

WebAIM Staff Attends CSUN Conference | CPD

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Jared Smith

WebAIM (Web Accessibility in Mind) project staff attended the 30th Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference, commonly known as CSUN, in San Diego March 2-7. WebAIM is a project of Utah State University's Center for Persons with Disabilities.

The conference, which originated at California State University, Northridge, focuses on issues related to accessibility to technology for people with disabilities.

According to Jared Smith, WebAIM's assistant director, said WebAIM usually has a good presence at the conference and the staff has a busy week. This year, he said, he intended to submit only one presentation proposal, leaving more time to network and enjoy the conference.

"At the last minute, I put in one more," he said. "Then, I was invited to do two more, one with the WebAIM staff and one panel discussion, so I ended up with my name on four proposals. And then the conference asked us to do a pre-conference workshop."

So much for a quiet week.

The presentations included the pre-conference session entitled, "Intro to HTML5 and ARIA," the panel discussion,

"Do We Need to Change the Web Accessibility Game Plan," and presentations on web accessibility and surveys, the WAVE tool, and a screen reader accessibility "face-off."

"I always really enjoy the conference," Smith said. "For me personally, it's like refueling the tank for the year. It's a chance for us to see some of the impact of the work we're doing."

In addition to the WebAIM presentations, the CPD was also represented in a public hearing on proposed updates to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act. Sachin Pavithran, recently elected chair of the U.S. Access Board, facilitated the hearing.