

Higher Education Access: A Universal Design Demonstration

is a federally funded project located at the Center for Excellence in Disabilities (CED) at West Virginia University (WVU).

The project's goal is to ensure that students with disabilities receive an equal opportunity for a quality education at West Virginia University.



The project will demonstrate and provide technical assistance through use of Universal Design for Instruction (UDI) principles. UDI is an approach to teaching that blends proactive design with inclusive instructional strategies to benefit a broad range of learners including students with disabilities.

During the 2007-2008 school year, five percent of students at WVU reported having a disability. This percentage only includes students who reported their disability to the WVU Office of Disability Services. Some students, particularly those with hidden disabilities, may not wish to disclose their disability for a variety of reasons:

- Some students want to try their first semester or year in college without accommodations.
- Students may be too embarrassed to ask for assistance. These students may have experienced harassment in elementary, middle or high school as a result of having a disability and receiving special services.
- Students either do not know they are eligible or they do not feel entitled to services. Those with psychiatric disabilities, for instance, may not realize that they, too, are covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act and may be eligible to receive services.



Through this project, West Virginia University, including its satellite campuses, Potomac State College and the WVU Institute of Technology, is a part of a nationwide collaborative with 21 other universities, all with the goal of improving outcomes for students with disabilities.

Higher Education Access

wants to ensure that all WVU students with disabilities, disclosed or not, receive classroom instruction that is accessible to them. To help achieve this, Higher Education Access is offering the following services to WVU faculty and administration:

- On-line professional development
- Training on universal design for instruction
- Training on assistive technology and classroom accommodations
- Accessibility assessments
- Training on developing accessible web sites
- Training on alternate formats
- Informative web sites
- Technical assistance through a toll free hotline or e-mail



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For more information:

Call 800-841-8436

E-mail higheredaccess@hsc.wvu.edu

Visit the Center at its off-campus site:
959 Hartman Run Road
Morgantown, WV 26505



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