

**Crystal Hester, BS**  
**Specialist, Digital Instructional Accessibility**



Crystal Hester is the Digital Instructional Accessibility Specialist at Cuyahoga Community College (Tri-C), where she leads collegewide efforts to advance inclusive, accessible digital learning environments. With over a decade of experience at Tri-C, she has held roles across Enrollment, Academic Support, Learning Technologies, and Instructional Design, bringing a uniquely comprehensive perspective to her work. Crystal holds a bachelor's degree in Electronic Engineering, along with certifications in Web and Content Accessibility and a federal Section 508 certification. She has also completed graduate-level coursework in Information and Library Science and Disability Studies, strengthening her expertise at the intersection of technology, education, and accessibility. In her current role, Crystal partners with faculty, staff, and leadership to ensure compliance with ADA Title II, Section 504/508, and WCAG standards, while promoting accessible design as a best practice for all learners. She is known for translating complex legal and technical accessibility concepts into practical, easy-to-apply strategies that improve student engagement, retention, and success. Crystal is a passionate advocate for digital equity and regularly presents on topics such as accessible course design, alternative formats, assistive technologies, and the evolving role of artificial intelligence in accessibility. Her work emphasizes that accessibility is not just about compliance, it's about creating inclusive, flexible learning experiences that benefit everyone.

**Speech Topics:**

- **Digital Accessibility in Practice: Tools, Techniques, and Real-World Impact**
- **Beyond Compliance: Accessibility as a Pathway to Inclusion and Equity**
- **Leading with Accessibility: Building Sustainable and Inclusive Digital Practices**