What do students with disabilities, web accessibility, captioning, and internships have in common?

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“The Alliance for Students with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)”, funded by NSF

Goal: To increase the participation of students with disabilities in academic programs and careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

http://uw.edu/doit/stem
“The Alliance for Access to Computing Careers”, funded by NSF

Partnership between DO-IT, the UW Dept of Computer Science & Engineering, plus various institutions and alliances

Goal: To increase the participation of students with disabilities in computing careers

http://uw.edu/accesscomputing
Web Accessibility Trainings (WAT)

• 3-5 day workshops for high school or college students with disabilities

• Students learn accessible web design
  – Basics of HTML, CSS, and Javascript
  – Common accessibility problems and solutions
  – How to evaluate web pages for accessibility and report findings
  – How to caption video

• Work-based learning: Students learn job skills: application to work experience
Our WATs

• Summer 2009 – 10 college students @ UW
• Summer 2010 – 2 high school students @ UW
• Late Summer 2010 – 30 college students @ Bellevue College
• Next week – 16 college students @ UW plus two UW faculty members & one industry representative
Working Together: It’s Adaptable!

- Process: Application, Paperwork, Timecard
- Work Experience: none to career professionals
- HTML Experience: basic to proficient
- Ages: 16-60
- Environment: Conference Room, Classroom, Computer Lab
- Classroom Support: Instructor, Guest Lecturers, Work-Based Learning Lead, Intern
Post-WAT Opportunities for Learning

• Final project for bonus pay
  a) Conduct three web accessibility evaluations and write reports of findings and recommendations
  b) Caption three STEM-related YouTube videos
  c) Three activities combining a) and b)
• On-line community including students, mentors, and staff
• Internships
Post-WAT Student Experiences

• Even students with good HTML background fine-tuned good HTML habits
• Created intern team reviewed websites
• One intern is in the process of being hired by an organization where he reviewed their website
• Jeremy
• Anna
WAT Class Resources

• The Curriculum:  
  http://depts.washington.edu/doitsum/wat

• Accessible University Mock Site:  
  http://uw.edu/accesscomputing/AU
WAT Can You Do?

- Knowledge Base
- Publications and Videos
- Communities of Practice
- Mini-grants
- AccessComputing Team

http://uw.edu/accesscomputing