# CAHNRS – Web Accessibility Goals

## BACKGROUND

Changes to applicable law and WSU Executive Policy (EP), as well as industry-wide efforts to improve access to web-based information, have motivated CAHNRS to review our processes and practices for the creation and maintenance of web-hosted content, and how we pursue the publication of data in a widely accessible format.

## GOALS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

CAHNRS supports the ideal of universally accessible web content, meaning that visitors of CAHNRS websites can access the same information and online resources regardless of their level of ability.  WSU as an institution is working towards compliance with current Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) as the foundation of our web accessibility efforts.  The WCAG defines the following four Principles of Accessibility:

- **Perceivable**
  Information and user interface components must be presentable to users in ways they can perceive.
- **Operable**
  User interface components and navigation must be operable.
- **Understandable**
  Information and the operation of user interface must be understandable.
- **Robust**
  Content must be robust enough that it can be interpreted reliably by a wide variety of user agents, including assistive technologies.

## ACCESSIBILITY AT A GLANCE

The purpose of web accessibility is to remove barriers for users with disabilities (vision, hearing, cognitive, mobility, and similar) attempting to access information on websites, documents in digital formats, and other electronic communication mediums.

WSU is committed to creating an accessible environment for students, employees, faculty, and staff. WSU is implementing additional accessibility policies, procedures, and resources to continue to best serve our community and to meet state and federal requirements.

Because there is no single solution available at this time, WSU Web Communication provides guides and tools on web accessibility for web publishers and administrators. WSU faculty and staff are encouraged to become familiar with the web accessibility guidelines and to review their websites for compliance with those guidelines.  WCAG also provides an at-a-glance overview to help organizations improve the

accessibility of their websites.  You can read the at-a-glance overview at https://www.w3.org/WAI/standards-guidelines/wcag/glance/.

## Next Steps

To begin the process of improving web-accessibility, CAHNRS will update and adjust our web platforms and tools to naturally encourage and support the creation of accessible web pages and content. Additionally, instruction and training will be provided for web authors on the importance of accessible content, and on the simple ways in which web authors can improve their websites.  Finally, CAHNRS will define a process by which users can request accessible formats for materials they currently struggle to access.

When WSU Central Communications issues further instructions regarding accessibility compliance, CAHNRS will ensure that those instructions are disseminated and published on our site.