Creating an Accessible eLearning Environment

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Summary

Innovations in technology have made it possible for many individuals to receive education and training at a distance through the use of the Internet. There is little doubt that ability to utilize the Internet as a delivery modality for postsecondary education offers enormous practical value for many individuals. For individuals who have disabilities, however, this technology also often presents barriers that make it difficult to impossible to enjoy the benefits of online learning.

In this discussion we will focus on three topics pertaining to accessible online communications. First, we will discuss the most typical barriers that are encountered by online learners who have disabilities. Second, we will explore how we as online educators can utilize the World Wide Web Consortium’s (W3C) Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) in order to remove barriers and to help make one’s online content and services more accessible and friendly to all online users. Third, we will discuss several nontechnical practices for educators to consider when endeavoring to create an online teaching environment that is accessible to all users.

Presenter Bio

Kevin L. Crow, EdD, is an assistant professor of education at Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW). Dr. Crow teaches graduate courses in Educational Technology and Instructional Design. He also serves as the Instructional Design Consultant for CUW’s Global Online MBA program. Dr. Crow has written several articles and conducted several in-services, conferences, and workshops on the topics relating to accessible instructional design for e-learning.

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