An Update on A Multi-Year Captioning Compliance Pilot Project

Suzanne Tapp and Justin Louder
Texas Tech University
At last year's WCET Annual Meeting, staff from Texas Tech University hosted a highly interactive discussion on how one large public research institution was tackling captioning. This session would be a continuation of that discussion, an update on what has happened in the last year.

Goals for today’s session:

• Outline Texas Tech’s captioning resources
• Describe levels of captioning support (including costs and support provided)
• Summarize current campus climate at Texas Tech
• Discuss work from other institutions
Texas Tech University conducted a pilot process throughout the 2014-2015 academic year to assist with captioning needs for both face-to-face and online courses.

Established an undergraduate Student Captioning Lab Pilot Program

Early challenges: Time intensive for staff and students/difficult to keep stable student pool
A Student Run Captioning Lab @ TTU

- 4 undergraduate students
- 20 hours a week each
- Trained on best practices for captioning found in the Described and Captioned Media Program’s (DCMP) Captioning Key
- Utilize Camtasia
- Challenges: Accents and Technical Lectures
TTU Captioning Process Today

- All videos must be captioned, Worldwide eLearning provides captioning assistance
  - Self-captioning tutorials
  - Captioning lab
  - 3rd Party vendor
- Instructors request captioning
- Captioned by priority
  - Classes with LOA first, sent to 3rd party vendor
  - Remainder of videos
    - Less than 15 minutes → instructor encouraged to self-caption
    - 15-40 minutes → Student Captioning Lab
    - 40 minutes → 3rd Party Vendor
Captioning Levels of Support

Level 1
- Videos less than 15 minutes
- Faculty or Staff caption videos utilize free or low cost software available to the TTU community

Level 2
- Videos more than 15 minutes but less than 40 minutes
- Course may not have more than 10 videos
- Internal Captioning Lab Service provided by TTU Worldwide eLearning

Level 3
- Outsourced 3rd Party Captioning
- Videos longer than 40 minutes in length
- OR if you have a LOA
Budget Issues

- Hard to establish a line item budget for captioning
- TTU provided some central funds for the first year of this project to allow a working group of faculty and administrators to develop a long term funding policy
Captioning on Campus Today

- Campus Climate
- Current Funding Model
- Captioning Policy: Draft finalized and submitted to the Provost in July, 2017
• What challenges has your institution faced with captioning requirements?
Group Discussion

• What successful strategies have you implemented?
• What future plans do you have for your campus?