



Educational Assistance Center

January 2026

Edition #10

THE ADVOCATE: A Newsletter Devoted to Disability Equity

Dear Faculty, Professional Staff, and Administrators,

We hope you enjoyed a restful and joyful holiday season and had time to relax and reconnect with family and friends during the break. As we begin the new year, the EAC department is excited to welcome you back and is sincerely grateful for the dedication, compassion, and expertise you bring to serving and teaching our OC students. Your continued commitment plays a vital role in supporting student success and fostering an inclusive, engaging learning environment.

As we embark on a new semester, we look forward to collaborating with you on building on our shared goals and continuing the important work of student advocacy and academic excellence. We wish you a smooth, successful, and fulfilling start to the semester and thank you for all that you do.

Thank you,
Leo Orange



UNIVERSAL DESIGN IS A UNIVERSAL PRIORITY

If you've noticed an accelerated push toward digital accessibility over the past year, you are not imagining things. To comply with updated Title II ADA regulations that go into effect on April 24, our District has prioritized digital accessibility awareness and remediation on all fronts. But this isn't just about compliance. Giving priority to accessibility is simply the right thing to do.

When we ensure our websites, documents, online courses, course materials, and videos are accessible to people with disabilities, we strengthen and diversify our community. Digital accessibility provides an opportunity for anyone seeking an education to participate. And providing opportunities is what community college is all about!

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR SUGGESTION FOR NEXT MONTH'S CONTENT?

Contact Leo Orange at lorange@vcccd.edu

JAMWORKS: A CERTIFIED HIT



2

EAC's Alternate Media Specialist is tasked with incorporating the latest technology into our host of services in an effort to help students with disabilities learn their course material. One such tool is Jamworks, a transcription app that also summarizes and organizes key points of a lecture. Jamworks not only serves as an alternative for students

with the traditional peer notetaker accommodation (we can't always find fellow classmates to volunteer for their notes), but it is also accommodating in its own right by helping them learn in new ways. We recently reached out to our Jamworks users for feedback, and their replies were overwhelmingly positive. Here are a handful of their comments:

- "I was diagnosed with ADHD so my comprehension level is not to par but with Jamworks I can comprehend much better when summarized or key points that I use on my assignments."
- "What Jamworks has done is help me dearly in comprehending lectures or homework assignments due to my ADHD Jamworks is a blessing along with EAC and all its staff!"
- "I use Jamworks a lot! And I absolutely love it. when I write my notes I use the note taking and it has make my life so easy. Before I spend hours hand writing and then have to highlight my own notes. Now with this tool I don't have to spend the hours hand writing and I can use the time reviewing and getting ready for my quizzes and test. Thank you."
- "I am very grateful to have this tool it's made a huge difference in my comprehension and I can see a huge difference in my grades I use to struggle so hard and it has given me the opportunity to succeed!!"
- "Jamworks saved me in understanding and curating notes for my class where the teacher uses a teacher style I'm not compatible with. My learning style is more fact based whereas the teacher was educating us on research skills and lectures with a lot of stories and narrative style conversation. Jamworks saves me by pulling the key points from it and subsequent notes such that I actually have study-able notes that have clear and concise facts from the lecture."
- "Jamworks is the best, it's my first year using this software and I am thankful I have this tool to use and assist with my recording."

WE LOVE OUR STATS

Here's how the numbers stack up among our respondents:

How useful do you find Jamworks' Key Points feature?

- Extremely useful = 16
- Somewhat useful = 6
- Not useful = 0

Do you believe Jamworks is helping you learn your course material?

- Yes = 22
- No = 0

Do you believe your grades are improving thanks to Jamworks?

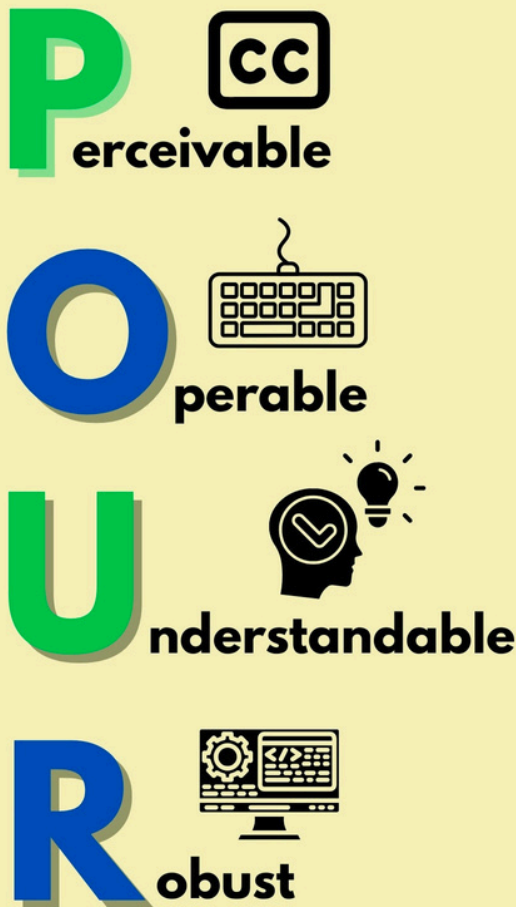
- Yes = 20
- No = 1

How useful do you find Jamworks' overall?

- Extremely useful = 20
- Somewhat useful = 2
- Not useful = 0

THE FUTURE IS ACCESSIBLE

3



Making digital content accessible means it is perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust (POUR), even for those who may have disabilities. Here are some specific examples of how to apply these concepts:

- **Heading Levels** - Whether you are creating a website, writing an email, or composing a document, adding heading levels makes navigation possible.
- **Alternate Text** - Any image that provides relevant content needs to have alt text to ensure comprehensive comprehension of the material.
- **Closed Captions** - Any videos involving speech or sound must offer captions for those who can not hear.
- **Descriptive Hyperlinks** - Links should say what they link to rather than remaining unwieldy URLs or saying something like "click here".
- **Color Contrast** - Fonts need to be easily readable. The smaller the font, the higher the contrast must be.

If you follow these basic principles, you're well on your way to making your content more accessible for nearly everyone.

EAC STAFF SPOTLIGHT: PATRICIA COWAN



Patricia has been a Professor at Oxnard College for fifteen years. She takes joy in teaching, and it shows. She has an effective manner of interacting with students and meeting them where they are to help them experience academic success and achieve their academic goals.

Before Oxnard College, Patricia worked as a school administrator for an alternative high school and taught elementary school for twelve years. She has a Bachelor's Degree from Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where she studied Communications, and a Master's Degree in Education from Claremont Graduate School. She enjoys time with family and friends. She and her husband have a 19-year-old daughter who is currently in college.

**CONNECT
WITH US**

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