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Disability and Accessibility Concerns @ UM

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Disability and Accessibility Concerns @ UM

Disability, part of diversity, on everyone’s radar, will make UM a disability-friendly campus

Goals

Raise campus awareness of both visible and hidden disabilities
Provide accessible websites campuswide
Promote universal design in new campus construction
Provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all

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Results

• UM Community members are now more conversant with etiquette for the individuals with challenges.
• What is the impact? Since most people either will have--or will know someone with--a disability, by raising consciousness about accessibility, universal design, and the possibility of accommodations, stigma has been reduced.
• M-Library is incorporating disability information on websites of each individual library. Accessibility of other campus websites is being improved as a work in progress by our accessibility webmaster.
• Disability librarian position established unofficially.

Future Development

• More people aware of issues spreading word further
• A timeline of planned activities.
• Communication with other units to disseminate information about disability issues
• Because of heightened awareness, other units will make use of accessible websites, universal design will be employed in constructing campus buildings

Problem Statement or Objective

• Disability issues: accessibility, universal design; ADA accommodations, etiquette, special parking, individual problems, stigma, etc. to be focused on and addressed to make UM become a disability-friendly campus. Need for institution of best practices.

Improvement

• Accessible website for Council; regular Council meetings to discuss both individual and general needs; improved annual week in October with various events highlighting disability issues. Final event heavily advertised resulting in an audience of over 500 for wheelchair basketball game.
• Process of deciding on events was improved by having weekly meetings of Investing in Ability Committee and including additional members to provide a variety of ideas and input.
• Invitations issued to various presenters (e.g., representative of Down Syndrome Support Group, public schools’ transition specialist; director of low vision club, representative of student disability committee, etc.).
• ADA regulations presented, publicized and promoted by ADA coordinator.