**Accessibility Specialist- Office of Board Members-21679**

**Primary Location**: DC-Washington

**Employee Status**: Regular

**Overtime Status:** Exempt

**Job Type**: Standard

**Travel**: No

**Shift**: Day Job

**Years of Experience Required:** 2

**Education Required:** Bachelor's or Equivalent Exp.

**Relocation Provided:** Yes

**Salary Grade Low:** 24

**Salary Grade High:** 24

**Posting Date**: Sep 25, 2019

**Position Description**

As a member of the Public Information Outreach Program, the Accessibility Specialist provides Board staff and contractors (e.g., writers, editors, content contributors) with a facility to request information and assistance in complying with Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.  Applying an explicit knowledge of the accessibility requirements relevant to the Board, ensures that web applications and content conform to current Section 508 accessibility requirements.  Consults with staff charged with meeting Section 508 accessibility requirements for content and applications posted on the Board’s public website (PubWeb).

**Position Requirements**

Must have proficient understanding of the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and how they apply to federal agency business operations and processes.  Demonstrated experience with assistive technology (e.g., screen readers, accessibility validation tools), HTML coding, CSS (stylesheets), and software (e.g., Dreamweaver, Javascript, PDF), as well as file and media formats.  Knowledge level is typically achieved through completion of a bachelor’s degree, preferably in web development/design, graphic design, or the computer sciences, or acquired through extensive work-related experience.  Requires two years of specialized experience organizing and supporting the implementation of Section 508.  Excellent oral and written interpersonal communication skills, customer service orientation, and the ability to solve customer problems in a timely manner a must.  Knowledge of XML and experience using a content management system is highly desirable.

*In her early adulthood, her extended family would generate so much cash that they earned enough to support themselves as well as pay the light bills of a select few households from the Washington, DC neighborhood they originated from. Eventually this aid covered their entire block, with still enough left over to support her and her siblings' immediate families.*

Dear Ms. Julie Carpenter,

More often than not, people are shocked to find out that someone like me—that is, a person with an English degree and no formal training in economics—works at a place like the Federal Reserve Board. But to me, it makes perfect sense; almost as if I’ve come full circle. I’ll explain.

I credit my grandmother with my interest in economics. Though she wasn't formally trained in the subject, she raised six children on a shoestring budget while simultaneously serving as head of the family bank. Distrustful of traditional banks early on, she hid her wealth in air vents, under the floorboards, and in the ceiling panels before finally being convinced to try safer alternatives in the late 1990s. She was so good at hiding large piles of cash by this time that she could tell the exact amount of money in a stack of bills just weighing it by hand.

As one of nine children who grew up during the Great Depression, my grandma had an innate understanding of how much money it takes to sustain a family. Ever the philanthropist, my grandmother gave away most of her money to the church, after setting aside some funds to support her own family and a select few households in her former Washington, DC neighborhood. Following my grandmother's example taught me the value of money and introduced me to the concept of applied economics.

Coupled with my passion for technology, I knew my non-traditional economics background could inspire the people who needed to hear it most, namely people that fit my demographic: young Black females. There was only one question: how best to tell my story and disperse it to as many people as possible? The natural solution was to create a fully accessible website, or in my case, to start blogging about it.

The skills I amassed building and maintaining my blog propelled me into the tech industry, from having previously worked stints as a Retail Sales Associate and Administrative Assistant. I was first introduced to Section 508 requirements as a Federal Technology Consultant at Deloitte. There, I gained specialized experience organizing and supporting the implementation of Section 508 for a variety of federal clients, including the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). Soon thereafter, I had the opportunity to contribute my Section 508 knowledge to a contract role as Web Content Manager at the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC).  As a web developer for Virtual Enterprise Architects (VEA) and the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE), I received praise for my excellent oral and written interpersonal communication skills, customer service skills, and ability to solve client problems in a timely manner. My further qualifications include a bachelor’s degree from Brown University and training in Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.0, completed in April 2019.

I currently serve as a 508-HTML Consultant for the Federal Reserve Board, where I work closely with the Public Information Outreach (PIO) team on a number of high-priority webpages on the agency’s public website. During my two years in this role, I’ve gained a proficient understanding of the requirements of Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act and how they apply to the Board’s business operations and processes.  I have demonstrated experience with accessibility validation tools, such as Adobe Acrobat Pro and WAVE; HTML, CSS, and JavaScript coding; and myriad software programs (e.g., Dreamweaver, Photoshop, Illustrator), content management systems (e.g., OpenText, SharePoint 2010, Blogger), and file and media formats (e.g., XML, PDF).

I would love the opportunity to discuss how I can continue contributing to the PIO team as an Accessibility Specialist. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,   
Lisa Blunt  
lisablunt1@gmail.com  
(202) 674-2467