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CS 1980 Capstone

### Website Redesign and Content Integration for Inclusive Teaching

The project is to redesign Pitt's Inclusive Teaching website to be more functional, informative, and visually appealing. The website is currently aimed at faculty at the University of Pittsburgh; however, a goal of the project is to have it be a usable resource for any educator or student assistant. The expected results are to have a more uniform design across the site, as wmeell as having functional links and proper content posted. Design-wise, our sponsor would like us to have a professional and easy to navigate website. The website's design and aesthetics do not have any specific parameters from the sponsor and will likely change as we conduct usability testing. Our sponsor also wants a more dynamic data intake, allowing content to be more easily uploaded and changed. She will use the website to aggregate information on inclusive teaching, and have the site serve as a reference to other educators at Pitt. Ideally, it would also become a resource for educators and students outside of the university. Our sponsor would like us to conduct usability testing for the website with students and staff, to ensure that the website has a pleasant and intuitive user experience. Potential stretch goals if we meet our deadline would involve adding accessibility features to the website and having an updated feed of conferences and publications on inclusive teaching. After meeting with our sponsor, we have an approved timeline for the project, and goals we have set throughout the term.

In the development of our project, the primary focus is on creating an efficient architecture that allows a design which is both uniform and user-friendly, ensuring that every link functions correctly and directs users to the intended location. To achieve this, we're leveraging a combination of technologies and frameworks, specifically HTML/CSS for the front end to craft visually appealing and responsive interfaces, alongside WordPress for content management, and JavaScript to add interactivity and enhance user experience. Recognizing the need for continuous learning, all team members will learn more about WordPress and JavaScript to address our project's requirements further. Anticipating potential challenges, a significant question we're facing is how to conduct effective usability testing to ensure our design meets user needs efficiently. Our team's strengths lie in our foundational knowledge of HTML/CSS, usability testing, UI design, and human-computer interaction principles, although we acknowledge the need to strengthen our proficiency in JavaScript and the WordPress platform. This diverse skill set not only prepares us to tackle the project's technical demands, but it also positions us to overcome any foreseen issues by leveraging our expertise.

The timeline of our project based off the project goals are listed below:

Week of 2/11:

* Compile a report identifying all current issues with the website and determine the appropriate technologies for addressing these issues. Arrange a meeting to discuss these findings with the project sponsor.
* Brainstorm initial changes to the website.

Week of 2/18:

* Review and learn JavaScript and WordPress to prepare for the technical phase of our project.
* Design usability testing approaches and draft a list of students and staff to participate in the survey.

Week of 2/25:

* Schedule a meeting with the project sponsor to clarify the website's expectations in greater detail before initiating any corrective actions.
* Decide on the best method of prototype for usability testing (lo-fi, hi-fi, level of interaction, etc.)
* Make prototypes for testing with proposed changes and review them with the sponsor.

Week of 3/3:

* Contact students and staff interested in participating in usability testing and commence the testing phase.
* Decide on the best methods of usability testing, which will be influenced by the number of participants and their availability.

Week of 3/10:

* Proceed with the usability testing process.
* Make modifications to prototypes as needed based on usability testing.
* Check in with sponsor on progress of usability testing.

Week of 3/17:

* Conclude usability testing and compile a report detailing the findings. Present and discuss these findings with the project sponsor.
* Solidify changes to be made, and review with sponsor.

Week of 3/24:

* Advance the site development in accordance with the comprehensive list of requirements.
* Continue to log changes and check in with the sponsor on progress.

Week of 3/31:

* Continue site development and begin the draft of the final project report.
* Check in with the sponsor on current progress and ensure that all necessary major changes are in the process of being implemented to a satisfactory level.
* Try mobile testing alongside site development.

Week of 4/7:

* Complete all modifications and enhancements to the site, showcase updates and evidence of requirement fulfillment to the project sponsor, and further refine the final report.

Week of 4/14:

* Deliver a presentation of the final report and accompanying slides to the sponsor and capstone class.

Communication

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| **Communication** | **Method** | **Frequency** | **Goal** | **Members** |
| Project Status Report | Text | Twice a week | Update on project status and changes committed | Project Team |
| Project Review | Zoom | Weekly | Update on project and progress | Project Team and sponsor |
| Project Status Check-in | Zoom | Weekly | Update on project | Project Team |
| Project Changes | Google Doc | As needed | Keeping track of changes made to project | Project Team and sponsor |

User Stories:

* As an educator looking to support neurodiverse students, I want to find strategies to adapt my teaching methods to cater to a variety of learning styles and needs, ensuring every student can thrive.
* As a teacher seeking to better accommodate learners with disabilities, I require access to resources that guide me in creating an inclusive classroom environment where all students feel supported and engaged. I have a class with two students with disabilities this semester, and I want to make them feel welcome and supported in their journey to become academically successful.
* As someone interested in understanding demographic diversity, I want to learn about different cultural backgrounds and their impact on learning to foster a more understanding and inclusive educational environment.
* As an LGBTQ+ educator, I'm looking for guidance on how to ensure my classroom is a safe space for all identities, promoting respect and inclusion.
* As a manager at a large corporation, I want to ensure fair treatment for all employees, seeking strategies to eliminate bias and foster an inclusive workplace culture. I work with a team of diverse people and want to ensure fair treatment and awareness for all members.
* As a sports coach seeking enhanced training techniques for athletes with disabilities, I want to explore resources on inclusive teaching methods to optimize my coaching approach. I have a student on the spectrum and want to ensure their active participation in activities while also adapting approaches to suit their needs.
* As a principal at a high school, I want to allocate resources and support for professional development opportunities focused on inclusive teaching practices, ensuring that faculty and staff have the necessary training and skills to create welcoming and accessible learning environments.
* As a teaching assistant, I want access to resources and guidelines for creating inclusive learning environments within my assigned courses, ensuring that all students feel valued and supported.
* As a disability advocate, I want to find resources to better help instructors maintain a fair and accessible environment for all their students. I work with instructors who have no experience in working with disabled students, so I need easily accessible information to share with them.
* As a teaching administrator, I want to make sure that my faculty has access to resources on inclusive teaching to improve their environments.
* As a student leading a campus organization who gives presentations, I want to learn how to make sure that my presentations are accessible. My organization has a diverse group of members, and I want to make sure that the presentations use clear communication and are easy to read.
* As a new student teacher, I want to get a better idea of where to start on ensuring that my classroom is inclusive, or how to better modify it to become more inclusive. I am not sure of the demographics of my classrooms yet, but I want to be prepared to create an equitable environment for all of my potential students moving forward.
* As a student assistant hired to help with inclusivity in the classroom, I want to learn and suggest changes to the instructors for teaching. I may need to visit resources and suggest changes to the instructors, and would like to find thorough information before suggesting these changes.