# Accessibility 101 Video Transcript

## Intro:

Hi, this is Krystal in ITAS, and I'm here to talk to you about Accessibility from my sidewalk because I want to show you something that really highlights what Accessibility is all about. It's called a curb cut, and it's a small ramp that makes it easier to get from the street to the sidewalk without a big curb drop in the way.

Now, if you've ever pushed a stroller or ridden your bicycle, you've probably used one of these curb cuts, but they were originally put in place thanks to legislation by the federal government to help people with disabilities who might be using assistive technology like a scooter or wheelchair. But now it benefits everyone, and that's what Accessibility is all about. Outside, I showed you a curb cut as an example of Accessibility in action, but closed captions are another way that we see Accessibility in everyday life.

I can use them when I don't want to disturb somebody: I can read the captions instead of listening to the sound, or, if I can't understand what someone is saying because their accent is thick, the closed captions might help me understand that. I want to start off by talking about the definition that we have for accessibility and disability, so I'm going to switch to a PowerPoint really quick and give you a little more information.

## Slide 1 – Accessibility 101:

Basics and Resources.

## Slide 2 – Accessibility

(noun): the quality of being easy to obtain or use; the quality of being easily understood or appreciated; the quality of being easily reached, entered or used by people who have a disability. So, starting with this definition, notice how this mentions understanding and using before it mentions disabilities specifically. Accessibility is about improving understanding and usability for everyone, but one of the driving factors behind the global Accessibility movement is equal access for people with disabilities.

## Slide 3 - What is our definition of disability?

A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities is the definition of disability from our official WSU Tech Accessibility Policy, which I'll show you more about in a minute. It is important to understand that not all disabilities are visible, nor are they even known. That is why creating accessible courses and materials is so important. It serves the population as a whole.

## Slide 4 – What is our definition of Accessibility?

This definition is also from our Accessibility Policy. Individuals with disabilities are able to independently acquire the same information, engage in the same interactions, and enjoy the same services within the same time frame as a person without a disability with substantially equivalent ease of use. We don't have time to get into every aspect of the policy today, but these are the driving principles behind it.

## Slide 5 – Why Accessibility?

Well, this is a question I get all of the time, and the main reason is because it benefits all of our diverse learners. It’s the right thing to do to improve the quality of the learning experience, but there is a legal side to this as well. Because we receive funding from the federal government, we are required to follow the government's policies regarding Accessibility as laid out in Sections 504 and 508 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act and its amendments and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

## Slide 6 – How This Applies to Courses

Well, materials, documents, media, and software or hardware used for instruction must be accessible, and we provide training which is given (and we assess compliance with that training) based on a three-year plan. More information you can find on the Innovation Cafe, and I'll show you that here in a few slides.

## Slide 7 – Accessibility Versus Accomondation

You may be asking why we would do all the work to make courses accessible when we have a Disability Services Department to help our students. To answer that, it helps to understand the difference between accessibility and accommodation. Accessibility is accurate Closed Captions and a transcript for a video. This is a proactive approach. It benefits everyone, including students who are watching the video with the sound off, maybe because they are at work on their lunch break, or students who process information better when they read it., or English-as-a-Second-Language students who use the captions to help them process English faster. On the other hand, accommodation is having an interpreter for a student in that student's live course sessions. It is reactive to the needs of that student specifically: the interpreter doesn’t attend every class we offer, only those classes the student is in. By being accessible, we can minimize the need for accommodation and make the learning experience more seamless for all users.

## Slide 8 – Help is at Hand!

If you were wondering how to proceed and how to learn about Accessibility and the skills needed to create accessible learning experiences, fear not. You have plenty of resources. Besides the colleagues you work with, many of whom are already Accessibility Rock Stars, let me show you to the Innovation Cafe, where you can find information on our three-year plan, our training materials and new training offerings., the Accessibility Policy, and even who your Accessibility committee member is.

## Innovation Café Accessibility Tab-

Let's step away from the PowerPoint, and I'm going to share my screen to show you how to get to the Innovation Cafe. To find more resources about Accessibility, first you want to get to the Innovation Cafe. You can navigate to the Innovation Cafe from directly within blackboard. This is an easy way to get there and it’s in the tabs across the top of your main blackboard landing page. Once I get to the Innovation Cafe, I can see the main menu that runs across the top and there is a tab for Accessibility. There are three options. The first is Accessibility in Action. The next is Accessibility Training, and the last is Accessibility Policy and Plan. Selecting Accessibility Policy and Plan will show you where our policy lives. This is the policy by itself. This other Resources tab has the Full Accessibility Policy document in case you want to look at definitions and implementation of standards. It also has the exception request procedure, which, if you have questions about that, you should talk to your Accessibility committee member. At the bottom of the page is the Three-Year Accessibility Plan. This plan began on July 1st of 2020, and it will be updated every three years or as needed. You can look at the plan within the PDF viewer. You can also download a copy of it using the download options across the top of the PDF viewer. You can see that this plan looks at every semester and what we will be training on new and continuing from our previous plan. Let's take a look at where you can find more information on Accessibility training. The Accessibility Training and Resources page has all of the resources from the trainings we’ve implemented over the last three years. This page is in constant flux as we add more resources and change the way that we approach training, so check back here frequently. We will also post guidelines for Fall and Spring training contenting this area, including instructions on how to get enrolled in the online classes for Accessibility training. The last tab in the accessibility page is the Accessibility in Action area. This has our mission statement. It has the roles and responsibilities of Accessibility Committee members, the committee chair, faculty and lead faculty, and Academic Deans, as well as the role of ITAS and director of Disability Services. But at the very bottom of this page you have your Accessibility committee members. And you can see they're sorted by Academic Department and then name. Using the resources on this page will ensure that you know who to contact and when training is going to happen. It also allows you to look back at resources from previous trainings to help improve your Accessibility skills.

## Slide 9 - Questions?

Well, if you do have questions about Accessibility that are not answered by the Innovation Cafe, please reach out to your Accessibility Committee Member or send a ticket to itas@wsutech.edu.