

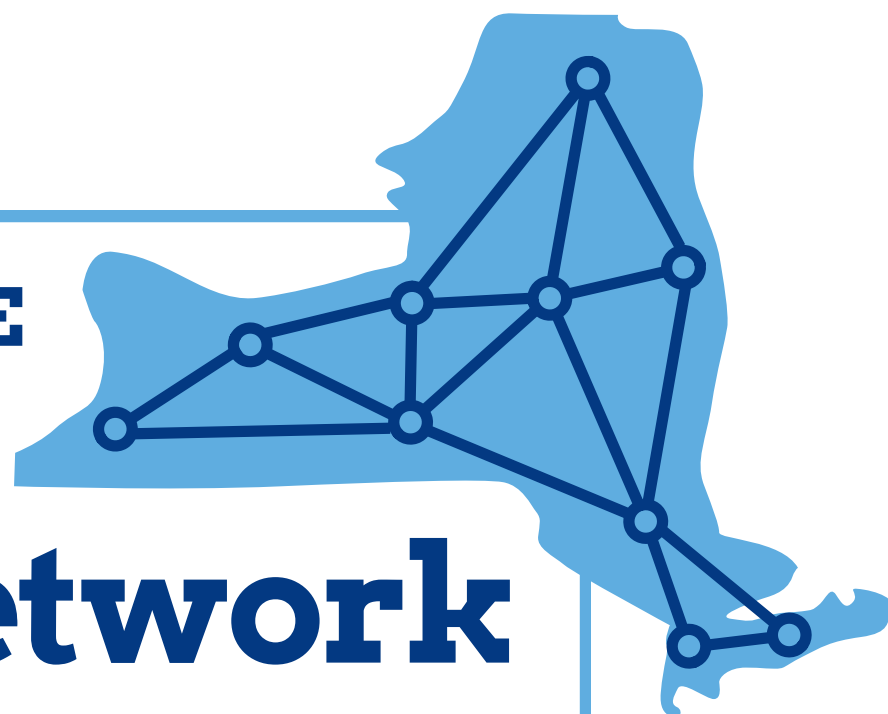
2025 NYS DEN ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Advancing Access through Collective Advocacy

IN PARTNERSHIP BY:

NEW YORK STATE

**Digital
EquityNetwork**



Center of Excellence

WIRELESS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

AT STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY



NEW YORK
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A Division of Empire State Development

Accessibility Is Equity: Centering Services for those with Disabilities in our Digital Inclusion Programming



Moderator: **Carl Atkins**
Digital Equity Coalition of
the Capital Region
carlatkinsmd@gmail.com



Marisol Getchius
Self-Advocacy Association of
NY State (SANYS)
mgetchius@sanys.org



Courtney Spaulding
Center for Independence of the
Disabled in New York
cspaulding@cidny.org



Jim Corporal
The Viscardi Center
jcorporal@viscardicenter.org

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Does it make sense to develop a universal website design so that everyone, with or without disabilities, can use them, or is that a waste of resources?

I think universal website design benefits all. From being able to make the font larger because a person may have vision challenges not disability related to changing the color of the background because a person has autism. A waste is a business not making their website universally designed and a person with a disability visiting their inaccessible website that business just lost business and money. My money is just as green as the next person. Businesses are missing a whole segment of society whether it is website access or physical access to their storefront. It is said that a person will tell more people about a negative experience before they tell people about a positive experience

Marisol Getchius
Self-Advocacy Association of NY State (SANYS)
mgetchius@sanys.org

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When designing for equitable access for those with disabilities, what is the most important thing to consider?

People mean well when they try to design for people with disabilities but what often happens is that design doesn't work. This is why we need to be at the table when design occurs. Sure, a business may need to pay for a consultation to make their website accessible but it's worth to get it right the first time.

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How are government websites doing in terms of accessibility? What is the most important aspect that could be improved?

Government websites have come a long way but can always improve. One way a government website or any other website is to use plain language. More and more government services are moving online so basically you are alone browsing and clicking on answers. People other than people with disabilities who are also affected by not having plain language or an inaccessible website are people who are older

How to improve? Use plain language, have live chat (not AI), have a clutter free homepage

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