

Blackboard World 2018
July 19, 2018

SUNY Shoots, Ally Scores for 20+ SUNY Campuses

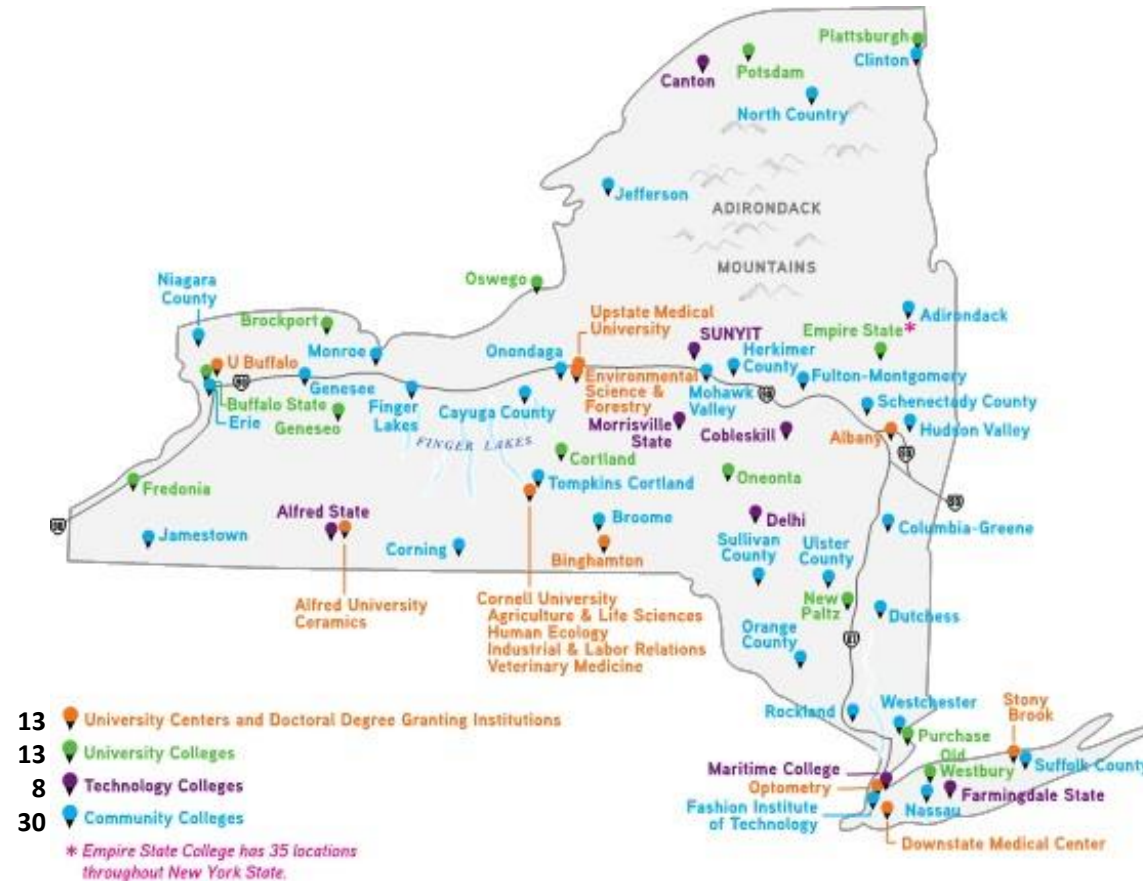


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SUNY System 64 Campuses

445,000 students
34,000 faculty
57,000 staff



*University-wide strategy
and set of supports and
services to advance
campus online learning
initiatives in support of
SUNY goals*

170,000+ Online Students
500+ Online Programs
21,000+ online courses per year
<http://open.suny.edu>



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Accessibility from the SUNY Perspective

With our 64 campuses and regional offices, we are fully committed to providing accessible environments to all, including individuals with disabilities. As put in our mission statement, SUNY sets out to "provide to the people of New York educational services of the highest quality, with the broadest possible access, fully representative of all segments of the population in a complete range of academic, professional and vocational postsecondary programs".

<http://www.suny.edu/accessibility/>



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Session Format

- Overview of SUNY System level involvement with Ally
- 3 headed approach with campus representation
- Question / Answer period on adoption / implementation of Ally (not on functional use of Ally)



Blackboard Contract

- Negotiated Contract to include Ally (Dec. 2017)
- Enterprise License to get favorable pricing for campuses
- Ally tool on the accessibility tool belt, not a 100% solution



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Initial Actions Before Campus Rollout

- Webinars discussing Blackboard Contract / introducing campuses to the inclusion of Ally (Nov. 17 – Jan. 18)
- Planning for Blackboard Learn upgrade to Q2 2017
- Start work with Blackboard Ally Implementation Team / internal Learn system updated with Ally



Internal Review Before Campus Rollout

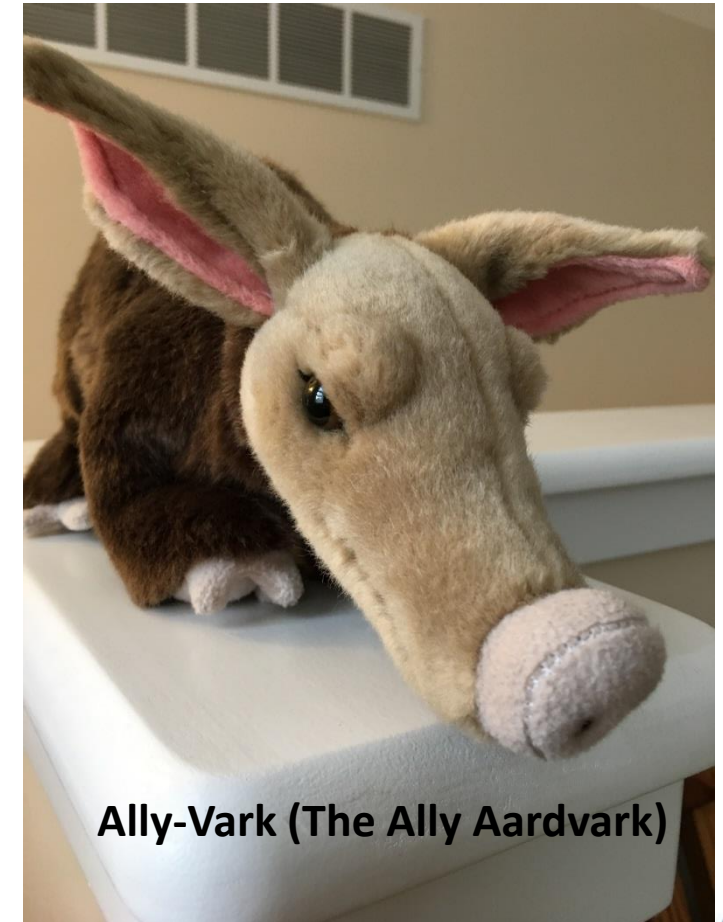
- Internal Ally Team Formed:
 - Campus Representatives
 - System Administration Disability, Diversity, and Nontraditional Student Services
 - Open SUNY HelpDesk
 - Open SUNY Application Services
- Team Goals
 - Review Functionality
 - Determine Support Concerns
 - Campus Rollout Considerations
- Output
 - Compiled Ally & Other Accessibility Resources
 - HelpDesk Knowledge Base Article



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Knowledge Sharing

- SUNY-Wide Learn Development Site updated with Ally
- Webinars on Ally Functionality
 - SUNY Community BBQ (Blackboard Quarterly) – Ally for Learn
 - Ally for Moodle
- SUNY Ally Monthly Open Discussion Session
 - Think about what you want to learn
 - Think about what you want to teach



Campus Rollout

- 26 SUNY Campuses
- Blackboard Ally Implementation Team
 - Blackboard Team Project Management
 - Open SUNY / ITEC Involvement
 - Campus Teams



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Why Ally for Alfred

- Financing negotiated by SUNY allowed for us to gain administrative support
- Compliance with U.S. Federal regulations and Middle States Commission on Higher Education standards
- Faculty Senate eLearning Committee was excited about Ally
- Viewed as a tool for faculty
- Students gain access to a variety of formats



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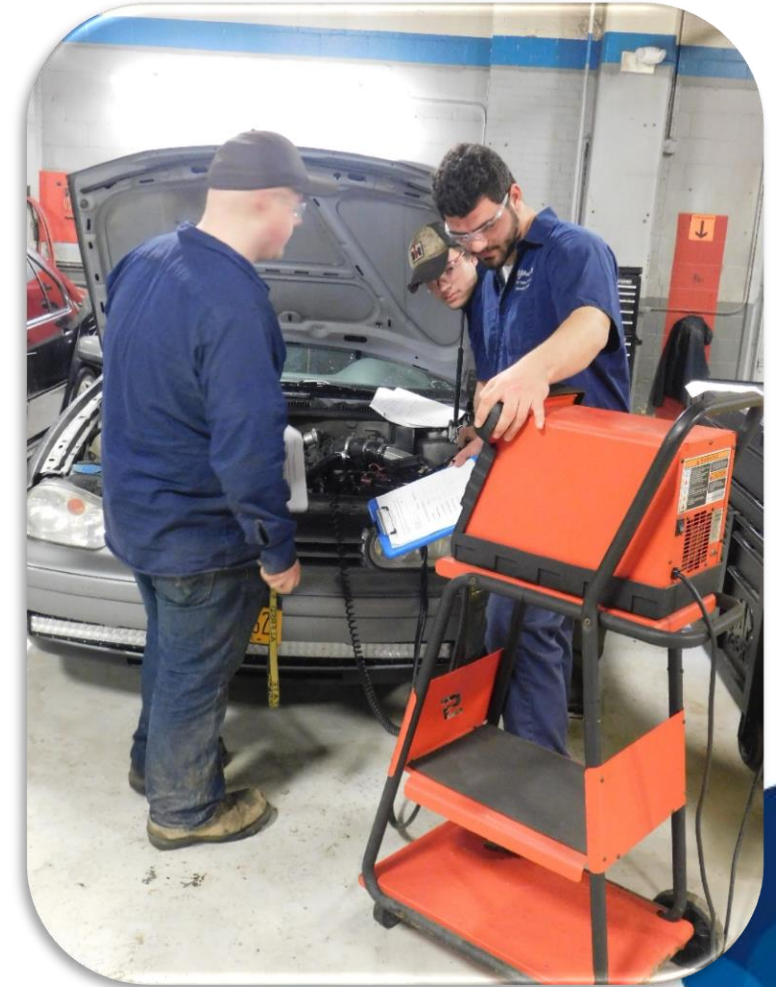
Summer Implementation

- Communication plan developed
- Communication with summer faculty
- Ally activated in all summer courses
- Continued communication with summer faculty
- Ally activated in all fall courses



Fall Implementation

- Communication with fall faculty
- Professional Development week sessions
- Group and individual workshops
- Focus groups for students
- Focus groups for faculty
- Presentation to Faculty Senate

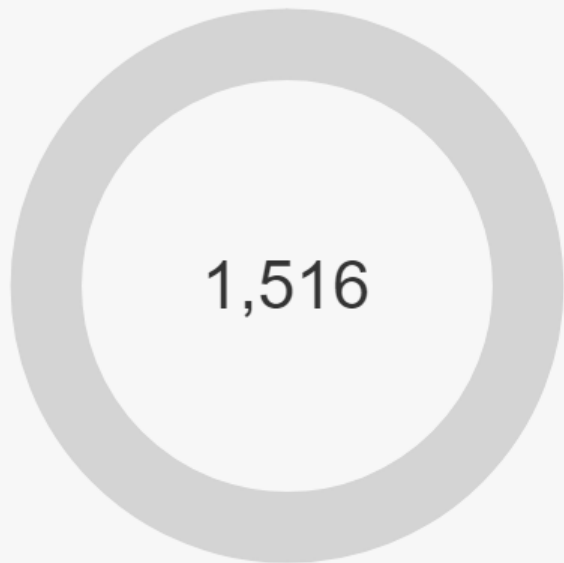


SUNY

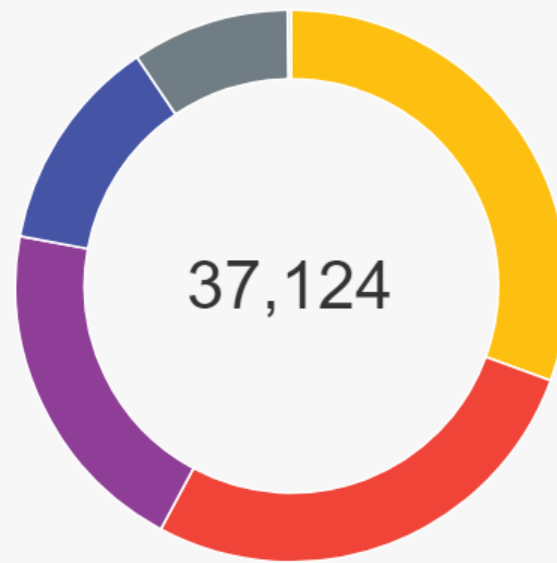
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2017-2018

Total courses

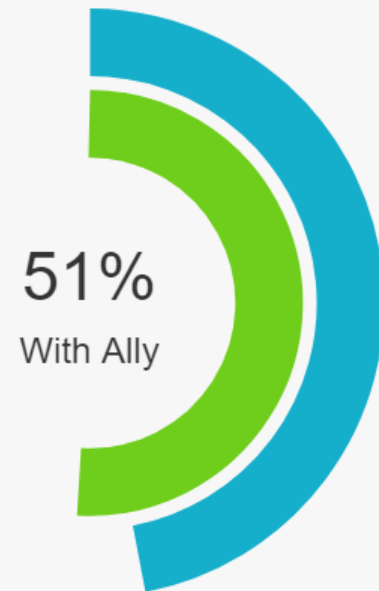


Total content created



Overall accessibility score

Without Ally: **47%**



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Challenges

- Anticipate need to assist faculty in making suggested changes
- Educating the campus and communicating the value to faculty
- Encouraging links to the library databases

Implementation Committee

- Director of Online Learning
- Director of Technology Services
- Coordinator of Student Disability Services
- Blackboard System Administrator
- Instructional Designer
- SUNY ITEC team
- Blackboard team
- Open SUNY team
- Faculty
- Academic Affairs Collaboration Team



SUNY

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Rational for Deployment

- Need for a tool to give us a starting point
 - Initial work was slow and random using an “as needed” model
 - Overwhelming endeavor for faculty at first look
- Distance Learning Committee
- Faculty governance
 - Approved resolution
- Worked with administration to secure funding
- Applied to courses with pilot volunteers

Team Selection

- Team was selected to provide input from many sources
 - 2-Faculty: Health Sciences & Business
 - 2-Distance Learning: Director and staff
 - 1-Library
 - 1-Disability Services
 - No students selected for implementation phase

Rollout

- Pilot with select courses
 - Nursing Fall 2018
 - Nursing Development courses
 - Communications
 - Business
- Full rollout in Fall 2018 after training sessions
 - Workshops, just-in-time training videos, departmental training, one-on-one sessions
 - Focus on most critical issues with the easiest fix



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Blackboard Ally Rollout Planning

- **At SUNY Broome, we are in the very, very, very initial stages of implementation**
- **Rollout will occur in 3 Phases:**
 - Phase 1: Technical Implementation (Summer 2018)
 - Phase 2: Detailed Rollout Planning (Fall 2018)
 - Phase 3: Course Rollout (Fall 2018 - Spring 2019)

Distance Learning at SUNY Broome

- SUNY Broome is a bit unique in the structure of Distance Learning Support Services for faculty
- Decentralized model
- 4 Instructional Designers (IDs) – each physically embedded within an Academic Division
- Allows the ID to focus on needs specific to that Division, one of which being accessibility of digital content

Phase 1: Technical Implementation (Summer 2018)

- **Training Meetings with Blackboard**
 - Ally Project Kickoff
 - Ally Tools Overview
 - Ally Institutional Report Session
- **Open SUNY Application Services and SUNY ITEC**
 - Sandbox Testing
 - General Awesomeness
- **Feedback from other SUNY Campuses**

Phase 1: Technical Implementation (Summer 2018)

Decisions, Decisions...

- Ally GUI will not initially be turned on for all courses
- Beginning with a small group of 4 courses (1 from each Academic Division)
- Development shells, not live courses
- IDs working through Ally in their assigned Division course to become familiar with the tool and identify common issues
- IDs fixing many issues for faculty as they work in this Phase
- Divisional IDs will share findings with one another to create a master repository of training documentation to be used across all 4 Divisions

Phase 2: Detailed Rollout Planning (Fall 2018)

- **Rollout Planning Team will be formed consisting of:**
 - AVP and Dean of Distance Learning
 - 4 Instructional Designers
 - Accessibility Resources Office Representative
 - Faculty from each of the 4 Academic Divisions
- **Usage of institutional reporting will be determined**
 - Must be carefully done as to not be perceived as “Big Brother”

Phase 2: Detailed Rollout Planning (Fall 2018)

- **Training materials and documentation will be finalized**
 - Checklist for Compliance
 - Instructions for using Ally and what Accessibility Score means
 - “Quick Guides” for common issues and how to fix them
 - Blackboard Training Course regarding Accessibility of Digital Content
- **Accessibility/Ally Presentation at Campus-wide Fall Assembly**

Two-part approach to increase awareness and clarify process

 - Accessibility Office - Why accessibility of digital content is necessary
 - IDs – How Instructional Designers can help

Phase 3: Course Rollout by Division (Fall 2018 - Spring 2019)

- **IDs present at their Academic Division Meeting**
 - Overview of Accessibility and Ally Tool
 - “This is a good thing”
- **IDs will work with Division Dean and identify Departments and/or Programs to begin with**
- **Work with Department Chair to identify faculty/courses**
- **Still working with development shells rather than in live courses**

Considerations and Opportunities

- **It's all about Student Access**
- **Opportunity to “Refresh” existing courses**
- **IDs are not compliance officers nor experts in Accessibility**
- **But we are partners ready to help!**

Questions?

The SUNY logo consists of the letters "SUNY" in a white, sans-serif font, centered within a white circle. This circle is positioned on a dark blue background that features several overlapping circles of various shades of blue in the bottom right corner.

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