



Faculty Newsletter Winter 2021

Center for Accessible Resources

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Welcome to the new year and term from everyone at CAR! We hope you had a restful and restorative break. Thank you for supporting LCC students with disabilities by ensuring your courses and material are accessible to all regardless of ability. CAR is also a source of support for LCC faculty so please do not hesitate to reach out.

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

In this issue we cover:

- **Feature:** Introducing **Director of Student Accessibility Services Mandie R. Pritchard, MA**
- CAR Faculty Survey
- Toward a Universal Design: Image Descriptions
- External video accessibility
- Reading room and more

Feature:

Introducing new **Director of Student Accessibility Services Mandie R. Pritchard, MA**

On October 19, the Center for Accessible Resources welcomed new director Mandie Pritchard.

Mandie has been in higher education for over 20 years and brings a wealth of leadership experience in student and academic affairs after having served at a rural community college and two R1 universities.

Prior to Lane, Mandie was assistant director of the Accessible Education Center at the University of Oregon, and was a member of the student care team, mental health advisory council, and participant of the Native Strategies group.

She has a master's in counseling education from the University of New Mexico with an emphasis on multicultural and career counseling. At UNM, Mandie provided administrative support for programs serving underrepresented student populations. Her teaching experience in career and life planning, college success, and health education presented an opportunity to share her counseling education background.

Mandie has overseen services that include accessible education, advising, mental health and recovery efforts, recruitment, residential programs, student orientation, testing services, college preparatory programs, and Student Support Services-TRiO. She was a charter member of Umpqua Community College's threat assessment team and developed their behavior intervention team.

Mandie served on New Mexico's Secretary of Education Assessment and Accountability task force for Governor Richardson, the State of Oregon Higher Education Coordinating Commission's Equity Advisory Committee, and in 2017, she was the keynote speaker for the Higher Education Case Management Association.

Mandie is an enrolled tribal member with the Pueblo of Acoma, New Mexico, and provides training and consultation on threat assessment and disaster behavioral health with an emphasis on serving diverse and Native communities.

Mandie looks forward to continuing promoting student success and providing enriching support services with the Center for Accessible Resources staff while further advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion for LCC students and students with disabilities.

Faculty Questionnaire:

In order to serve students and faculty more efficiently, CAR wishes to solicit feedback from faculty regarding processes to improve the provision of access, accommodations, and other academic adjustments. We are here to support and guide faculty in this endeavor and welcome collaboration. CAR would appreciate it if faculty could take a few moments to complete this short questionnaire. Be on the lookout for this Google form in your LCC email. Thank you for your participation!

Toward a Universal Design: Image Descriptions

We talk a lot about universal design at CAR. When courses are intentionally designed with universal design in mind, the learning environment is made more accessible for students of all abilities, reducing the need for some academic accommodations. In this issue we highlight a key universal design consideration: Image descriptions.

What is an image description?

An image description is a textual caption that describes the pertinent information found in an image. It is often described as alt-text since the alt-tag is frequently where the description can be found.

HTML example: ``

Word example: Right-click image, select "Edit Alt Text," enter image description in the text field

Image descriptions can describe pictures, gifs, graphics, video, or anything else that provides visual information. Without them, visual course content could be entirely inaccessible for students with vision impairments.

How to write an image description: Object-action-context

The object is the main focus of the visual. The action describes what is happening visually or what the object is doing. The context describes the surrounding environment. These guidelines keep the description objective, concise and relevant, and descriptive.

It should be objective as possible so that people using the description can form their own opinions about what the image means. It should be concise so that it doesn't take too long for people to absorb all the content, especially if there are multiple images. And it should be descriptive enough that it describes all the necessary aspects of the image. Ultimately it comes down to what information you want students to take away from the visual content.

Visit our [Universal Design for Learning page](#) for more best practices.

External video content considerations:

YouTube videos (and videos hosted on other 3rd-party video platforms) can seem like ready-to-use supplemental material that is widely accessible to all. This is not always the case, however. While YouTube does have an auto-caption feature, frequently those auto-generated captions are flawed or incomplete at best, or laughably incorrect at worst. You may have a student currently (or eventually) needing to access that content through captions, and while you may be able to glean some information from the captions with added context from the visuals and sound in the video, students who rely on captions or transcripts may find those videos completely inaccessible.

We recommend viewing potential video material with the sound off to assess the accuracy of the auto-generated captions. If you can't make sense of the information provided by the captions alone, or if it takes extended guess-work or inference, then the students relying on those captions likely won't be able to make sense of the material either.

If needing any assistance with captioning videos, please contact the [Academic Technology Center \(ATC\)](#). Please be aware there is a lead time for requests to be processed through the ATC which will depend on the length and content of the material.

Reading Room:

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

Disability as Diversity: ["Disability as Diversity," Lilah Burke](#)

Disability and the Pandemic: ["Students With Disabilities Face More Pandemic Hardships," Greta Anderson](#)

Academia and Mental Health: ["Academia's Role in Fighting Mental Illness Stigma," Daniel Blake](#)

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

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.