

# Web Accessibility

**ATI Technical Assistance Workshop  
October 30, 2006**

**CSU**

The California State University

“Creating a culture of  
access for an inclusive  
learning environment.”

*The Accessible Technology Initiative*

[www.calstate.edu/accessibility](http://www.calstate.edu/accessibility)

**access**

**by design**

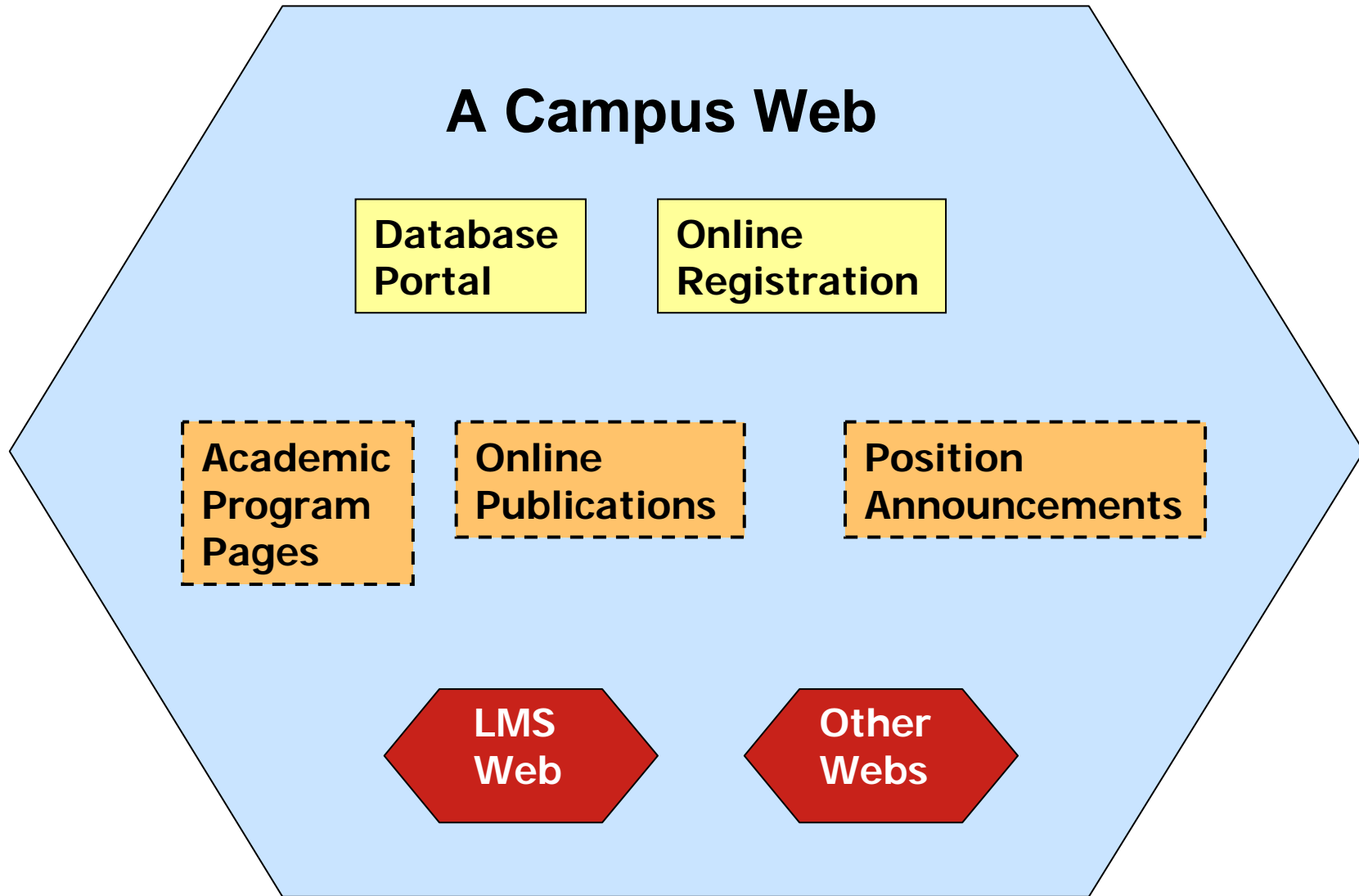
OPEN DOORS  
OPEN MINDS



## Perspective ...

- The rocket science is done
- Web and IT accessibility are available now
- Standards based accessible IT works better
- The cost of accessible development is the same
- Accessible IT can make the difference between student success and dropping out





**Understand the Web**

- Manager
- Developer
- Content Provider
- Procurement Officer
- Service Providers

**Study web accessibility at a level appropriate  
to your professional responsibilities**

- Manager
- Developer
- Content Provider
- Procurement Officer
- Service Providers

**Learn the standards and law: W3C  
Accessibility Guidelines and Section 508**

- A view with Partial Sight
- A view with No Sight  
Gene Chelberg  
SFSU – ADA, DSS... everything

**Directly experience the meaning of the principles: perceivable, operable, understandable, and robust.**

- User Centered Design
- Software Engineering Best Practice
- Code to best Standards
  - W3C Web Accessibility Guidelines: UAG, ATAG, WCAG 1 Level 2 for Web
  - Section 508 for Web UAG and IT
  - W3C WCAG 2.0 ... when final

**When developing new applications, follow best design and development practices**

- Retrofitting is the most expensive software development activity
- Non-compliant products must have retrofitting cost built into any cost comparison with compliant applications
- Compliant applications work better and faster than retrofitted non-compliant applications
- Usually purchase and development of applications that meet best practice if cheaper.

**Avoid retrofitting by developing or purchasing web applications that use best practice**

- Retrofit to Section 508 – That will be difficult enough
- Use the Web AIM Section 508 Checklist  
<http://www.webaim.org/standards/508/checklist>
- **Enough Said**

**Retrofit to the law**

- No compromise between beauty and accessibility is ever needed
- Think of beauty and usability in different modalities
- See [www.tomjewett.com](http://www.tomjewett.com)

**Aim to create and procure aesthetically  
stunning and usable web applications  
for all users**

- Failure to include users in design leads to failure of the application
- A person with a disability is the world's expert on her or his own barriers and accommodations

**Involve users in design and testing of web applications and include test subjects with a range of disabilities**

- Even if visual art is your communication medium, a person with no sight may need to access your site for contact information
- In a large university system, the probability is in favor of any site being used by some person with a disability

**Assume your site will be used by people  
with disabilities**

**“The power of the Web is in its universality. Access by everyone regardless of disability is an essential aspect.”**

**-- Tim Berners-Lee, W3C Director and inventor of the World Wide Web**