Universal Design for Learning: 4 Professional Development Opportunities Relevant for this Pandemic Time and Beyond

from the Inclusive Pedagogy Committee!

Reach Everyone and Teach Everyone with Universal Design for Learning: Virtual Keynote with Thomas J. Tobin  
6/17/20 - 10:00-11:30 am CST

Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone Book Reading Group  
Scheduled to suit participants

UDL Working Groups to support your modifications  
Scheduled to suit participants

Open-Format “Ask the Author” Session with Thomas J. Tobin  
Save the Date - 9/1/20

More Information:

Reach Everyone and Teach Everyone with Universal Design for Learning: An Interactive Virtual Keynote Session with Thomas J. Tobin, PhD, MSLS, PMP, MOT, CPACC

- Wednesday, June 17, 2020: 10:00-11:30 am CST
- Via Zoom – (link provided after you RSVP)
- RSVP: http://go.lawrence.edu/hjdg

Abstract: Given the current pandemic and the need for flexibility in our inclusive teaching practices whether we’re in-person or at a distance, this session will help make educational materials and practices inclusive and useful for all learners. This interactive keynote radically reflects on how faculty and staff can adopt Universal Design for Learning in order to create learning interactions that provide students with more time for study and practice in their busy days; broaden our focus away from learners with disabilities and toward a larger ease-of-use/general-inclusion framework. (Tobin Bio and Research References follow.)

Description: This keynote will introduce you to Universal Design for Learning, especially as newly revised for higher education (CAST, 2014). You will discover how to implement UDL in the design of your online and face-to-face courses and committee interactions, creating spaces for best teaching and support practices to take place—in the classroom and beyond. This is best accomplished through an incremental approach, using a “next 20” series of milestones—achievements that can be attained in the next 20 minutes, 20 days, and 20 months (Tobin & Behling, 2018).

You’ll also find out where to look for help on our campus and in Moodle: recent research from CAST and the Center for Universal Design in Education suggests that institutions whose staff members use UDL too, see better adoption rates and deeper penetration of UDL principles across all courses (CAST, 2014; DO-IT, 2015). By attending this keynote presentation, you will be able to
• help your faculty colleagues to incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) elements into their courses,
• design/retrofit existing course components using UDL principles,
• expand Lawrence’s use of UDL elements beyond the legally-required minimum.

This keynote uses active-learning techniques and provides use-them-now resources for participants. Especially by relating UDL to broader access benefits for all learners, this keynote’s activities serve as a model for participants to re-frame accessibility and inclusion conversations. This keynote posits diversity in its most inclusive form: instead of relying solely on providing accommodation services to learners with disabilities—which is most often a last-minute, ad-hoc, reactive process—adopting UDL as part of an institution’s culture of course design, teaching practices, and support services allows all learners to benefit, regardless of their place on the ability spectrum.

Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone Book Reading Group: The Inclusive Pedagogy Committee will provide the book; you choose the location to read it, and join your colleagues for discussion as you’re able/available via Zoom. Dates and times will be determined by polling those interested.

• Request a book here (same as above): http://go.lawrence.edu/hjdg

UDL Working Groups: The Inclusive Pedagogy Committee will facilitate gatherings to learn from each other as we make UDL modifications. We’ll form groups based on your plans and pursuits. Dates and times will be determined by polling those interested.

Open-Format “Ask the Author” Session

• Save the Date! September 1, 2020 – 10:00-11:30 CST – Format TBA
• Description: Whether you have been part of the Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone book reading group or not, join the author Thomas J. Tobin for an open-format ask-anything session focused on lowering barriers to learning—for both your students and for you. If you have questions about a course modification or approach, if you’ve ever heard the same question from students hundreds of times, or if you’ve ever had to re-teach a challenging concept because your students all missed it on a test, or if a student has ever told you “that was great, professor, but I still just don’t get it,” then this session is for you.

Questions? Contact Kathy Privatt at kathy.privatt@lawrence.edu