Universal Design
For Instruction and the Classroom

Presented by
Marge Strong, Assistive Technology Coordinator
&
Jim Joque, Director

Disability and Assistive Technology Center
Universal Design
For Instruction and the Classroom

-Learning Outcomes-

1. Participants will develop a clearer understanding of the difference between universal design and accommodations in the classroom

2. Participants will gain specific techniques, methods and strategies regarding application to universal design and classroom accommodations

3. Participants will better understand their instruction style as it relates to universal design in their classroom
Universal Design
For Instruction and the Classroom

–Learning Outcomes–

1. Participants will develop a clearer understanding of the difference between universal design and accommodations in the classroom

2. Participants will gain specific techniques, methods and strategies regarding application to universal design and classroom accommodations

3. Participants will better understand their instruction style as it relates to universal design in their classroom.
Universal Design

CLEARING A PATH
FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS
CLEARS THE PATH FOR EVERYONE!

COULD YOU PLEASE SHOVEL THE RAMP?

ALL THESE OTHER KIDS ARE WAITING TO USE THE STAIRS. WHEN I GET THROUGH SHOVELING THEM OFF, THEN I WILL CLEAR THE RAMP FOR YOU.

BUT IF YOU SHOVEL THE RAMP, WE CAN ALL GET IN!
Universal design is the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design.

(NCSU Center for Universal Design)
Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Defined

The term UNIVERSAL DESIGN FOR LEARNING means a scientifically valid framework for guiding educational practice that:

(A) provides flexibility in the ways information is presented, in the ways students respond or demonstrate knowledge and skills, and in the ways students are engaged; and

(B) reduces barriers in instruction, provides appropriate accommodations, supports, and challenges, and maintains high achievement expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students who are limited English proficient.

The National Center on Universal Design for Learning defines UDL:

- Universal Design for Learning is a set of principles for curriculum development that give all individuals equal opportunities to learn.
- UDL provides a blueprint for creating instructional goals, methods, materials, and assessments that work for everyone—not a single, one-size-fits-all solution but rather flexible approaches that can be customized and adjusted for individual needs.
Universally Designed based instruction and classroom –consists of the following components–

- **Multiple means of representation**
  - Gives learners various ways of acquiring information and knowledge–

- **Multiple means of expression**
  - Provides learners alternatives for demonstrating what they know–

- **Multiple means of engagement**
  - Taps into learner’s interests, challenges them appropriately, and motivates them to learn–
Universal Design Application for Teaching....in:

- Instruction
- Information Technology
- Physical Space
- Services
Instruction

- Syllabus & statement of accommodation
- Multiple delivery methods
- Flexible curriculum
- Multiple formats to teach
- Effective interaction with students in class
- Availability for assignment/assessment feedback
- Listing outlines, notes, PowerPoint on accessible website
Information Technology

- Online accessibility (websites & courses)
- Captioned videos & audios
- Alternative text for graphic images; readable text in audio form
- Purchase of accessible software products
- Assistive technology compatible software
- Comfortable access to computers; adjustable-height tables
Physical Space

- Accessible classroom (layout, furniture, fixtures, surfaces)
- Signage
- Emergency & evacuation instructions
Services
(awareness, materials, print)

- Awareness of disabilities and disability services
- Awareness of accommodations resources and procedures
- Print publications available in alternative formats
- Materials & instructional aids available in alternative form
- Materials and print info within reach
Assess Your Universal Designs in Your Classroom and Instruction Method

Please complete your assessment form
Resources:

- Presentation: *What Every Instructor Wants to Know About Universal Design for Learning*, by Jim Stachowiak, Director of the Iowa Center for Assistive Technology Education and Research, The University of Iowa, 2010
- National Center on Universal Design for Learning [http://www.udlcenter.org](http://www.udlcenter.org)
- Center for Universal Design, North Carolina State University [http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud](http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud)