

# Campus Accessibility Working Group

## 2020-2021 Annual Report

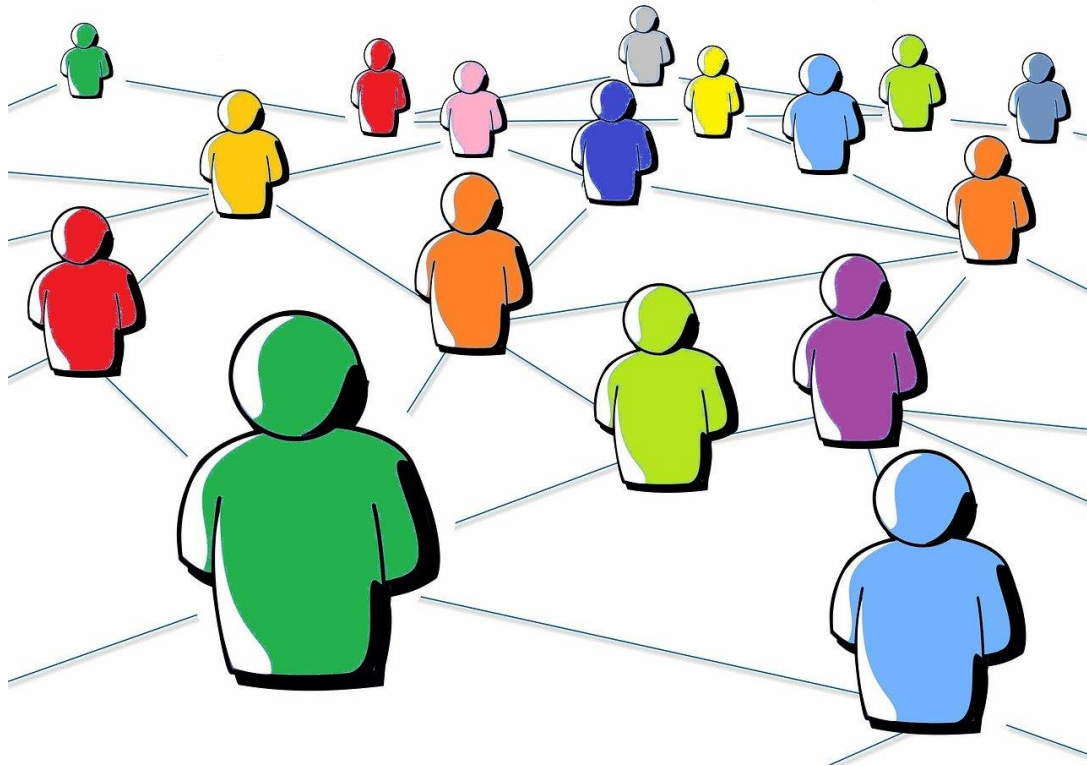


# VISION

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We believe that everyone should be able to learn, innovate and serve, and we commit to proactively creating inclusive and accessible environments.





# PURPOSE

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Through a **community of accessibility practice leaders**, identify opportunities and solutions that **advance university accessibility** in a **collaborative and coordinated manner** across multiple divisions and work streams.

# PRINCIPLES

- All areas who have accessibility responsibility should be working towards the same vision.
- While compliance is a requirement, we should seek to proactively provide a campus that is free of barriers.
- Our resource allocations should be coordinated and decisions around those should align with our vision.
- Our vision should align with our strategic plan and university core values.

# ROLES

- Identify university level accessibility initiatives and advance project plan and funding requests in a consolidated manner.
- Share best practices across operating units.
- Collaborate on programs that cross departmental units.
- Advocate for accessibility programs and services that take the university beyond compliance.
- Serve as point of contact for Disability Alliance and Caucus to share concerns, suggestions, and innovative programs.
- Assess and monitor progress towards advancing university accessibility in all campus locations.

# COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE MODEL

BRINGING TOGETHER EXISTING EXPERTISE, PROGRAMS, & SUPPORT SERVICES

- ❖ Student Affairs
- ❖ Equity & Accessibility
- ❖ Information Technology
- ❖ Inclusion & Diversity
- ❖ General Campus Support Services \*
- ❖ Representatives from Staff and Faculty Senate, Student Government Association, Graduate Student Assembly.

\*Includes representatives from: Advancement – University Relations, Business Affairs – Transportation & Parking, GIS & Data; Facilities – University Planning, Renovations, Operations; Finance – Capital Assets & Financial Management, Budget & Financial Planning; Information Technology – IT Procurement & Licensing Solutions

# FY20-21

## Key Accomplishments



# Established 508 Compliance and Digital Accessibility Officer

Created this key position to lead a coordinated focus on efforts to ensure equal access to all web-based, digital, and electronic communications.





# Continued Coordinated Budget Process



Subcommittees identified critical needs to improve the university's capacity to address important accessibility issues.

# Established Central Accessibility Support Org & Fund Structure

Created a central accessibility support org to house the accessibility projects fund, ADA projects fund, direct accommodations fund and the live captioning fund. This structure reinforces institutional level support for accessibility and allows better tracking of accessibility projects and expenditures.

# Planning, Capital Projects & Renovations

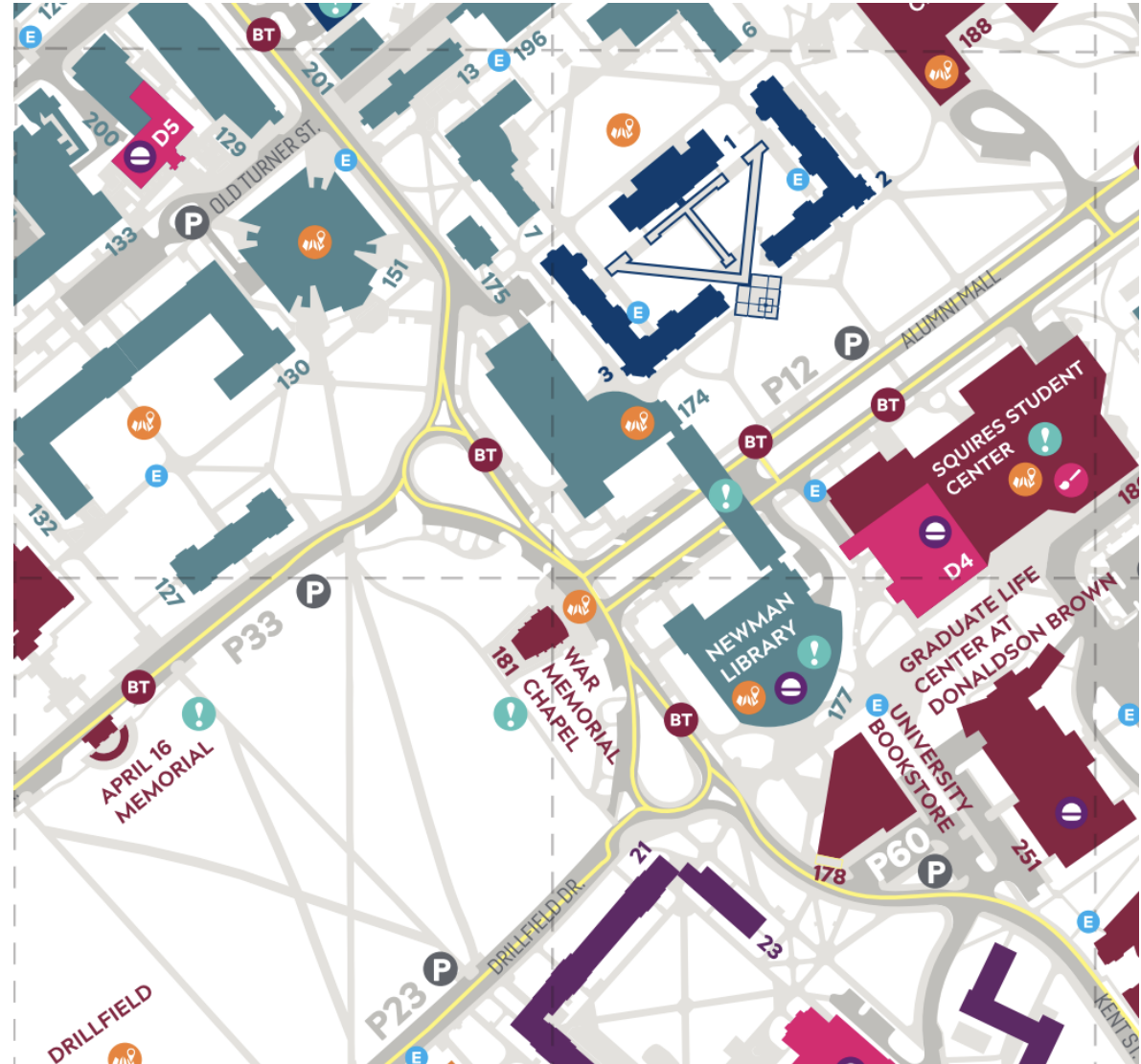
- Created an Accessibility Pathway Crew, an in-house crew to manage ADA projects on campus to include ramps, curb cuts, maintaining sidewalks, and addressing physical barriers.
- Launched and made significant progress on 6 major projects (see Appendix A for details)
- Utilized the ADA Projects Fund to complete projects to improve ramps, power doors, and strike plates in Newman Library.

# Planning, Capital Projects & Renovations (Cont'd)

- In collaboration with the All-Gender Restroom Special Taskforce and the LGBTQ+ working group created All-Gender restrooms in 4 buildings on campus (see Appendix B for details) and completed a project to prioritize additional buildings to review for restroom creation
- Engaged Accessibility Consultants, Inc. a nationally recognized accessibility consultant to review accessible pathways, routing, and signage with the goal of improving wayfinding on campus.

# Campus Map

Launched the new campus map and continue to improve accessibility features.



# Digital Accessibility

- Implemented post-production and live captioning service models across the university.
- Ensured access to Ally for Canvas which provides faculty feedback for improving course accessibility and students with immediate access to accessible educational materials.
- Implemented PDF remediation software pilot to ensure PDFs are accessible.
- Provided web accessibility training and support that align to WCAG 2.0 A/AA standards and enhance accessibility for those who visit VT's website.

# Themes from FY21-22 Budget Proposals



# Enhance & Improve Digital Accessibility



Improve digital accessibility to include captioning support, expanding access to PDF accessibility software and accessibility checkers, and tools to support accessible web design.



# Improve Pathways and Wayfinding

Provide funds to design key sections of the Green Links and Infinite Loop projects to improve physical accessibility and provide a framework for addressing topographical challenges identified in the 2018 Blacksburg Campus Master Plan.



# Continue Support for Physical Campus Improvements

Implement a variety of renovation and long- range physical planning projects that respond to needs identified by the campus community with a focus on the President's Quad.

# FY2021-22 Proposed Areas of Focus for Working Group

# Best Practices

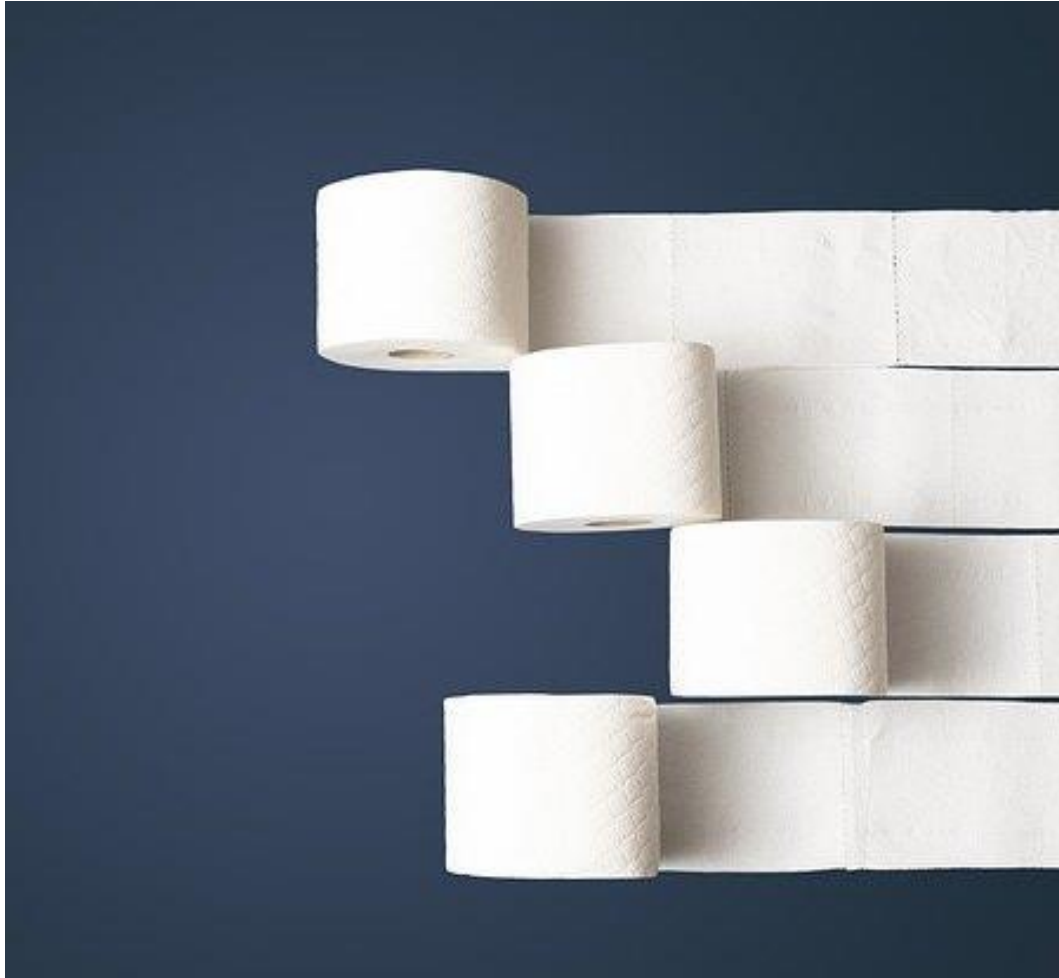
Harness collective expertise of membership to share, compile, disseminate, and implement best practices for accessibility and universal design across learning, innovation, and service activities. Continue to identify strategies to seek community input. Explore and continually evaluate CAWG vision, purpose and membership.

# Digital Accessibility Best Practices

Utilize G3ict's Digital Inclusion Maturity Model and Inclusive Smart University Assessment to help Virginia Tech assess and benchmark how our digital deployments and digital transformation promote and support information and communication technology accessibility.



# Long Range Planning



Issue RFP for a consultant to develop strategic plan to increase all gender restrooms on campus.

# Capital Projects, Renovations & Planning

- Complete funded accessibility projects identified in the Accessibility Report that are part of the Master Plan.
- Work with the All-Gender Restroom Special Taskforce and the LGBTQ+ Working Group to identify opportunities to create new single-stall, all gender restrooms on campus.
- Design Green Links sections connecting the Campbell West Trailhead from the Drillfield to the Slusher and Campbell Hall Quad and Pamplin/Robeson/Derring Quad to adjacent existing pathways west of Burruss Hall.
- Design Infinite Loop sections including the intersection of Perry and Stanger Street and along the length of Stanger Street.

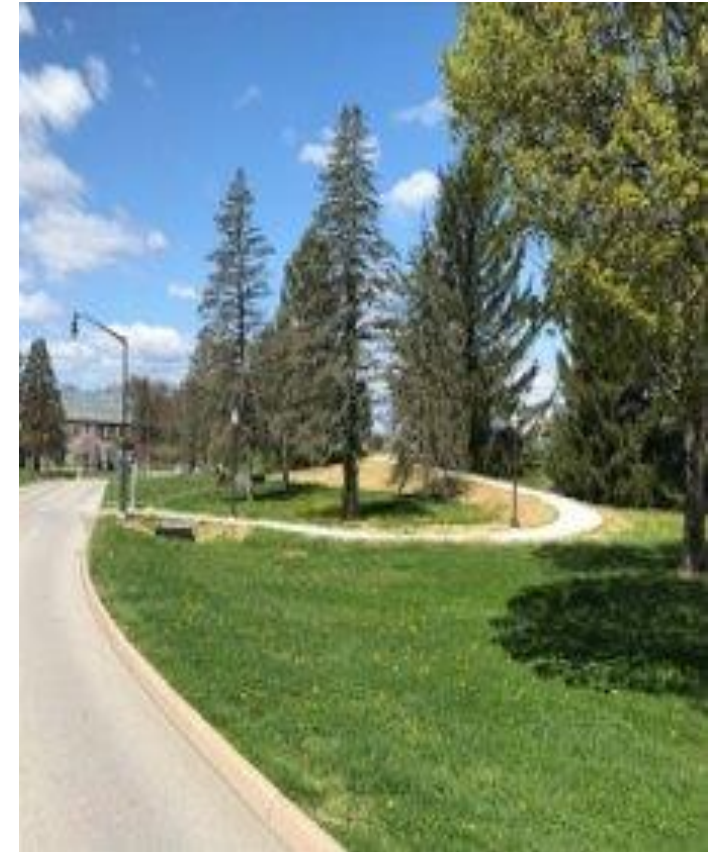
# Appendix A: Renovation Project Updates





# FY19 - Vet Med "I" Lot Pathway Improvement

- Demo the existing noncompliant walkway and install a new ADA compliant pathway from the Vet Med "I" lot to the Vet Med entrance.
- The work on the pathway has been completed, a final inspection has passed, and the pathway is open for use. The contractor is working to complete final grading and seeding when the weather is appropriate, as well as installing roadway crosswalk.

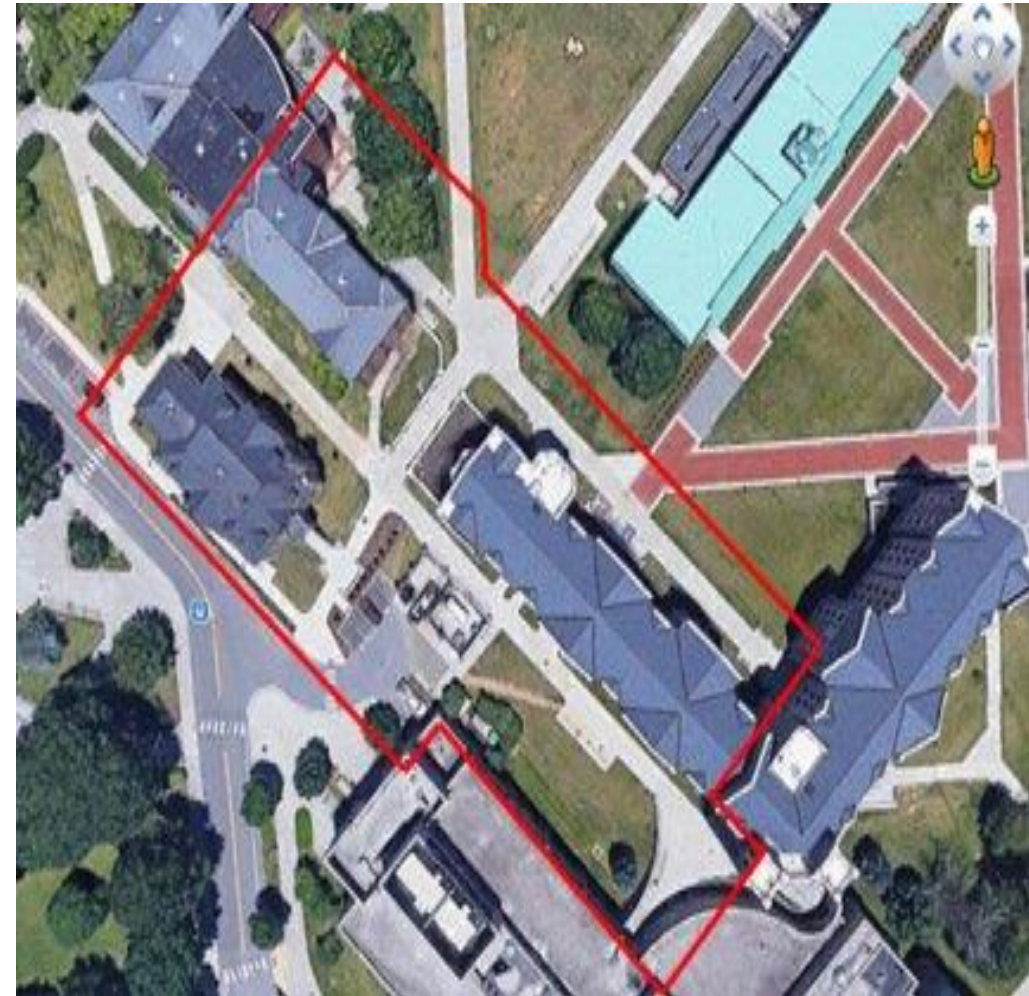


# FY20- Presidents Quad Picnic area and Pathway Improvements

- Provide schematic designs for the Presidents Quad area and construction documents for the picnic and pathway. Remaining fund will bring some of the picnic and pathway improvements.
- The design is being managed by OUP through Internal Renovations. The construction work will be managed by Internal Renovations.
- The concept/schematic design work is complete. The AE is approx. 50-60% into design of the construction documents for phase I constructions. We anticipate receiving final design late April/early May. The document will also include a conceptual cost.

# FY20 - Upper Quad Pathway Improvements

- Feasibility study to provide an ADA compliant route from Stanger Street to the Upper Quad. The design/study is being managed by OUP through Internal Renovations.
- The AE has provided several options for Campus Planning Infrastructure and Facilities.
- Design and VT team met on 4/9 to review the options to discuss internally. The A/E is working to make a few corrections and submit all options to the VT team to review and meet internally to narrow down the options to 3-4. Once these options are narrowed down the A/E will provide conceptual pricing for the options and prepare the final study presentation.



# FY20 - Whittemore Hall ADA Entrance Ramp

- Provided a new ADA entrance ramp on SW side of Whittemore Hall.
- The Design is completed and being submitted for permit review. Pricing is in the process of being finalized. The work is being managed by Internal Renovations.
- Construction start date is TBD – Final pricing is under review. The start of construction will be coordinated around the demolition of the pedestrian bridge.



# FY21 - Squires/Newman Library Walking Pathway

- Provide a new ADA pathway between Newman Library & Squires Student Center. The Design and Construction will be managed through Internal Renovations.
- The design has been completed and the drawings have been submitted for permit review and pricing. We anticipate that construction will begin late April/early May.



# FY21 - ADA Improvement Requests

Provide an ADA entrance improvements into Squires Student Center. The Design and Construction will be managed through Internal Renovations.



Appendix B:  
All Gender Restroom Project  
Updates

# Burruss Hall

- Modify the existing men's restroom A14 (outside the DSA office) to a single user ADA compliant All Gender Restroom.
- Project is completed and restroom is open for use.





# Goodwin Hall

- Modify the existing housekeeping closet to a single user ADA compliant All Gender Restroom. In addition, we will be providing a new dry storage housekeeping closet.
- Project is completed and restroom is open for use.



# Litton Reaves

- Modify the existing housekeeping closet to a single user ADA compliant All Gender Restroom. Relocation of the restroom entry , new floor finishes, and a sink relocation will be required.
- Project is completed and restroom is open for use.



# McBryde Hall

- Modify the existing housekeeping office/storage closet to a single user ADA compliant All Gender Restroom. Relocation of the restroom entry , new floor finishes, and new plumbing fixtures are required.
- Project is completed and restroom is open for use.

