

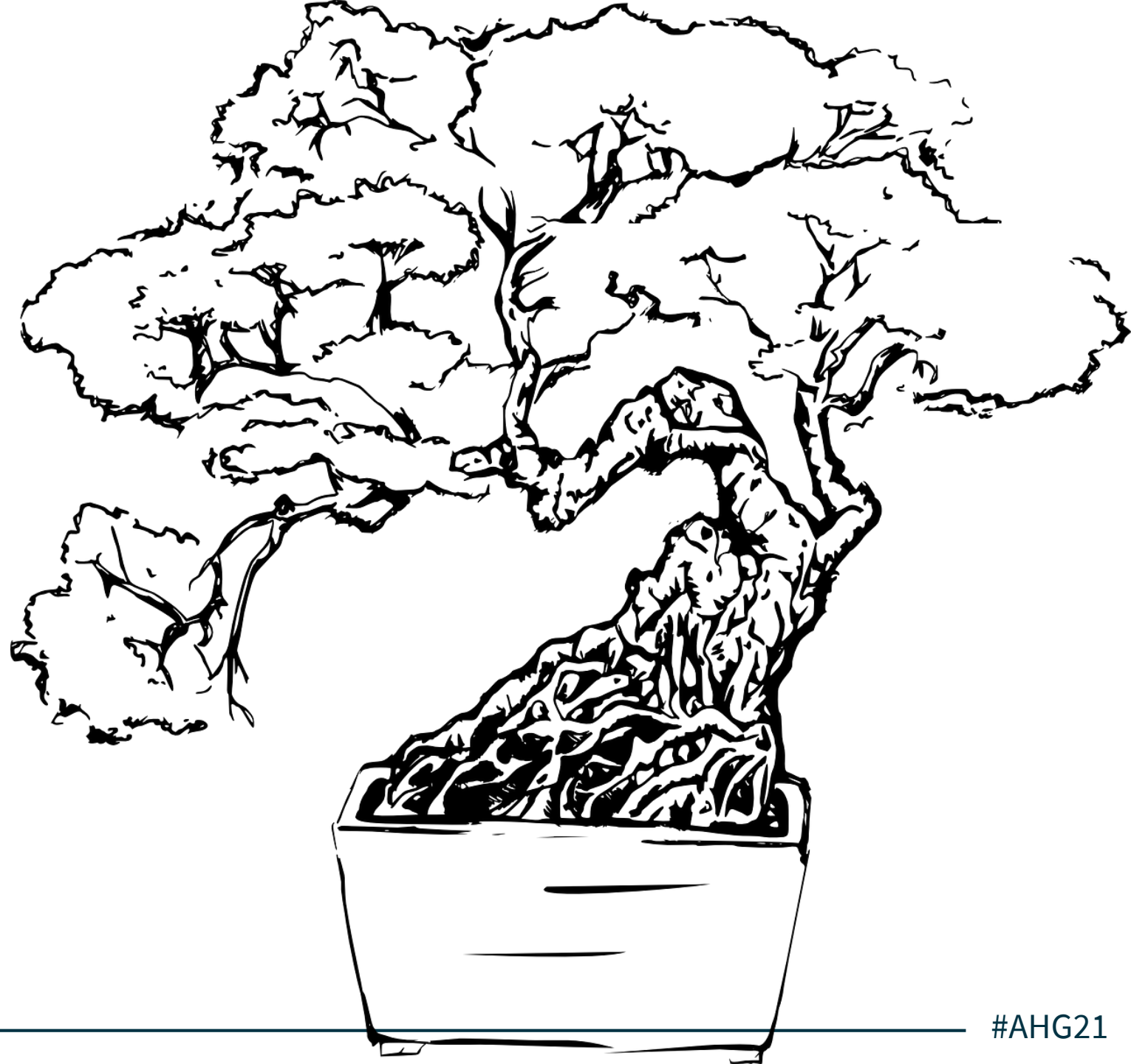
COVID-19 and the Accessibility Spotlight

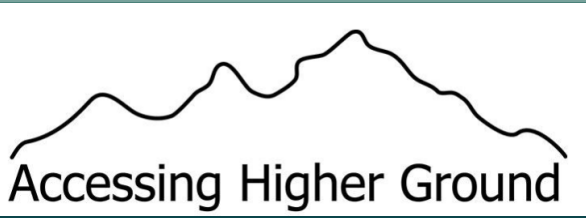
Christa Miller and Mark Nichols, *Virginia Tech*
Korey Singleton, *George Mason University*
Lori Kressin, *University of Virginia*



Agenda

- Introductions
- Grassroots Groundwork
- Pandemic Shifts
- Goals for the Future





Introductions

Virginia Tech

Accessible Technologies

- R1 Public land grant institution
- More than 37,000 students
- 2,070 Instructional Faculty
- Multiple campuses
- Teams: ADA, Services for Students with Disabilities, and Accessible Technologies



George Mason University

Assistive Technology Initiative (ATI)

- R1 Public Institution (largest in VA)
- ~39k students from 130+ countries
- Heavy investment in online instruction
- 1500+ Instructional and Research Faculty
- 10 colleges and schools, 4 locations
- Centralized AT and Digital Accessibility approach

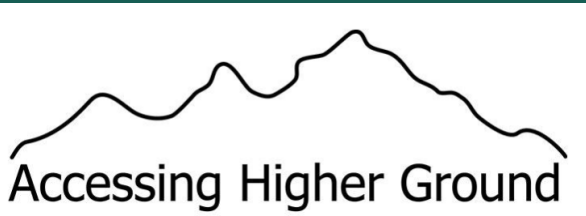


University of Virginia

Coordinator of Academic Accessibility

- R1 Public institution with medical center
- Nearly 27,000 undergrad/grad students
- ~3,200 faculty and ~9,700 staff
- 12 Schools
- Centers across the state and a 4-yr institution
UVA College at Wise
- Accessibility Partners





Grassroots Groundwork

Peer-to-Peer Information Sharing



Institutional Capacity Building



High Risk/High
Impact Approach



Keep C.A.L.M.
campaigns



Captioning
Workflows

High Risk/High Impact Approach

- Collaborations with Disability Services (*pre-semester faculty training workshops*) and Stearns Center (*integrated accessibility into online course development process*)



Whole Institution
(Top-down)



Targeted Approach/Risk-Specific
(High-Risk/High-Impact)

Keep C.A.L.M Campaigns

Choose
Accessible
Learning
Materials



The Captioning Project

- Captioning Coordinators
- Leveraged existing agreements



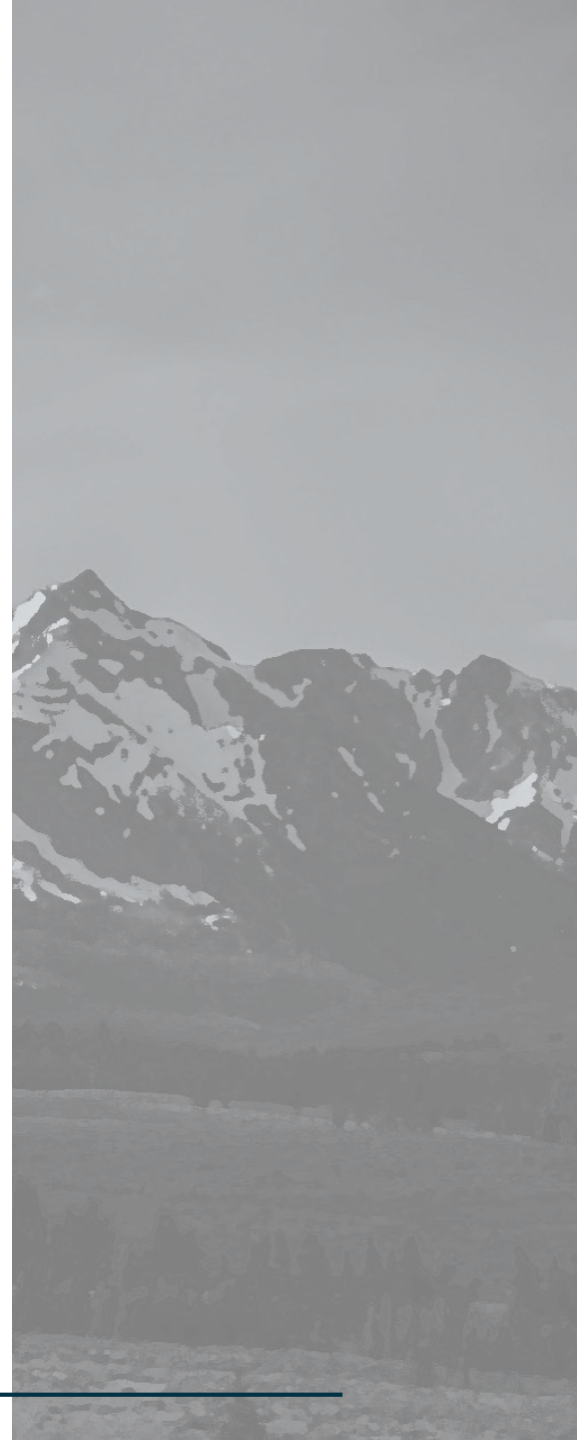
Virginia Higher Education Accessibility Partners

VHEAP

- Effort to leverage resources of large institutions to benefit smaller
- Share resources, experiences, and expertise among all members
- Formalized in 2018
- Looking at accessibility holistically – digital, built, and attitudinal – Higher Ed, K-12, Gov Agencies



Established relationships laid the groundwork for scaling accessibility





Pandemic Shifts

Virginia Higher Education Accessibility Partners Events

VHEAP

- Unconference
- Apple and Microsoft Townhalls
- Captioning Brown Bag
- Online Proctoring Brown Bag



Pandemic at Mason

- Internal partnerships
- Accessibility-As-A-Service Workflows
- Procurement



Pandemic at Virginia Tech

- Informational Resource Sharing
- Centralized Captioning
- Adoption of Ally
- Campus Accessibility Working Group Support
- Increase Staff size

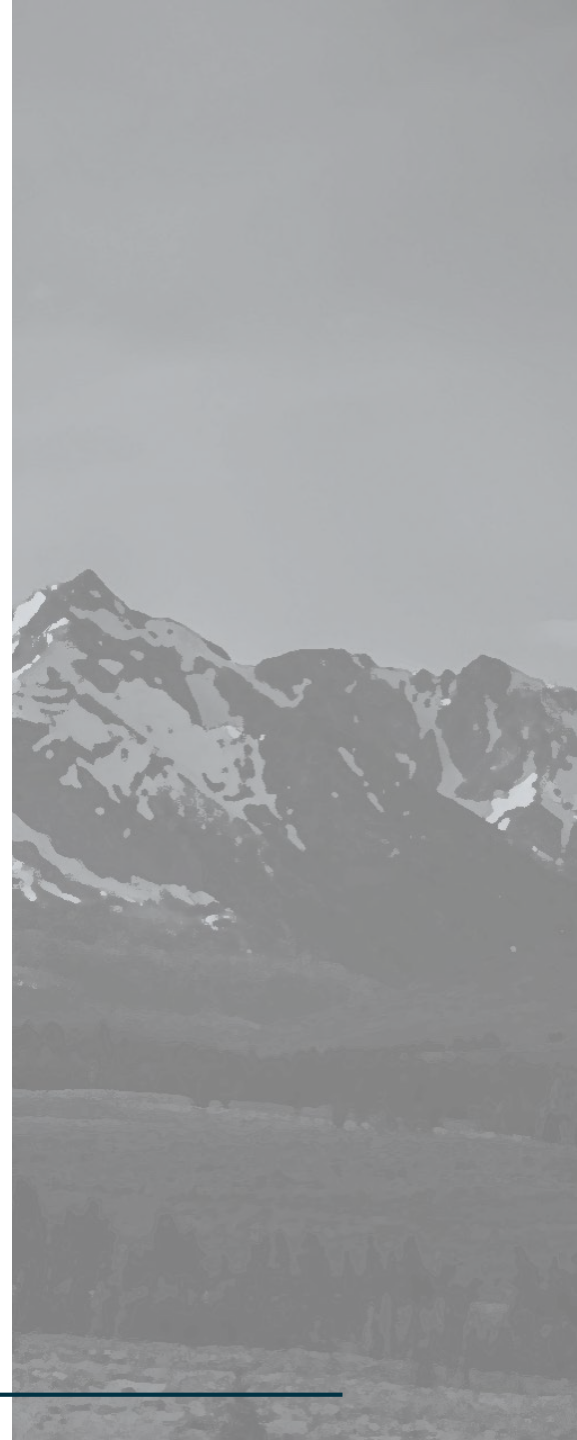
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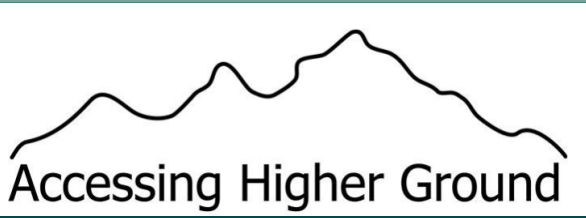


Pandemic at University of Virginia

- Centralized funding for post-production captioning of academic content
- Licensing of Otter and integration with Zoom
- Relied on instructional designers across the University and the Center for Teaching Excellence

Our pre-pandemic collaborations empowered our collective efforts





Goals for the Future

VHEAP Expansion

- Expanded captioning contract
- Identify other areas of impact – i.e. Position Papers
- Sustained funding model
- Expand participation to K-12 and State agencies



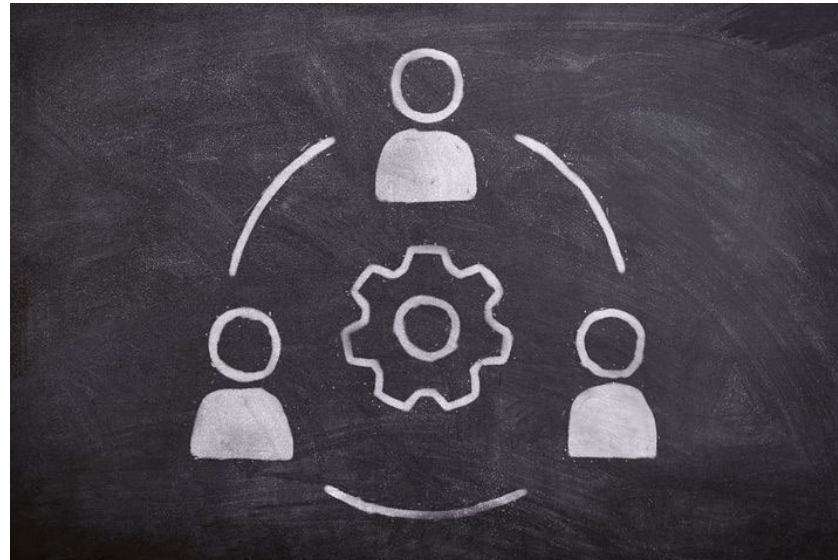
George Mason's Accessibility Goals

- Increase staffing support for web accessibility
- Develop Accessibility “action items” for Inclusive Excellence Plans



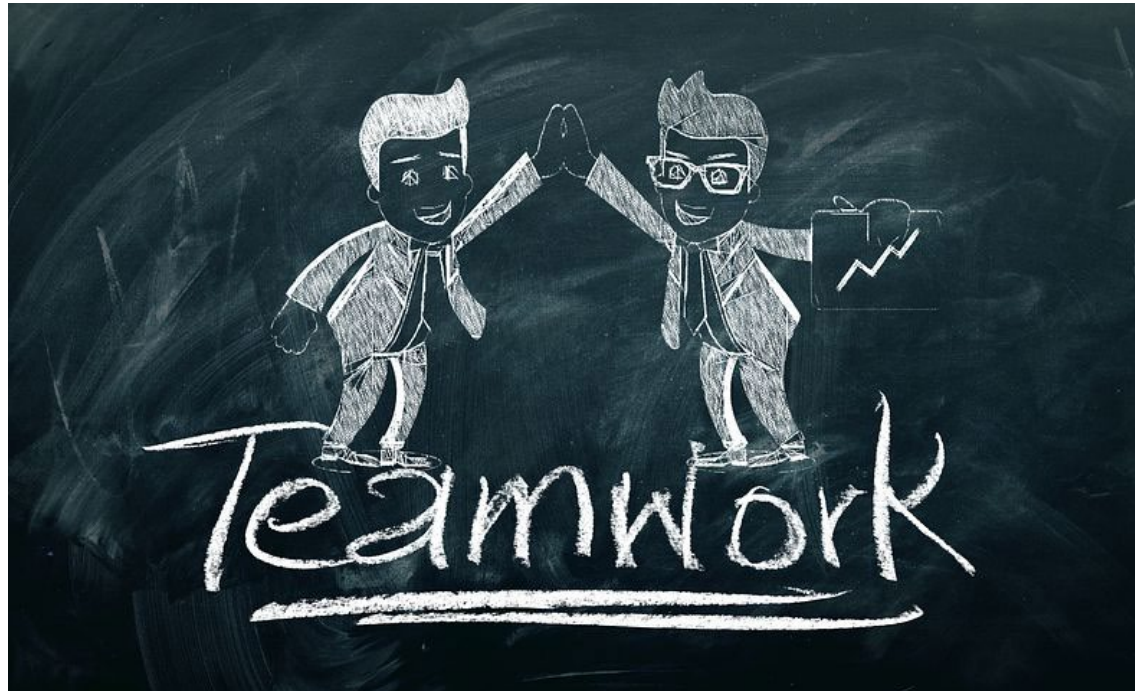
Virginia Tech's Accessibility Goals

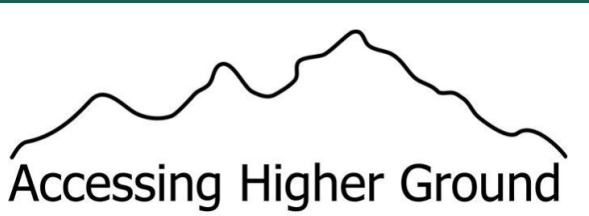
- Document remediation
- Audio description
- Web accessibility monitoring/auditing
- G3ict Digital Inclusion Maturity Model



UVA's Accessibility Goals

- Engage more faculty
- Broaden captioning adoption





Next Steps

Where does accessibility currently fit?

- One-stop shop
- Under IT
- Under Student Affairs
- Under Inclusion and Diversity

How does accessibility fit into your institution's mission?

- IT Operational Plan
- IT Strategic Plan
- Diversity Strategic Plans
- Department/Unit-Specific Initiatives

Who is a strategic partner?

Pinpoint a starting place

Summary & Conclusions

Connect accessibility
and the mission

Pick a strategic partner

Pinpoint a starting
place

Thank you for coming!

Please complete the session evaluation.

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