

# Cynthia Bennett

Phone: 828.989.5383 | Email: [clb5590@gmail.com](mailto:clb5590@gmail.com) | Website: [www.bennettc.com](http://www.bennettc.com)

## Education

### **Ph.D. in Human Centered Design and Engineering**

University of Washington, 9/2014 – 9/2019 (Expected)

### **B.A. in Psychology with Minors in African American and Women's Studies**

UNC Wilmington, 2011

## Objective

I leverage qualitative and participatory methods toward accessible design activities and tools so people with disabilities can become creators of their own inclusive technologies.

## Skills

Building Community Research Partnerships, Contextual Inquiry, Ethnography and Field Observation, Focus Groups and Interviewing, Participatory Design, Surveys, Usability Studies

## Relevant Employment

### **Research Assistant, 10/2014 - Present**

University of Washington Human Centered Design and Engineering Dept, Seattle, WA

- Dissertation: Increasing accessibility of Human-Centered Design activities.
- Designed and led community workshops with people with disabilities on low-tech and Arduino ideation and prototyping methods.
- Presented on accessible design methods to multiple university courses, professional teams, and at diversity and inclusion events.

### **Research Intern, 9/2016 - 12/2016 and 6/2017 - 9/2017**

Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA

- Conducted field research on how blind people navigate in groups and interactive interviewing of visually impaired teens using photography and social media apps with minimal supervision.
- Synthesized and presented findings to product teams and co-authored four conference publications.

### **Design Research Intern, 6/2016 - 9/2016**

Microsoft, Redmond, WA

- Designed, implemented, and reported a lab usability study of new product features.
- Presented to product teams and contributed research findings to upper-level management meetings.

# Cynthia Bennett

## Advocacy and Community

My service centers on recruiting more people with disabilities and underrepresented minorities into stem careers through in-person mentorship and informing governmental and institutional policy.

### **Coordinator, 9/2017-6/2018**

University of Washington Simpson Center for the Humanities, Disability Studies Group

- Obtained grant funding to coalesce graduate students from across disciplines drawing on Disability Studies scholarship in their research.

### **WA-7th District Governor-Appointed Rep, 7/2013-6/2018**

Washington State School for the Blind, Board of Trustees

- Member of the Superintendent Search Subcommittee 2015-2016.
- General advising on school curriculum and operations.

### **Member, 2015-2016**

National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Committee

- Select from applicant pool for academic scholarships for blind college students.

## Awards

- Microsoft Research Dissertation Grant, 9/2018—8/2019.
- University of Washington Disability Studies Department Dennis Lang Award, 2018.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow, 7/2015—6/2019.

## Selected Peer Reviewed Publications

C. L. Bennett, E. L. Brady and S. M. Branham. 2018. "Interdependence as a Frame for Assistive Technology Research and Design." ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '18). ACM, New York, NY, USA, to appear.

C. L. Bennett, J. L. E, M. E. Mott, E. Cutrell, and M. R. Morris. 2018. "How Teens with Visual Impairments Take, Edit, and Share Photos on Social Media." ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '18). ACM, New York, NY, USA, Paper 76, 12 pages

C. L. Bennett, K. Shinohara, B. Blaser, A. Davidson and K. M. Steele. 2016. "Using a Design Workshop to Explore Accessible Ideation." ACM SIGACCESS Conference on Computers and Accessibility (ASSETS '16). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 303-304.

C. L. Bennett, K. Cen, K. M. Steele and D. K. Rosner. 2016. "An Intimate Laboratory? Prostheses as a Tool for Experimenting with Identity and Normalcy." ACM Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '16). ACM, New York, NY, USA, 1745-1756.