because accessibility is for everyone

SIGNAL CENTERS ACCESSIBILITY AWARENESS SERIES

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:

This series is being held in celebration of Global Accessibility Awareness Day.
On behalf of Signal Centers, I want to thank you for joining us on Global Accessibility Awareness Day. Our hope is this event will inspire transformative conversations about the inclusion of individuals with different abilities. Together, we can be a positive force in achieving the accessibility of digital information for all.

Donna McConnico
CEO, Signal Centers

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<th>SCHEDULE OF EVENTS</th>
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<td>May 21, 2020</td>
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Designing for accessibility started as a medical accommodation. People with disabilities needed special tools and materials so they could operate in the world, just like abled people. If those individuals couldn’t be fixed, we would create accommodations for them to make them equal.

However, in recent years, we’ve changed how we think about design for people with disabilities. We no longer believe they are the ones needing fixing. Instead, we need to think of our designs as being more flexible. We need the design to adapt to differences from one user to the next. We must reduce the necessity for special accommodation, but instead design our products and services to be adaptable to individual differences, no matter how varied.
Creating a Culture of Accessibility

Having the necessary tools and practices in place, along with a creative and unique plan for the utilization of those resources, can provide opportunities for increased independence. The presenters will share examples of what this looks like in practice and will discuss both building that organizational mindset along with the prerequisite systems change that must be present in order for such efforts to succeed.

Deb Socia is the President and CEO of The Enterprise Center. A Boston native, Deb was a middle school math teacher before becoming the executive director of Tech Goes Home in 2010, a board member of Project Right Inc. in 2013, executive director of Next Century Cities in Washington, D.C. in 2014 and finally the CEO of The Enterprise Center. She currently lives in the Highland Park neighborhood of Chattanooga, and has established The Enterprise Center as an anchor of the Innovation District in downtown Chattanooga.

Dr. Heidi Leming currently serves as the Vice Chancellor for Student Success at the Tennessee Board of Regents (TBR). Prior to assuming her role at TBR, Dr. Leming served as Vice President for Student Affairs in the University System of Georgia and served as a doctoral intern with the University System of Georgia Board of Regents in Atlanta. She has 19 years of experience in student affairs at institutions in Tennessee, Virginia, New York, and Georgia.
TECHNOLOGY IN THE WORKPLACE

As a professional with personal experience of using assistive technology (AT) that has structured everyday living and working, Liz will spend this time to reflect back, look forward and share anecdotes along with some valuable lessons learned. Using multiple technological outlets throughout the transition process provides opportunities for independence for individuals with disabilities. This session will explore specific AT strategies and solutions and provide examples of how the range of AT can be used at work.

LIZ PERSAUD

Liz Persaud is a nationally recognized keynote, public speaker, and advocate addressing the need to build bridges and solidify the gaps between individuals living with and without disabilities. Liz currently serves as the Program and Outreach Manager for Tools for Life, Georgia’s Assistive Technology Act Program, and the Pass It On Center, The National Assistive Technology Device Reutilization Coordination and Technical Assistance Center, at the Center for Inclusive Design and Innovation within the College of Design at Georgia Tech.
Fillauer is a leader and innovator in the design and technology of prosthetic and orthotic products. Our panelists will look at the current state of prosthetics and orthotics as well as how emerging technology will impact both the development and clinical aspects of the industry.

Chris is the Clinic Manager and Residency Director for Fillauer Orthotics and Prosthetics in Chattanooga, TN. Prior to joining Fillauer, Chris was an instructor in the Master of Science in Prosthetics and Orthotics program at Georgia Tech and practiced as a Certified Prosthetist Orthotist in the Atlanta, GA area. Chris’s current clinical interests are in upper limb and challenging lower limb prosthetics.

Bryan is a Research and Design Engineer with 14 years of experience. He has been in Research and Development with Fillauer since 2016 and is involved in prototyping prosthetics. Bryan has bachelor’s degrees in both Psychology and Engineering. His current engineering interests are in robotics, 3D printing, and drone technology.
Long gone are the days of having to walk across a room and turn a dial to watch what you want on TV. Technology has improved vastly over the years, providing solutions for independent access to news and entertainment on many different devices. With many people retreating to the safety of their homes, the risk of becoming socially isolated and detached is drastically increased. Access to these informative and entertaining platforms is more important than ever. Join Ben Jacobs as he details the various platforms and solutions available for accessible control of your TV, cable box, video game console, gaming PC, smart phone, and more.

Ben Jacobs is an expert in smart home technology, accessible mainstream gaming, assistive technology solutions, and other emerging technologies. Ben served as an Accomodations Specialist on the Assistive Technology Team at Georgia Tech, and now owns his own business, RebelTech Consulting, where he provides organizations and individuals with training, installation, customization, and continued support on available and upcoming technological solutions.
How is voice technology and its underlying AI changing our world? From mainstream platforms like Amazon Alexa, Google Assistant, and Samsung Bixby, to an explosion of new entrants from numerous voice and AI companies you’ve never heard of, voice has emerged as a valuable new way to interact with technology, causing evolution in every industry in existence to accelerate.

Bradley Metrock, CEO of Nashville-based Score Publishing, executive producer of Project Voice (the #1 event in the voice/ AI space) and host of popular podcast This Week In Voice, joins us to speak about how voice tech has been a boon for accessibility, not just in healthcare where there have been shocking developments, but in other sectors such as automotive, banking, publishing, hospitality, and more.
UNIVERSAL DESIGN ROUNDTABLE

How can we make sure that the types of media we design are universally accessible by all, regardless of ability? Our panelists will discuss what universal design looks like in a modern landscape, the benefit of designing with users of all abilities in mind, and finally, how to begin designing universally.

Daniel Ryan is Head of Technology at Ragtag, a company that organizes tech volunteers for civic engagement. Previously Daniel was the Director of Front-end Development for President Obama’s 2012 election campaign. Under Daniel’s leadership the campaign employed a multi-screen strategy producing the first responsive website in US presidential campaign history.

Dr. Leslie Jensen-Inman is a Co-CEO of Center Centre/UIE. In 2016, with Jared Spool, she opened Center Centre, a new design school in Chattanooga, TN to develop the next generation of industry-ready User Experience (UX) designers. Leslie speaks internationally and writes on topics such as women in design and technology, accessibility and inclusion in design and technology, and transformative and project-based learning.
ACCESSIBILITY TRENDS

The presenters will discuss the trends and challenges of staying connected in the workplace, in education, and in other environments during the COVID-19 crisis. This session will also take a look at the general trends in assistive technology in 2020.

Stacie is an attorney with Miller & Martin Law Firm and she advises employers of all sizes on how to comply with applicable state and federal laws concerning employee leave and pregnancy, disability and religious accommodation as well as anti-discrimination, harassment and retaliation laws while still effectively running their businesses.

Stacie Caraway

Stacie Price is the Access Attorney at Disability Rights Tennessee (DRT). She has worked extensively in advocating for and enforcing the rights of individuals to be free from discrimination based on disability, and for individuals with disabilities to have equal access to goods and services in the community. Stacie has worked on behalf of clients with disabilities at DRT since 2012 and is the recipient of DRT’s Freedom Award in 2014.

Stacie Price