

Office Memorandum

DATE: March 27, 2007

TO: Distribution VI

FROM: James M. Rosser, President

CC: K. Baaske, K. Button, S. Garcia, H. Lujan, P. Quan, A. Ross

SUBJECT: **Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI)**

In January 2006, the CSU launched the Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI). This initiative reflects the ongoing CSU commitment to providing individuals with disabilities access to information resources and technologies. Specifically the initiative is intended to "...develop the work plan, guidance, and resources to assist campuses in carrying out the accessible technology provisions of [Executive Order] 926." Additionally, the CSU Accessible Technology Initiative incorporates the following:

1. **Vision:** To create a culture of access for an inclusive learning and working environment.
2. **Mission:** To help CSU campuses in carrying out CSU Executive Order 926 (EO 926) by developing guidelines, implementation strategies, tools and resources.
3. **Principle:** To apply universal design, an approach to the design of products and services to be usable by the greatest number of people including individuals with disabilities.
4. **Strategy:** To stimulate collaboration to effect changes that will ultimately benefit all.

To carry out this order, coded memorandum AA-2006-41, Access to Electronic and Information Technology for Persons with Disabilities, was released on September 28, 2006. It was followed by an updated memorandum, AA-2007-04, on February 9, 2007 (<http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/codedmemos/AA-2007-04.pdf>). These memoranda outline a roadmap for campus implementation of EO 926, the Assistive Technology Initiative.

Successfully achieving the requirements of the coded memoranda in an effective and timely manner at CSULA will require campus-wide participation. Therefore, CSULA has established an ATI Steering Committee, as well as three working groups, to address the three priorities of the five-year roadmap:

- Web accessibility
- Instructional materials accessibility
- Accessible electronic and information technology procurement

In consultation with the Academic Senate Chair, members of the Steering Committee and the working groups have been selected from a broad range of constituencies, including the Academic Senate, Office for Students with Disabilities, University-Student Union, Associated Students, Inc., Student Affairs, CSUEU units, Deans, Academic Affairs, University Library, eLearning Programs and Support, the Center for Innovation and Excellence in Teaching and Learning, Human Resources Management, Procurement, Administration and Finance, and Information Technology Services. The Steering Committee will coordinate efforts to assure that the required policies, procedures, and internal audits are in place; the working groups will address specific deliverables for each of the top three priorities.

Accessibility to information technology resources, such as Web-based materials, programs, and services, is not only a long-standing and increasingly relevant concern, but one that is mandated by federal and state law, including Section 508 of U.S. Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 11135 of the California Government Code. On January 1, 2005, CSU EO 926 established CSU policy, specified campus responsibilities, and offered supplemental guidance to ensure that each campus will be in compliance with policy and law.

Although there is nothing in these laws or ATI that mandates the use of any specific instructional materials, it is important to note that we must make provisions for accessibility before we are requested to do so. CSULA must comply with these laws, but even more, we recognize that our real goal, as stated in EO 926, is “to make information technology resources and services accessible to all CSU students, faculty, staff and the general public regardless of disability.” It is, simply, the right thing to do.

I ask each of you to become better informed and actively involved in this effort. Only through campus-wide participation can we ensure that CSULA resources are accessible to our students, faculty, staff, parents, alumni, and other constituents. Specifically, I ask that our administrators, department heads, and chairs be committed to working with the ATI Steering Committee/Working Groups, and other campus offices to identify and address accessibility issues in their areas, e.g., department websites, personal computers, pamphlets, brochures, other informational materials. Everyone’s commitment is necessary to achieve our goal of full compliance.

All employees should be aware of this directive so they can be engaged in this campus-wide effort. If any employees in your area did not receive a copy of this memo for any reason, please share copies with them. For more information visit: <http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility/>

I am confident that together we can meet our legal and policy mandates while improving our learning environment. Thank you for your attention and dedication to achieving the vision and mission of the Accessible Technology Initiative.