While You Get Comfortable...

NOW PLAYING

Happy almost-Halloween! I like to pair each session with a song connected to the day's content, so this week it's two spooky classics that, naturally, have nothing to do with the focus of the session.

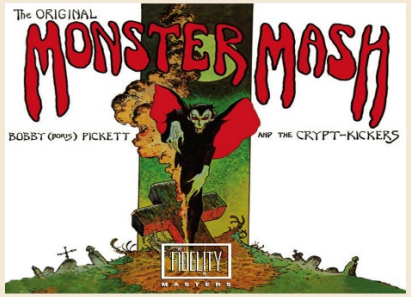




WARREN ZEVON · 1978

"Werewolves of London"

Released on *Excitable Boy*, it became Zevon's best-known hit.



BOBBY "BORIS" PICKETT · 1962

"Monster Mash"

It hit No. 1 just before Halloween and has been a seasonal favorite ever since.

Blackboard

Ally in Practice: An Administrator's Guide to Institutional Reporting and Remediation Prioritization



October 20th, 2026

Dr. Katie Grennell
Product Engagement Manager, Ally

Accessibility Support for Today's Webinar

Turning on Closed Captions (CC)

More (...) → Language and speech → Turn on live captions

Captions then appear at the bottom of the screen for the rest of the session.

Sign Language Mode

More actions → Settings → Accessibility → toggle on Sign language mode

Then select Signer or Interpreter role.

Full instructions:

support.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/teams/use-sign-language-mode-in-microsoft-teams-meetings

If you are here as an interpreter, please let us know in chat.

WHAT'S NEXT

In the next couple of days, we'll share more with you

Session recording

The full webinar, ready to watch or share with your team

Blog recap

A written summary with every link from the presentation in one place

Blackboard



Thank You, Ally Community

Your interest and engagement in accessibility make a real difference for instructors and students!

Thank you for:

Championing accessibility

Supporting your instructors

Putting students first

Learning and sharing with us

Agenda

01 Welcome & Session Goals

02 The Institutional Report at a Glance

03 Four Data Points That Drive Your Strategy

04 Building a Focused, Sustainable Strategy

05 Support, Resources & Q&A

Setting the stage

Building on Session 1

Ally in Practice series

Session 1 looked at prioritization from the instructor's side. Today we zoom out to the institution's view.

Your report, put to work

Institutional Report

Turn the data you already have into a few focused goals you can act on this term.

Perfect timing: Fix Your Content Day, November 10

Leave today with goals you can put in motion right away.

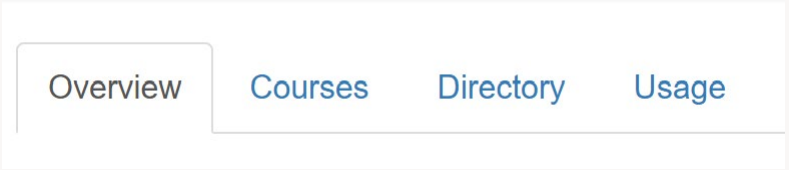
Session goals

By the end of today, you'll be able to:

1	**Find quick wins**	Use your report to spot data points you can act on now: severe issues, PDF quick fixes, AI Alt Text and instructor fixes
2	**Set focused goals**	Turn those data points into two or three realistic goals, backed by strategies and resources
3	**Keep it going**	Track progress every term, celebrate wins and adjust

The Institutional Report at a Glance

Navigating the Institutional Report



Overview tab

- Overall accessibility score and trend over time
- Separate scores for files and for WYSIWYG content
- Total courses and content items
- Accessibility issues identified, by severity & frequency

Courses tab

- All courses in selected term, AY, or month
- Enrolled students, # of content items, and accessibility score per course
- Sort to find high-impact courses that need support
- Export the course list as a CSV

Directory tab

- Reports organized by your institution's hierarchy
- Appears only if your institution has configured a hierarchy

Usage tab

- # of alternative formats downloaded and a breakdown by type
- # of instructor fixes
- Download a CSV of usage by date range, including each panel opened, format downloaded, and issue fixed

Configuring Ally Features

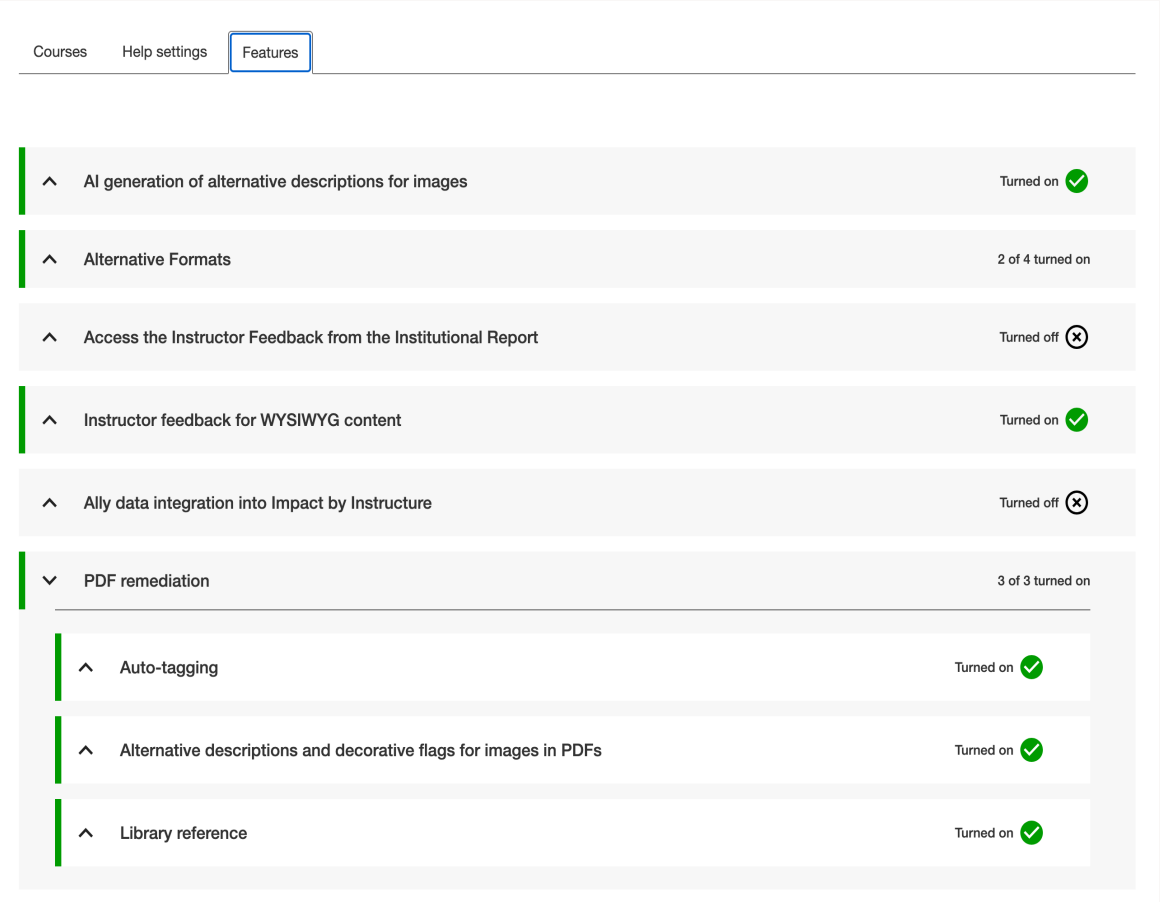
Where to find it

- Go to Ally Configuration and select Features
- Select a feature, then choose to turn off or turn on

Features to check

- AI Generation of Alternative Descriptions (AI Alt Text Assistant)
- Instructor feedback for WYSIWYG content
- Access the Instructor Feedback from Institutional Report
- Immersive Reader, Translated version and BeeLine Reader formats
- PDF Quick Fixes
- Refreshed configurations tool options: features tab is now grouped by feature type, so settings are easier to find

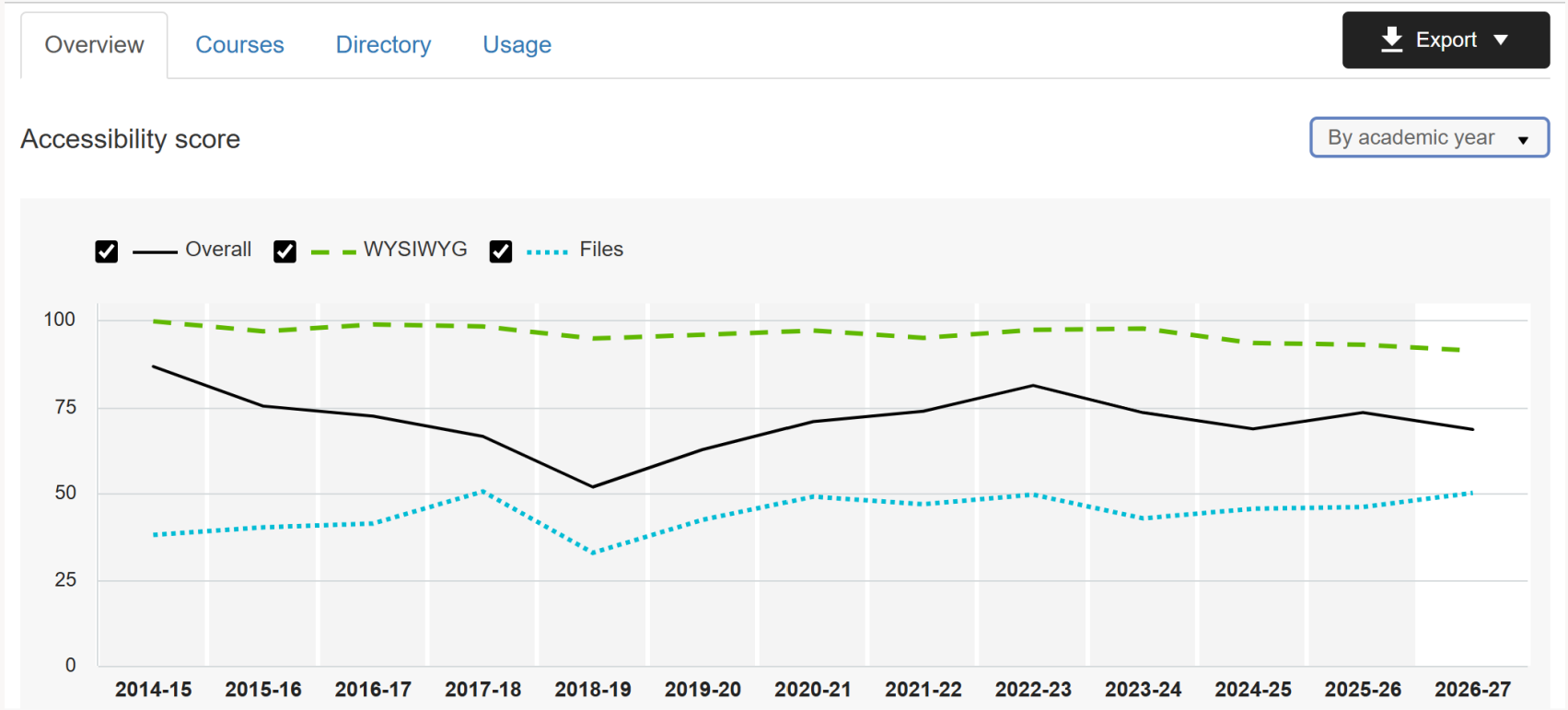
Instructions: Customize Ally feature flags



Four Data Points That Drive Your Plan

Scores and Trends: Your Baseline

- Overall score = combined accessibility score that is a weighted average of files and WYSIWYG score., so focus on direction rather than a single number.
- Your current score is a starting point, not a final grade. Use it as the baseline for your goals
- Share the trend with stakeholders to show progress and build support for your goals.



The score is one piece of the picture

The overall score

Overview tab

Shows the big picture and how it changes over time. Use it to set a baseline and share progress with stakeholders.

The rest of the report

Overview and Usage tabs

Shows what to fix, where to start and whether instructors are engaging. That’s where the four data points come in.

Progress over perfection

Celebrate every win, big or small. A fixed file, a well-attended workshop or a one-point gain all move your institution forward.

Four data points, four questions

01 Severe issues

Location in IR:
Overview tab

Which severe issues affect the most content?

02 PDF quick fixes

Location in IR:
Overview tab

Which PDF issues can Ally's PDF quick fixes address?

03 AI Alt Text

Location in IR:
Overview tab

Which images missing alt text can the AI Alt Text Assistant help fix quickly?

04 Instructor fixes

Location in IR:
Usage tab

Is the remediation work happening?

Institutional Report Demonstration

Goals and strategies for Data Point #1: Most Severe Issues

Example goal	Strategies
Reduce scanned PDFs by 25% by the end of Spring 2027	• Promote OCR quick fix in instructor outreach • Offer 1:1 PDF Workshops • Created targeted trainings • Embed PDF quick fix info into existing materials and trainings
OCR 200 scanned PDFs by the end of Fall 2026	• Export course list to find courses w/ greatest # of scanned PDFs and reach out to them- provide targeted resources in outreach and offer for additional support. • Use FYCD on November 10 to get a big share done • Celebrate when you reach 100 and share the win

Resources we provide

PDF Remediation Options
Ally Support Article

Scanned PDFs
Ally Support Article

Microlearning Video Series
Ally for Instructors video series

Generating Buy-In
Communication & Adoption Toolkit

Ally Administrator Adoption Strategy Guide
Communication & Adoption Toolkit

Goals and strategies for Data Point #2: PDF quick fixes

Example goal	Strategies
Auto-tag 25% of untagged PDFs in high-enrollment courses by the end of Spring 2027	• Turn on Auto-tagging in Ally Configuration, since it's off by default • Show instructors how to review and approve tags before applying them • Run a hands-on PDF station at Fix Your Content Day • Track untagged PDFs in the issues list each month
Add a title and language to every PDF in all gen ed courses by the end of Fall 2026	• Start with gen ed courses that reach the most students • Demonstrate the title and language quick fixes • Celebrate when each course is done

Resources we provide

PDF Remediation Options
Ally Support Article

Key Facts about Auto-Tagging
Ally Support Article

Set the Correct Document Language
Ally Support Article

Customize Ally Feature Flags
Ally Support Article

Microlearning Video Series
Ally for Instructors video series

Messaging Templates for Instructors
Communication & Adoption Toolkit

Data point #3: Images AI Alt Text can fix

What to look for in the report

- Images missing a description: standalone images
- HTML content contains images without a description: images in WYSIWYG content
- The document contains images without a description**:** images inside PDFs (new in October)

TIP FOR INSTRUCTOR OUTREACH

Point instructors to these three issues

Each one can be fixed with the AI Alt Text Assistant. Instructors get a suggested description to start from, then review and approve it before it’s applied.

Goals and strategies for Data Point #3: Images the AI Alt Text Assistant can help

Example goal	Strategies
Cut images missing a description by 50% by the end of Spring 2027	• Highlight new option for images in PDFs • Show instructors how to review and edit each suggestion, so they stay in control • Track missing descriptions in the issues list each month • Created targeted trainings and offer 1:1 consultations • Embed AI Alt Text Assistant info into existing materials and trainings
Add descriptions to 200 images by the end of Fall 2026	• Demo the assistant live at FYCD on November 10th! • Share a short how-to with ready-made messaging • Celebrate early adopters and share their examples

Resources we provide

AI Alt Text Assistant
Ally Support Article

Add Image Descriptions
Ally Support Article

Customize Ally Feature Flags
Ally Support Article

Microlearning Video Series
Ally for Instructors video series

Messaging Templates for Instructors
Communication & Adoption Toolkit

Goals and strategies for Data Point #4

Example goal	Strategies
Increase instructor fixes by 30% in the 2026–27 academic year	• Time instructor outreach for the start of term and before midterms, when fixes tend to slow • Share quick fix how-tos in existing newsletters, trainings, meetings • Recognize departments and instructors making progress • Offer additional trainings or 1:1 sessions with instructors
Reach 50 instructor fixes during Fix Your Content Day on November 10	• Invite instructors ahead of time with ready-made messaging • Offer drop-in support so instructors can fix content with help on hand • Share the final count and celebrate the win

Resources we provide

Improve Content Accessibility
Support article for instructors

Instructor FAQs for Ally
Support article for instructors

Microlearning Video Series
Ally for Instructors video series

Messaging Templates for Instructors
Communication & Adoption Toolkit

Community Stories and Case Studies
Communication & Adoption Toolkit

Ally In Practice Session 1 recap blog
Ally in Practice, Session 1

Ally in Practice Session 1 recording
Ally in Practice, Session 1

FYCD 2026 registration
Tuesday, November 10

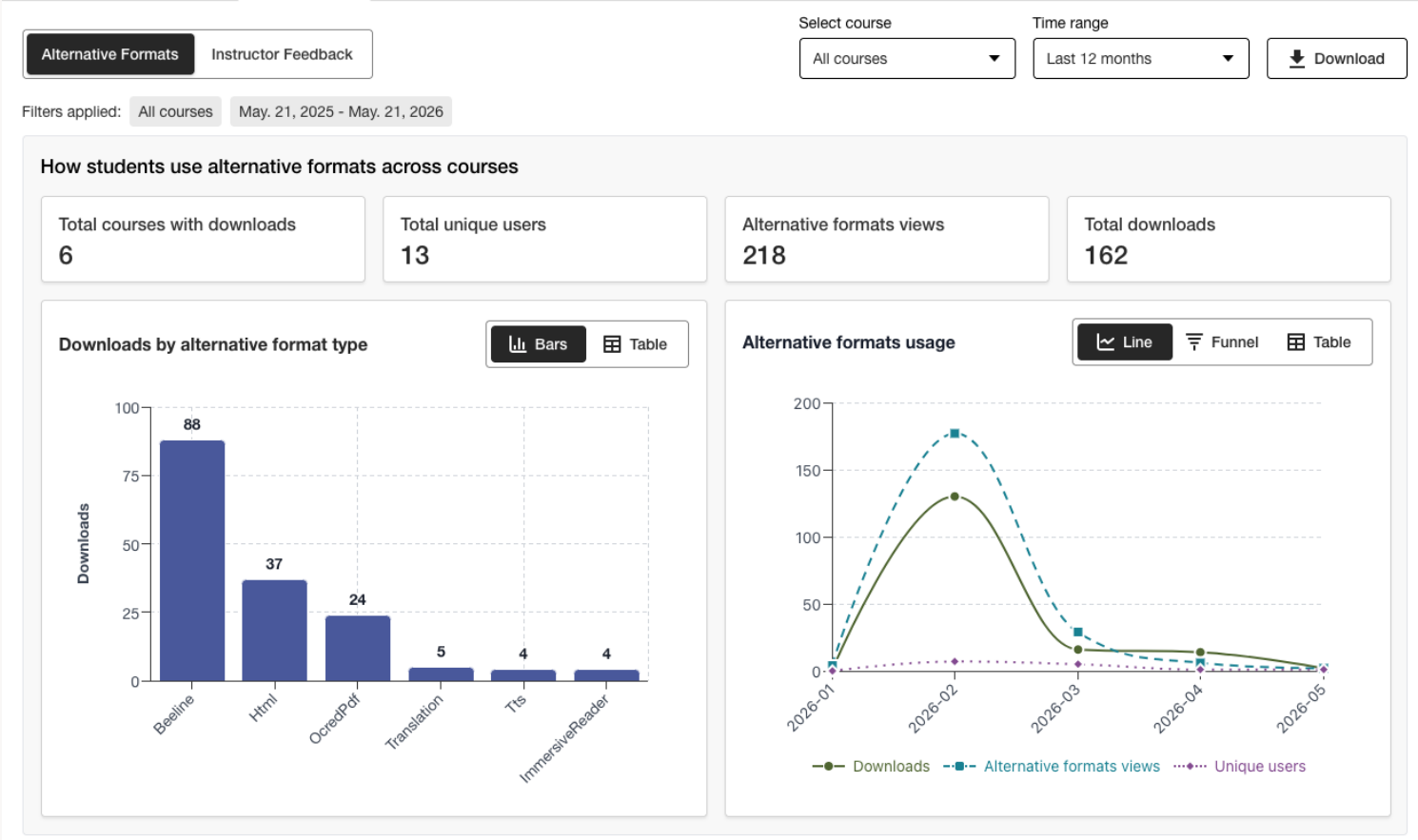
FYCD Communications Pack
Templates, timelines and toolkits

The New Usage Report

What's new

- Built into Institutional Report UI, excel download option still available
- Key stats at a glance, like total downloads, unique users and courses with downloads
- Charts for downloads by format type and usage over time
- Filters and chart drill-downs for deeper insights

Learn more: [Release notes](#) · [Usage report guide](#)



Goal Setting & Strategy Making

Setting goals that stick

1

Start with a data point

Pick 1 issue from your report to focus on.

2

Make it specific and measurable

Name the issue, the courses you'll target and a number you can track in the report.

3

Set a deadline

Tie it to a term or an event, like Fix Your Content Day.

4

Pair big and small

Match a bigger goal with a quick win to build momentum.

Building your strategy

1	**Know your goal**	Start from the goal you set, so every step points toward it
2	**Find who to reach**	Use the report to find the courses, departments or instructors where the work matters most
3	**Support instructors**	Offer how-tos, workshops and 1:1 help so fixes feel manageable
4	**Pick your moments**	Time outreach for the start of term, before midterms and events like FYCD
5	**Track and share**	Check the report each term, celebrate progress and share wins with stakeholders

Use our strategy template

Map out your goals and strategy in one place, then use it to check in each term.

Focus area	Goal	Milestones	Timeline	Responsible party	Required resources	Check-in plan

Download it here: Blank Strategy Template

Ally Support & Resources

Ally Support & Resources

Peer Networking

Learn from your peers

- Ally User Group
- Ally Office Hours
- Blackboard Community

Instructional Documentation

Step-by-step guides and support

- Blackboard Ally Technical Support Portal
- Ally Help Site

Instructor Resources

Extra support for your day-to-day

- Ally Training Resources for Instructors using Blackboard
- Ally Training Resources for Instructors using D2L Brightspace
- Ally Training Resources for Instructors using Canvas
- Ally Training Resources for Instructors using Moodle
- Promoting Alternative Formats to Students

Product Engagement

Stay current with Ally

- Ally for Instructors Microlearning Video Series
- Ally in Practice Engagement Series (check in the Community!)
- Ally Communication & Adoption Toolkit
- Ally Product Pulse – October Edition
- Ally Roadmap Sessions

Upcoming Events

UP NEXT

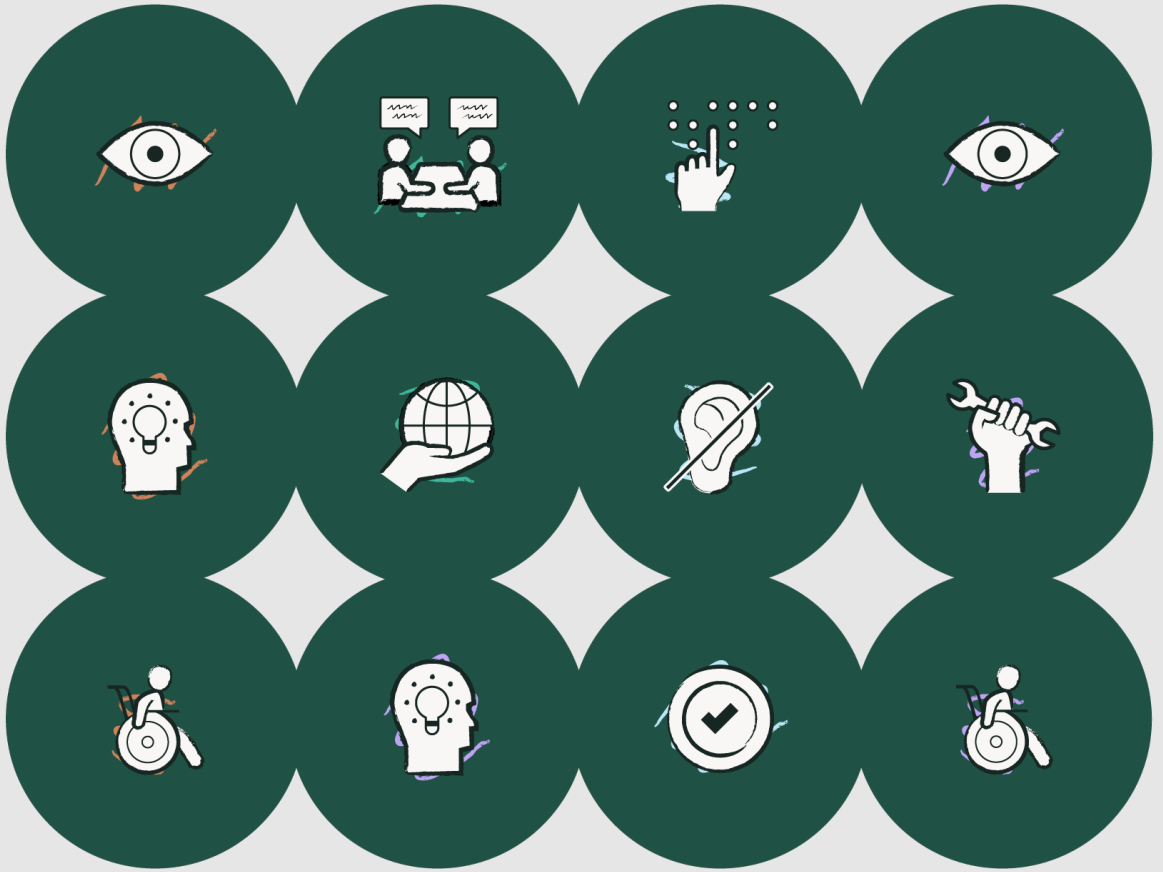
A New Release from Ally

Stay tuned for the drop this fall.



Blackboard Ally

Fix Your Content Day 2026



Fix Your Content Day IS BACK!

24 hours. One goal. More accessible content.

Tuesday, November 10th, 2026

Bring your team together and take action to improve the accessibility of your digital content.

REGISTER NOW →

FIX YOUR CONTENT DAY 2026 · TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

What's in the expanded Communications Pack

New

Social Media Campaign

Ready-made posts to share your participation and build buzz on your campus channels

New

Messaging Countdown Series

Three messages (two weeks out, one week out, final reminder) for campus email or LMS announcements

Expanded

More strategies and recommendations

- Set a campus priority and target
- Host a Fix-a-Thon
- Spark friendly competition
- Involve teams beyond faculty
- Keep momentum after the day

New

Coordinator Planning & Communication Timeline

A week-by-week roadmap to plan, launch and wrap up the day

New

Admin Prioritization Toolkit

A simple framework to share your top accessibility issues, with resources to fix them

Still included

Email and LMS templates, how-to videos, one-pager, FAQs, rules and the Ally Adoption Toolkit

Get it all: blackboard.com/fix-your-content-day/communications-pack

Blackboard

Blackboard

Digital Teaching Symposium 2026

Reach. Teach. Demonstrate.

Thurs November 19, 2026

Free & Online virtual event

Register Now



Ally in Practice: Promoting Alternative Formats to Students



Date: Monday, November 16th

Time: 10:00–11:00 AM ET or 2:00–3:00 PM ET

Audience: Instructors & Admins that support Instructors!

OPTION 1

10:00–11:00 AM ET

Register

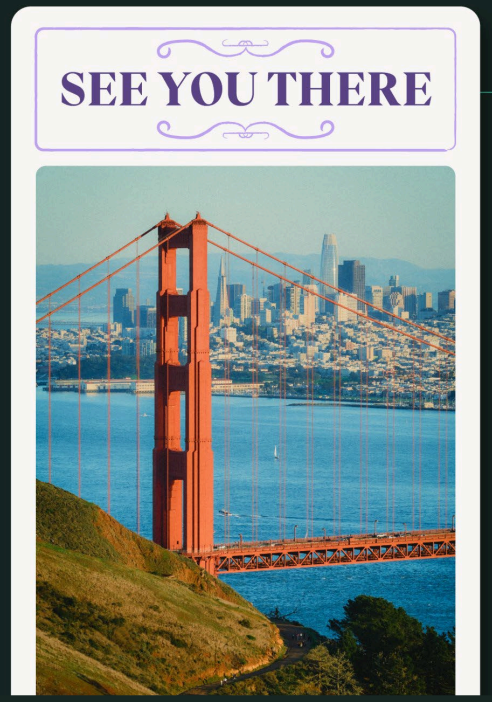
OPTION 2

2:00–3:00 PM ET

Register →

SAVE THE DATE

Building Blackboard Together 2027



BbT '27

San Francisco, California
July 13-15, 2027

Registration is open

Join us in San Francisco, California, July 13–15, 2027.

Register at conference.blackboard.com

Blackboard

Ally Office Hours

- Monday, November 9th at 11:00am ET
- **Ally Office Hours Registration Link**



Ally User Group Meeting

- Wednesday, November 18th at 10am ET
- **Ally User Group (Blackboard Community)**



Q&A

Thank You,

for all you do every day to help create more accessible content for all students.

Blackboard