ACCESSIBILITY IN THE CLOUD
Panelists

- **Christian Vinten-Johansen**, Manager, IT Accessibility Team, Information Technology Services, Penn State
- **Sean O'Brien**, Associate Program Manager, Cloud Services, Internet2
- **Kara Zirkle**, IT Accessibility Coordinator, George Mason University
- **Stephanie Robbins**, Program Support Specialist, Assistive Tech. Initiative, George Mason University

Moderator: **Jarret Cummings**, Director, Policy and External Relations, EDUCAUSE
Focus

- Context for IT accessibility in cloud services
- Best practices, policies, and ways to evaluate cloud service accessibility
- Contracting approaches that support fulfillment of accessibility requirements
History

• Amazon Kindle pilot settlements (2010): E-Readers
• Penn State/National Federation of the Blind (NFB) settlement (2011): Campus web, IT environment
• NYU/Northwestern Google Apps for Education complaints (2011): Cloud apps (Gmail, GDocs, etc.)
• Florida State settlement (2012): Online testing, classroom technology
• Louisiana Tech settlement (2013): Online instructional materials, web content
• University of Montana settlement (2014): Online instructional services, web content
More History

• Internet2/EDUCAUSE E-Text Pilots
  – Began Fall 2011; first pilots in Spring 2012
  – Based on Indiana University E-Texts Initiative
  – New model: Students don’t buy textbooks; e-text access included in course fee
  – Fall 2012: NFB writes to pilot institution presidents about accessibility concerns
  – EDUCAUSE/Internet2, providers respond
  – Platform addressed for Spring 2013 pilots
And More History (Still Being Made)

- **Technology Equality and Accessibility in College & Higher Education (TEACH) Act**
  - “Accessible instructional materials and related technologies” voluntary guidelines
  - Concern: Bill as written might curtail IT in teaching and learning for all students
  - NFB, publishers, higher ed. agree to work on TEACH compromise, Oct. 2014
  - Ongoing, expect in HEA reauthorization
History Lessons

- IT accessibility is a significant ongoing issue for colleges and universities
- Just as services extend into the cloud, so do accessibility concerns
- Law and regulation provide flexibility, but prevention is worth a pound of cure
- Need to think through where/how institutions can be proactive
- And that leads us to today’s panel…