SBCTC AGENCY ACCESSIBILITY WORKGROUP UPDATE

January 13, 2020 |Mark Jenkins, SBCTC Director, Educational Technology & Open Education

SBCTC has convened an internal committee to achieve compliance with Washington State Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) [Statewide Technology Standard Policy 188](#).

The committee's initial focus is producing a Technology Accessibility plan. Guiding documents and recommendations for this plan will be submitted to SBCTC Executive Leadership in February 2020. The Committee is comprised of four members from SBCTC Education Division, three members of SBCTC IT, one from SBCTC HR, and ad hoc content experts from other agency departments.

Initial committee work includes

- Creating an inventory of covered technology owned or managed by the agency;
- Creating an inventory of covered technology used in but not owned by the agency;
- Identifying priorities and strategies for remediation where necessary;
- Updating procurement standards to include consistent methods for working with vendors to address accessibility in accordance with state policy and federal law.
- Integrate accessibility into HR practices;
- Review and revise current agency accessibility policy;
- Recruit and hire an accessible technologist position. This position will be charged with coordinating accessible technology initiatives both inside the agency and in system contexts such as the Committee on Accessible Technology Oversight (CATO).

Additionally, interviews are scheduled with agency stakeholders to

- Identify accessibility gaps in agency policy and procedures;
- Identify obstacles to implementing accessible workplace practices;
- Identify, document, and promote current effective practices and resources in the agency;
- Identify training needs within the agency.
- align technology accessibility with SBCTC principles for equity, diversity, and inclusiveness in agency documents and practices.

The committee's initial deliverable will be a draft Digital Accessibility guiding document detailing and documenting

- SBCTC definitions and standards for technology accessibility;
- SBCTC's technology accessibility policy scope and application;
- Alignment and interdependencies between agency and college system accessible technology initiatives;
- Procedures for documenting and addressing accessibility concerns and complaints;
- Responsibility areas, resources, and contacts in the agency for technology accessibility support;
- Training requirements for agency staff;
- Proposed timelines for implementation of outstanding Policy 188 requirements, including testing and remediation.