



University of Maine System – SAALT Conference
Tobin, “Lowering Barriers for Adult Learners—and Us Too”
& “Inclusive-Design Advocacy Training Workshop”
July 18, 2022

Participant Rating Results

Attendance: 100 keynote, 26 workshop **Respondents:** 21

1. In a few words, share your over-all impression of the keynote session:

- Fantastic presenter and content. Well organized and provided very good insight into issue and opportunities.
- Found Dr. Tobin very engaging with a positive message for us. I especially liked the +1 concept and looking at alternative modalities.
- I appreciated this keynote presentation very much. Dr. Tobin was a very good presenter who modeled what he was teaching (e.g., the ten minute lecture + two minute question period; the multiple pathways for engagement; universal design for learning; accessibility, etc.). I found him to be very informative.
- I enjoyed the interactive nature of this keynote—a welcome surprise, when I expected a Zoom webinar talk. I appreciated Dr. Tobin’s concrete tips for better supporting students; I will definitely use these.
- I enjoyed this presentation and I thought the speaker was very well-versed and ready for a Zoom presentation. It would have been nice to have more engagement in breakout rooms, but other than that, it was worth my time.
- I felt as though this should have been audience dependent. For me, I was looking for different information than just accommodations. Additionally, he claimed it was going to be interactive and there was little to no interaction. I would never ask my students to sit through a lecture or class in that style.
- I liked the flow of the presentation and how he presented simple and easy to remember concepts that we can apply to our teaching.
- I really enjoyed the talk and it helped solidify a lot of things I understood but only on an intuitive level. It helped to name them.
- In all honesty I had a hard time engaging with Tom’s presentation, because of his style. I know it is by design that he enacts the principles he’s talking about, but I often found his style to be pedantic and condescending. He frequently “othered” adult learners, without apparent thought to the fact that several? many? of us there have lived the adult learner experience he was describing—I did. As requested I spoke with him in advance of SAALT for his keynote prep, and I can see that he attempted a middle-of-the-road approach to UDL, likely acknowledging the continuum of prior UDL knowledge of the group. I can see why he would be chosen as a keynote for SAALT, and I have no issue with that. SAALT organizers are not responsible for how he presents or is received by the audience. But I would not be honest if I didn’t feedback how difficult it was to engage with his content, and that I was glad I already knew a fair amount about UDL so my lack of engagement with him didn’t interrupt my overall engagement with SAALT.
- More specific information about how to implement UDL in the classroom would have been helpful.
- Overall I thought this provided good information and he was an engaging knowledgeable speaker; however, it seemed like most of what was discussed is part of evidence-based teaching practices (e.g., use of CATs) and I was hoping for more advanced and specific information for nontraditional learners.
- Overall, it was useful as a keynote, but it would have been nice to hear a few more specific UDL tools that we could use in our teaching.
- Thanks so much for opening up this session to everyone. I learned quite a lot. While I’ve used UDL and have had multiple workshops on it, Tom Tobin’s way of explaining it was the best I’ve seen. This time it will stick with me!
- The keynote speaker was very informative and engaging. He had a great way of giving complex information in ways that made it understandable and easy to start to apply.
- This keynote was extremely well done. I appreciated the speaker’s expertise and delivery style. I learned so much!
- This section, especially the discussion surrounding UDL was very helpful. The “plus 1” rule for design is something anyone could add to their class without extra work or efforts.
- This session included some specific ideas I had not thought about before, that I will incorporate into my course this coming semester.
- This was my favorite part of the conference. I loved it all, but the keynote gave such amazing information and actionable steps to make the student experience more meaningful.
- UDL is new to me. I enjoyed learning about it and look forward to using it in my teaching.
- Very interesting sessions and I really want to thank the keynote speaker for the insights. As a new faculty who started in the middle of the pandemic, this session provided a well-paced introduction to the course. Lots of good and helpful information in the sessions.
- Wonderful and very helpful!

2. In a few words, share your over-all impression of the workshop session:

- Again. Dr. Tobin was great. Again, especially liked the +1 concept and how we can apply it in our classes.
- As a follow-on to the earlier session, it was nice to have the breakout groups to try out ideas and hear what others were thinking.
- Good—more clear instructions or a goal for the breakouts would have helped us be more productive in our small group conversations.
- Having this session follow the keynote was excellent. It helped us go deeper into the concepts of UDL.
- I appreciated the chance to put some of the ideas into a “useable” form.
- I did not find this helpful. It was too much zoom time with Tom by this point and I honestly don’t remember the content of it now.
- I honestly don’t remember much from this session....
- I really liked being able to have time directly with the keynote speaker to talk more in depth about how to take what we learned back to our colleagues. His sense of humor was great too.
- I thought this was a worthwhile session. However, I do wish there was more of a focus on systemic oppression, power, and privilege, and the ways in which these things affect adult learners.
- I thought this was eye opening. As much as you can think you’ve been inclusive in your design there are so many perspectives that need to be considered.
- Some interesting material, but, on the whole, not a lot I can use in my classes. It is somewhat counter to the philosophy of UDL.
- The chance to interact and discuss the ideas with other faculty was priceless.
- The materials provided were good readings that I would like to share with my fellow faculty as well. I loved the methods or techniques such as time allotments and titles for the assignments, presentations, readings, and other materials because it was really new to me. I think many of my students also will cherish the changes that will be made in the coming classes.
- The training workshop was very good as well. It really helped to process what was presented in the keynote and think through the principles of UDL further.
- This was better. A chance to talk with other participants was great.
- To be perfectly honest, I can’t remember what I discussed or worked on with my colleagues during this workshop. I do remember feeling very “Zoomed out” after the keynote (so much good information, but a lot!), so perhaps this is a case of Zoom fatigue.
- Useful discussion for planning courses.
- Very good—I prefer the workshops in person!
- Very helpful.