

**WIU AFFIRMATIVE ACTION
ADMINISTRATIVE INTERNSHIP PROGRAM
APPLICATION FORM**

Name	Bradley Dilger
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Dept or Administrative Office	English & Journalism
Years at WIU	4.5 (August 2003–present)
Current Position	Associate Professor of English

1. Interest in administration; short and long term goals

My interest in higher education administration revolves around information technology. I firmly believe technological systems should be developed and maintained with meaningful participation from those who use them every day. Technology should increase access to higher education for everyone. To these ends, I want to influence higher education policy to ensure the use of technology is equitable, affordable, and practical. For example, I am coordinating a national effort to improve the accessibility of scholarly journals in my field by developing standards for the content of their web sites. I co-wrote a resolution promoting open software development which was recently passed by one of my professional organizations, the Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC). At Western, as my department's technology coordinator and through active service on university committees and task forces, I have tried to shape policy in similarly productive ways. I seek an administrative internship to continue and expand on this work.

For the short term, if awarded an internship, I would seek to improve the accessibility of course materials created by Western faculty. This is an ideal internship project: it would allow me to continue research in web accessibility while gaining administrative experience and providing a very useful service for the university. Because the Illinois Information Technology Accessibility Act (IITAA) takes affect in August 2008, we need coordinated efforts to improve the web accessibility of our web sites. The Web Accessibility Committee (WAC) has taken the first steps in this regard, and university administration has been very supportive. However, I believe course materials need special attention, not only because they are critical for students, but because they are so complex and diverse (courses mix web sites, rich-text email, iTunes U, WesternOnline, and other media). As an administrative intern, I would collaborate with faculty, department chairs, and other administrators to develop web accessibility resources to complement those now under development. My perspective as a faculty member who uses the web extensively would guide this project, bolstering the development of guidelines, examples, and other materials with broad pedagogical applications. In large part, my role would be connecting the many administrative units involved with information technology through my up-to-date knowledge of teaching with technology and web accessibility.

On the long term, I hope for opportunities to engage similar policy-oriented work congruent with

user-centering technology and ensuring access to technology—perhaps as an associate dean, through directed release time such as this internship, or other means.

2. Skills, experience, and educational training

Where web accessibility is concerned, training needs are minimal; I have studied it for years and have created numerous accessible web sites, including “Web Accessibility for WIU site managers,” a resource for the WIU community at <http://faculty.wiu.edu/CB-Dilger/accessibility>. I am familiar with the IITAA, federal law, and international standards, and well-versed in their practical application. My core educational needs would be addressed by the administrative character of the internship. I seek experience developing and implementing fiscally responsible policies which satisfy requirements such as the IITAA while serving student and faculty academic needs. For this project, I expect to work closely with my mentors and other administrators to understand demands the IITAA and similar mandates place on specific sectors of the university, from funding and budgeting to writing reports and other communications required by Illinois higher education agencies. I hope to gain experience collaborating toward a common goal with a wide variety of faculty and administrators, especially those outside the humanities, and those for whom information technology is not a core part of the curriculum (for example, music as contrasted to computer science). Finally, I would also like to work directly with external agencies such as Web Accessibility in Mind and the Illinois Center for Information Technology Accessibility. While my service on the WAC has offered me some opportunities in these areas, the internship would make a sustained effort possible.

I envision splitting the internship over two semesters with one-third release time in Fall 2008 and two-thirds release time in Spring 2009. For my department, this will create the least disruption of course schedules. The longer time frame would also better suit the project, since it will require considerable time for review of documents and communication with external agencies.

3. Administrative mentors

Primary: Mr. Richard Chamberlain <re-chamberlain@wiu.edu>
Director, Center for the Application of Information Technologies (CAIT)

I have collaborated often with Richard and value his perspective on information technology; he was involved with state efforts to develop IITAA, so without a doubt he understands the issues it raises for Western. As an administrator who works on many educational projects from outside of the classroom, Richard provides a perspective which complements mine very well. He has collaborated with a wide range of information technology professionals, both academic and from industry; tapping into that experience would be a large part of the internship.

Secondary: Dr. Hoyet Hemphill <hh-hemphill@wiu.edu>
Chair, Department of Instructional Design and Technology (IDT)

As a department chair Hoyet will help me understand department-level administrative issues raised by the web accessibility mandate of IITAA. I know Hoyet from several university committees and because of our shared interest in teaching with technology.

Attachments

Curriculum vita

Letter of support from supervisor: Dr. David Boocker, Chair, English & Journalism

Evaluation: Dr. Joan Livingston-Webber, Professor, English & Journalism

Evaluation: Dr. Bill Thompson, Associate Professor, University Libraries