ECC is creating a fair and equitable learning environment from within D2L using ReadSpeaker

“From an equity standpoint, we want to ensure that all students have the opportunity to access course materials in a format that meets their needs. There are so many students who can benefit from audio support—students who benefit from listening to course content while commuting to work and school, students who enjoy listening to content while exercising, students with learning disabilities, students whose native language is other than English, and many others. We are delighted that we can enhance the learning experience for those students and provide an inclusive, accessible, and equitable educational environment for them with ReadSpeaker.”

Pietrina Probst, Director of ADA, Student Access & Disability Services, Elgin Community College

About Elgin Community College

- Number of Employees: 1064
- Industry: Higher Education
- Year Founded: 1949
- Website: Visit Website

ECC is a comprehensive community college serving students at every stage of their educational journeys. ECC offers something for everyone, from university transfer programs to continuing education classes to childcare and arts center events for the community.
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| As more and more course materials began being posted online at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, students were expected to read large amounts of material online. ECC wanted to provide an opportunity to students, who had disabilities, experienced language barriers, were auditory learners, etc., to listen to text posted on Desire2Learn (D2L), their learning management system. They wanted to remove the barriers that those students experienced while accessing online text, so they began searching for a TTS solution to best serve their students. The employees within their Distance Learning department had heard of ReadSpeaker’s integration with D2L and contacted ReadSpeaker to learn more. | Easily Embedded with LMS
ReadSpeaker seamlessly embedded within D2L, their LMS system, so students could easily select the “Listen” button to listen to text in D2L, including tests and quizzes. Products used include: webReader, docReader and TextAid.

Fostered Accessible and Equitable Opportunities
The webReader and docReader tools fostered an accessible and equitable learning experience for their students.

Created Efficiency and Saved Time
As a result of the webReader tool within D2L tests and quizzes, students who needed the audio support could take their tests and quizzes at any hour of the day on any day of the week, just like their peers who did not need audio support, thereby creating efficiency and saving the time that was typically needed to coordinate a human reader to read the test or quiz to them.