



teach access

Who We Are:

With at least 61 million people in the United States living with a disability, **digital accessibility is essential for independence and equity**. Teach Access is a unique organization that partners with students, educators, industry, government, and nonprofit advocacy organizations to provide free programs and resources that teach fundamental skills and concepts about disability and digital accessibility.

Most colleges and universities do not teach about digital accessibility, leaving an accessible technology skills gap in the workforce. Through our comprehensive educational programs and initiatives, Teach Access creates a future workforce that understands the need for products and services to be born accessible for individuals with disabilities.



“As a Student Ambassador Lead, I have learned just as much, if not more, from these individuals than they likely learned from me. As a legally blind individual, I am well versed in accessibility as it pertains to blindness and low vision, especially since I myself have had to navigate numerous accessibility barriers. However, the discussions I have engaged in with students and professionals during and after sessions opened up the door for me to learn more about accessibility as it pertains to disabilities and experiences I am less familiar with.”

Natasha Ishaq

The College of New Jersey



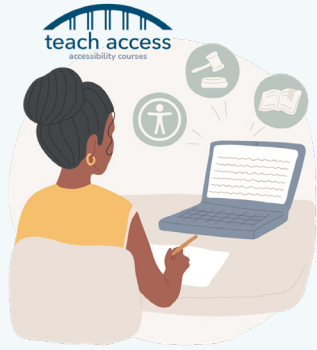
The Importance of our Work:

Since 2016, Teach Access has been advocating for accessibility and educating others about the importance of inclusive design practices. However, we cannot achieve this without addressing the accessible technology skills gap.

Teach Access bridges this gap by providing education and training that empowers the future workforce from various backgrounds to incorporate accessibility principles into their work, regardless of their specific roles. We believe that accessibility should *not* be a specialized skill but a fundamental one. Everyone, not just students in tech-based disciplines, should know about disability and accessibility as they enter the workforce.

Our Approach:

At Teach Access, we are committed to ensuring that people of all backgrounds and identities, including those with disabilities, are included and supported in the digital world. Our goal is to empower individuals with disabilities and other underrepresented groups to participate fully in today's digital society. Our programs and resources are designed to integrate digital accessibility into the curriculum of universities and colleges so that all students, including those with disabilities, can graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary to contribute to developing accessible digital products and services.



[Accessibility Courses](#)

Self-paced courses for educators provide an introduction to disability and the principles of accessible design across various disciplines. In addition, they guide educators on how to start teaching accessibility in their courses.



[Accessibility Skills Hiring Toolkit](#)

Housed on GitHub, this open-source toolkit helps organizations build internal capacity for developing a workforce with accessibility knowledge and skills through position description language and interview questions. Utilizing the toolkit can enhance the hiring process to ensure you're selecting candidates who grasp digital accessibility, contributing to a more inclusive and diverse workforce.



[Fellowship Program](#)

The Teach Access Fellowship Program engages educators and administrators to create purposeful communities of action for teaching accessibility and advocating for it. Over the course of a year, fellows are supported in learning how accessibility informs their practice, in teaching about it to others, and in strategizing for embedding it into the curriculum.



Teach Access Grants

Funding for instructors to create and deliver accessibility-infused curricula into their courses and conduct research or publish works around them. Grants are awarded annually in May. Teach Access has awarded more than \$400,000 since 2018.



Student Academy Program

A free program composed of virtual monthly webinars for students to explore a variety of topics on disability and accessibility.



Student Ambassadors Program

A free program that engages students from across disciplines and institutions to learn about disability and accessibility, build a community of inquiry, and develop projects to advocate for accessibility in their institutions.



Teach Access by Design

A facilitated online course that introduces educators and administrators to basic concepts related to disability, accessibility, and Universal Design for Learning (UDL).



Teach Access Curriculum Repository

A collection of over 350 open educational resources by faculty to support teaching accessibility to students. The repository contains teaching tools spanning disciplines (syllabi, slide decks, assignment prompts, discussion questions, etc.)

745,000 Students and Counting:

Teach Access has reached over 745,000 students and aims to reach one million by 2030. Its programs and resources reach educators and students nationwide and aim to create a workforce that values disability and digital accessibility. Teach Access is expanding its educational programs to include K-12 students to create tailored content for that audience.

“During Teach Access Study Away experiences, I met industry connections that benefited my career. It taught me about accessibility, and I landed a dream job because of the knowledge I learned. Accessibility is always foundational in the software I create, and I lend knowledge around accessibility when questions arise. I see where sharing that knowledge can make a positive impact.”

Anderson Day

iOS Engineer



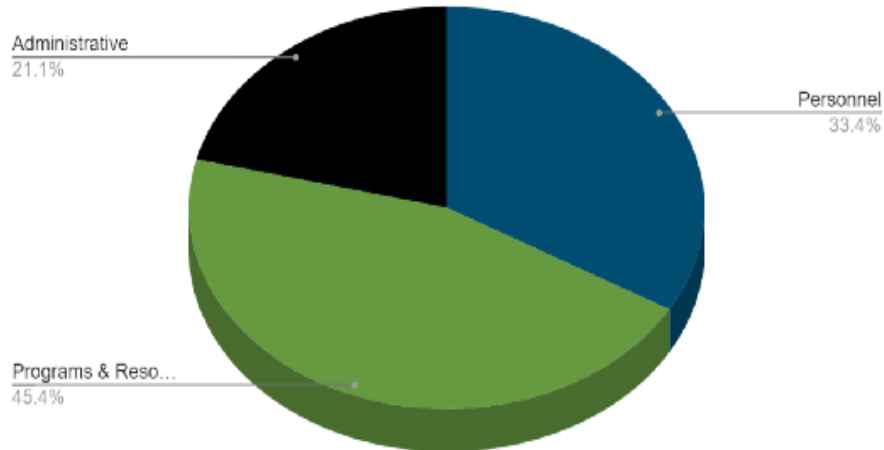
2025 Projected Budget:

Programs & Resources: \$597,600

Administrative: \$277,815

Personnel: \$439,540

Total: \$1,314,955



Your support is needed:

In 2020, we set a goal to reach 1 million students by 2030. To date, we've surpassed 745,000 and are rapidly approaching that goal. The Building Bridges Collective is a community of donors passionate about increasing accessibility and creating a more inclusive world. With your donation, you're helping to bridge the gap between education, digital accessibility, and a skilled workforce, ensuring technology can be made accessible. Make a one-time gift or monthly contribution.

"I am a person with a stutter and have a very hard time interacting with voice assistants. They don't understand what I am trying to say or just cut me off. It's a frustrating experience. In today's world, where voice assistants are so common, it's disheartening that I can't have an easy time interacting with them. In addition to this, it is also embarrassing sometimes when automated captions don't catch what I am saying when I do presentations. My presentations then become inaccessible to those who rely on captions. We need better speech to text technology informed by people with disabilities."

Meena Das

Software Engineer at Microsoft, Teach Access Board Member





Our Team:

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Mindy Kolin, Director of Development & Industry Partnerships

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