

March 6, 2018

Dear FSU Community,

As some of you may have heard, over the coming months Framingham State will be ramping up efforts to bring our web site, Framingham.edu, and digital content on all of our public and internal University online properties (such as myFramingham and Blackboard) into compliance with state and federal laws governing accessibility. We have signed a Resolution Agreement with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights that provides a timetable and guidance for our action plan.

As an institution, we should all be committed to ensuring that we meet the very highest standards of accessibility, and I will be counting on your help and participation in this process. There will be many opportunities moving forward for you to be involved.

For now, however, we have a smaller team of key stakeholders planning how we will proceed with this project (see members listed below). Early steps include having an outside firm perform an accessibility audit of Framingham.edu. We will also be holding focus groups with students, faculty, staff, and members of the public. Once those efforts are complete, we will be coming up with a corrective action plan for items that have been identified as problematic. Plans have not been developed at this time, but we anticipate releasing them to the community within the next several months, as required by our Resolution Agreement.

In the meantime, we have created training videos available on the [Accessibility Page](#) of the web site. Users can enter their campus login credentials to access the videos. I urge anyone who regularly creates materials that are posted online or sent electronically to view these videos, which demonstrate how to make web pages, photos, videos, and documents, such as PDFs, accessible. We will be establishing a plan for ensuring that all new materials posted online are accessible, which is why it's important to take part in these trainings.

The campus-wide accessibility initiative will build upon previous and ongoing efforts at FSU to promote accessibility in our community, including course design workshops and our Summer Technology Institute focusing on Universal Design, use of SiteImprove to monitor accessibility on Framingham.edu, the Blackboard Ally Project, the conversion of textbooks into accessible formats, and the creation of an Accessibility Suite in the Library.

Framingham State has been committed to access and accessibility since our founding in 1839. New technologies have created many opportunities, and also new challenges that we must address. To do so requires us to recommit ourselves to fostering a campus culture that promotes accessibility in all areas, including online.

If you have any questions, you may submit them to accessibility@framingham.edu.

Sincerely,

Javier

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