents report that they have to supplement their team with outside consultants and contractors and/or have to invest in supplemental external training.

BUILDING YOUR BRIDGE

1. Lay Foundation
Curate and develop accessibility knowledge sources and experiences that emphasize practical application and hands-on experience.

   - Source education materials developed by faculty to teach accessibility skills to students in the Teach Access Curriculum Repository (TACR).
   - Collaborate with industry experts, students, and faculty to explore the field of accessibility during the Study Away program.

2. Build Capacity
Embed accessibility responsibility, skills, and requirements throughout organizational roles to better support implementation of accessibility policy and best practices.

   - Learn basic training and best practices for disciplines responsible for digital accessibility with the Teach Access Tutorial.
   - Create the basis for producing and procuring accessible products with a knowledgeable, skilled workforce applying the Accessibility Skills Hiring Toolkit.

3. Support Growth
Create opportunities for instructors and central team members to teach the others around them.

   - Apply for monetary awards for higher education faculty to develop curriculum enhancements introducing accessibility to existing courses from the Faculty Grants program.

JOIN WITH US

Teach Access Programs:
- Discover more programs that Teach Access hosts to build a foundation of accessibility and disability knowledge in the higher education community for both students and faculty.

Partner Accessibility Programs:
- AFB Talent Lab: Join AFB's digital inclusion experts through immersive accessibility programs featuring a unique combination of hands-on training, mentorship, and consultation.
- AccessComputing: Support people with disabilities in their pursuit of computing education and employment and increasing this capacity in educational institutions and organizations.

"Accessibility should be everyone's job."

Please contact us!
Tell us what you need to advance digital accessibility.
info@teachaccess.org

Resources available online at teachaccess.org

May 18th, 2023