

**The Access Technology CIG,
CSU's Accessible Technology Initiative
& AHEAD's E-Text Solutions Group**

invite you to join us for wine, cheese &

A Conversation with Rick Bowes

Association of American Publishers
Alternate Format Solutions Initiative

Monday evening
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Flying Cloud Room (*CCC Confer session)

Believing that the only effective solutions to the challenge of providing curricular materials to students with print-disabilities on a timely basis will be those grounded in a practical understanding of the real world problems and pressures, the Association of American Publishers' Higher Education members decided to become proactive and start the process of deriving a set of pragmatic solutions that will get results quickly. AAP in March launched and funded the Alternate Format Solutions Initiative (AFSI) and contracted with Frederick "Rick" Bowes to spearhead what is expected to be a highly collaborative effort involving a wide range of professionals who are all committed to meeting the challenge of this difficult mission.

During its first 6 months the AFSI has been focused on gathering solid information through focus groups and on-site meetings in various states. The CAPED session will begin with a brief presentation about the AFSI and what has been happening so far - including the recent beta launch of a new public website where publisher contact information can quickly be found. After that, the floor will be opened for a free flowing discussion during which Rick will field questions from attendees about a wide range of topics - from technology to policy, from copyright to publishers' practices; any topic is fair game if it could impact the success of AFSI's collaborative efforts for students' access. In addition to exchanges triggered by attendee questions, Rick is also likely to pose some solutions, concepts and ideas to the attendees for feedback and discussion.

In short, there are two symbiotic goals for the session:

- the AFSI wants to understand California's needs and concerns and
- the AFSI wants to help DSS professional better understand the processes and issues faced by publishers so that both parties can work more effectively toward a practical, sustainable solution.

