

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] STEM ACCESS CoP - The STEM ACCESS Exchange Vol. 1  
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## The STEM Access Exchange

*Issue 1 | June 1, 2026 | A Newsletter from the STEM Access Community of Practice*

### Welcome to our first issue

Welcome to the first STEM Access newsletter. Thank you again for being part of this emerging professional learning community focused on complex STEM content and accessibility. We are encouraged by the interest already shown and excited to continue building a practical, supportive space for conversation, collaboration, and shared problem-solving.

STEM accessibility can be complex, especially when the work involves equations, notation, data visualizations, lab materials, simulations, multimedia, documents, and instructional workflows. This newsletter will help us stay connected as we exchange questions, examples, tools, strategies, and lessons learned from the field.

### Help shape future issues

We invite you to participate by sharing ideas, questions, resources, examples, or short contributions for future newsletters. You do not need to submit a polished article. A practical question, a tool that helped, a workflow that worked, or a challenge you are still trying to solve can help the community learn together.

[Submit an idea or contribution](#)

### Invite a colleague

Please feel free to share the STEM Access Interest Form with colleagues who may be interested in joining the community.

[STEM Access Interest Form](#)

### This issue's conversation starters

To begin the conversation, we invite you to reflect on one or more of the questions below. You

are welcome to reply directly by email or use the contribution form once it is available.

- What is one complex STEM accessibility challenge you are working through right now that would benefit from shared problem-solving?
- What tool, workflow, teaching practice, or resource has helped you make complex STEM content more accessible for students?
- What topic should STEM Access explore first as a community: equations and math notation, PDFs, data visualizations, lab activities, simulations, multimedia, or something else?

## Upcoming events

- **1:00 PM EST, June 5:** [USDLA Webinar - Mission Accessible: Building an Accessibility Toolkit.](#) Cost: Free
- **9AM - 4PM, June 12:** [Accessibility Summer Camp](#) All day virtual conference. Cost: \$25edued



## Math & Chemistry Accessibility News

Sara Shunkwiler (JHU Engineering) and Peter Wu (Microsoft) presented with the Daisy Consortium's Richard Orme and George Kerscher live at the Microsoft Ability Summit May 19. The recording and additional resources are available at [Daisy Consortium - Accessible Math Unlocks STEM Education and Careers](#).

Sara Kobilka of Water Whys at University of Arizona also hosted Sara, Peter, and Ailee Dixon for the Visual Science Communication Seminar Series this spring. The recording is available on YouTube and covers some of the same math updates with input from Ailee Dixon on visual accessibility.

[InSightFull: The Ripple Effect of Math Accessibility Updates in Microsoft 365](#)

Thanks to Steve Noble for sharing the [W3C Chemistry for the Web and Publishing Community Group](#). Accessible chemistry is on our list to tackle!

## How to participate

There are two ways to connect with the STEM Access community. You can add a new conversation in our [Google Group, STEM Access Community of Practice](#). Adding a conversation will send an email to all members with your post. Alternatively, you can send an email to [STEMaccessCoP@uah.edu](mailto:STEMaccessCoP@uah.edu). This will also send an email to all members and place a post in the Google Group.

We hope you will use this forum to pose questions, share successes, exchange ideas, and

connect with others who are working to make STEM learning more accessible. Alternatively, you can email [STEMaccess@uah.edu](mailto:STEMaccess@uah.edu) to reach the STEM Access leadership team for more private connections.

As the community grows, we plan to add additional ways to collaborate, and share resources. Future newsletters may include member questions, featured workflows, resource highlights, upcoming opportunities, webinar suggestions, and short examples from colleagues across STEM and accessibility roles.


[Submit an idea or contribution](#)

## Thank you for building this community with us

Thank you for helping us build STEM Access from the beginning. We look forward to learning with you, hearing what you are working on, and growing this community around practical support for accessible STEM learning.

With appreciation,

### The STEM Access Co-Founders

- **Sara Shunkwiler**, Instructional Designer, Johns Hopkins University | [Sara's LinkedIn Profile](#)
  - **Dawn Dunaway**, Accessibility Specialist/Instructional Designer, The University of Alabama in Huntsville | [Dawn's LinkedIn Profile](#)
  - **Lisette Torres-Gerald**, Senior Researcher, TERC, Sines of Disability | [Lisette's LinkedIn Profile](#)
  - **Daniel Reinholz**, Professor, San Diego State University, Sines of Disability | [www.danielreinholz.com](http://www.danielreinholz.com)
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### STEM Access Community

Professionals Dedicated to STEM Accessibility

Invite others to join STEM Access - [STEM Access Interest Form](#)

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to [stemaccesscop+unsubscribe@uah.edu](mailto:stemaccesscop+unsubscribe@uah.edu).

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