MediaRoom

Blackboard Ally Helps Make Course Content More Accessible for Students

Company's accessibility solution now available to assist instructors and institutions in increasing the accessibility of online course content

WASHINGTON, May 18, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Blackboard Inc., a leading education technology company for teaching, learning and student engagement, today announced general availability of Blackboard Ally, its accessibility solution that helps make course content more accessible for all learners. The company is proud to make the announcement on Global Accessibility Awareness Day.

Blackboard Ally integrates with an institution's existing learning management system (LMS) and automatically runs course materials through an accessibility checklist that looks for common accessibility issues. The solution generates a range of more accessible alternatives for the instructor's original content including Semantic HTML, audio, ePub, and electronic Braille. It provides educators with guidance for improving accessibility of their course materials, while also supplying reporting on the current state of content accessibility at both the course and institutional level. Over 30 institutions are already using the solution to help make content more accessible for their students.

"We recognize that providing access to accessible content can be a significant challenge for both instructors and institutions," said Nicolaas Matthijs, Product Manager of Blackboard Ally. "The goal with Blackboard Ally is to increase awareness of course content accessibility and provide support for teaching students of all learning styles and abilities."

As a part of Blackboard's commitment to accessibility, it will make Blackboard Ally available in all major LMS platforms. The solution is currently available in the latest release of Blackboard Learn with the Original experience, as well as Canvas. It will also be available in the MoodleRooms 3.2 release later this year, as well as additional platforms in the future.

In addition, to mark the sixth Global Accessibility Awareness Day, Blackboard is hosting a series of free global webinars covering trending topics on digital access in education presented by its accessibility experts and leading academics. For a complete list of presenters and to register, please visit the webinar homepage at: http://webinars.blackboard.com/Global-Accessibility-Awareness-Day.

About Blackboard Inc.

Our mission is to partner with the global education community to enable learner and institutional success, leveraging innovative technologies and services. With an unmatched understanding of the world of the learner, the most comprehensive student-success solutions, and the greatest capacity for innovation, Blackboard is education's partner in change.

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