



Faculty Newsletter Fall 2020

Center for Accessible Resources

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Contact CAR at AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu, (541) 463-5150, or visit our [website](#) for more information.

In this issue we cover:

- **Feature: Accessibility in the Remote Environment**
- Referring students to CAR
- Reading Room
- LCC Mental Health and Wellness Center and more!

Feature: Accessibility in the Remote Environment

As we continue our necessitous journey through remote instruction for a majority of learning experiences this term, it is important to remember that some elements of the remote environment are more challenging than others, if not completely inaccessible, for some students with disabilities.

Some elements to think about when compiling and creating course material:

- All videos created by the instructor, department, or college require closed captioning (and preferably with a full transcript available)
- While the college is not legally responsible for captioning videos from outside sites, those videos may not be accessible to students in your class
- Auto-captioning is rarely adequate as it not accurate enough to provide equal access
- Students with accommodations require access to all materials at the same time as all other students in the class
- Captions are beneficial universal design component for students of all learning abilities, not just for students with disabilities
- All images used should include alt-text tags
- If distributing electronic textual material to students, Word docs tend to be the most readily accessible, followed by ePubs and PDFs
- Scanned documents converted to PDFs tend to not be accessible natively and need some assistance being made accessible
- Follow [Universal Design for Learning](#) best practices to ensure accessibility for all students in your courses

If needing any assistance with captioning videos or general Moodle accessibility, please contact the [Academic Technology Center \(ATC\)](#).

For assistance with assessing accessibility for student specific accommodations, please contact our Alternate Format specialists at alternateformat@lanecc.edu or AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu, or contact the Accommodation Specialist listed on the student's Letter of Accommodations (LOA).

Referring Students to CAR:

Faculty members sometimes contact CAR regarding students they feel might need services offered by our office. Although teachers in high school are active participants in the process of identifying and referring students to special services, there is no comparable requirement in higher education.

If you see a student who is struggling and wish to refer that student to CAR, remember that our students are adults. They may respond best to private conversations in which you use an inquiring and supportive approach and share information about the existence and location of the CAR office. Avoid singling out a student in class (this can be embarrassing for the student). Meet with a student one-on-one and discuss concerns you have from your observations of them in class. Focus on stating the facts and let them know there is help on campus and many student services are available, including CAR.

For additional strategies for referring students to CAR, please see the "Referring Students to CAR" section of Chapter 14 of our [Faculty Handbook – Working with CAR Students](#).

Reading Room:

Pertinent readings on access and equity in education to help through this difficult time.

Crisis-informed pedagogy: <https://www.insidehighered.com/blogs/higher-ed-gamma/crisis-informed-pedagogy>

Increased mental health stress during the pandemic: <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/08/17/suicidal-ideation-rise-college-aged-adults-due-covid-19-pandemic>

Disability as Diversity: <https://www.chronicle.com/article/why-is-disability-missing-from-the-discourse-on-diversity/>

LCC Mental Health and Wellness Center:

The college is taking steps to implement more robust mental health services for our students. This includes a new **Mental Health and Wellness Center (MH&WC)** that will encompass mental health crisis counseling, clinical counseling for mental health conditions, and coordination of mental health services.

The need for mental health services on college campuses is growing rapidly. College students today are facing mental health issues with increased regularity. According to the American Psychological Association (APA) and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI):

- 35% of first year students struggle with mental health
- 25% report they take psychotropic medications
- 25% of students have a diagnosable mental illness
- 33% of students reported prolonged bouts of depression
- 50% percent rated their mental health below average or poor
- 25% of students report having suicidal thoughts or feelings
- 49.5% of students reported feelings of hopelessness in the past year
- 85% reported they had felt overwhelmed
- 60.5% reported feeling lonely
- 15% of students report engaging in abnormally reckless behaviors
- **67% of college students who struggle with mental illness do not seek in-person treatment**

The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing mental health conditions among college students, many of whom have had to scramble to adapt quickly to remote learning and are facing additional financial stressors. This is a tough transition for students.

As an effort to reach our LCC students remotely 24/7, the MH&WC will join national and international efforts in offering mental health support in real time with TalkCampus.

TalkCampus is an online global mental health support network allowing students access to instant, online support at any time of the day and for as long as needed. TalkCampus utilizes peer support where users are encouraged to give and get support to each other supplemented by student peer supporters who are recruited, trained, and managed by TalkCampus.

For more information you can visit the [Mental Health and Wellness Center webpage](#).

Navigating a LOA:

The Letter of Accommodation (LOA) is confirmation for faculty members that the student has completed the qualification/registration process with CAR. LOAs are sent out electronically every term by CAR and state the student is qualified to receive the specific accommodations identified in the student's letter.

For more information about the LOA please visit our [website](#).

CAR Tips in the Lane Weekly

Do you read the *Lane Weekly* emailed each Tuesday? If so, you have probably read some of our tips. Keep watching for upcoming tips that could be helpful to you.

Faculty Handbook:

Looking for information about CAR, accommodations, or working with CAR students? Want to learn more about Universal Design? Questions about confidentiality? Visit CAR's [Faculty Handbook](#).

How to Contact CAR Staff

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have questions or concerns. We are here to offer any support, coaching, or guidance that you may be seeking.

CAR staff are working remotely to ensure accommodations and support for students.

Prospective CAR students can email us at accessibleresources@lanecc.edu or call (541) 463-5150 if they have questions. Prospective students can fill out a [CAR application](#).

For assistance with accommodations please contact:

Nick Monroe, Accommodation Specialist
Phone: (541) 463-3227
Email: MonroeN@lanecc.edu

Fiona Bossing, Accommodation Specialist
Phone: (541) 463-5069
Email: BossingF@lanecc.edu

Alexis Kielb, Accommodation Specialist
Phone: (541) 463-5150
Email: KielbA@lanecc.edu

For assistance with Alternate Format needs and Testing please contact:

Lexi Slovik, Project & Testing Coordinator
Email: CARtesting@lanecc.edu

To request this information in an alternate format, please contact the Center for Accessible Resources (CAR) at (541) 463-5150 or AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu

LCC complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.