Reflections from a Faculty Learning Community at UNCG

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Let’s Start With an Activity!
Who Are You?
What Do You Know About UDL and Universal Design?
Let’s Talk About Universal Design

• Term invented by Ronald Mace at NC State University

• Started after Architectural Barriers Act of 1968, which required all buildings receiving federal funding to be accessible.

• Today, it’s about accessibility for all
Universal Design in Action

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Do These Look Familiar?

Information about OXO and Universal Design is [here](#).

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Principles of Universal Design

• Equitable Use
• Flexibility in Use
• Simple and Intuitive Use
• Perceptible Information
• Tolerance for Error
• Low Physical Effort
• Size and Space for Approach and Use

Source: http://www.ncsu.edu/ncsu/design/cud/pubs_p/docs/poster.pdf
What does this have to do with learning?
Welcome to the UDL Cafe

*universal design for learning

providing

• multiple means of **REPRESENTATION**
  written descriptions of items, visuals for those who prefer pictures, verbal presentations by any of our friendly staff...

• multiple means of **ACTION & EXPRESSION**
  express yourself with your coffee (milk on half; half sugar or sweet'n low), cut your bagel with a knife or a universally designed bagel cutter, have your plain or toasted...

• multiple means of **ENGAGEMENT**
  get motivated by our current theme, MARDI GRAS! enjoy some new orleans jazz...

**BRING THESE PRINCIPLES BACK TO YOUR CLASSROOMS!**

**Spread the Word**
The Cast of Characters

• Our fearless leader: Patrick Lee Lucas
• The community: 5 instructors (2 Spanish, 1 Media Studies, 1 Communication Studies, 1 Community and Therapeutic Recreation)
• Me
• The FTLC Revisioning Group
The Plan

Focus on the principles of UDL

• PROCESS of learning in the classroom and beyond
• PEOPLE involved in learning
• PLACES where learning happens
• PRODUCTS for learning
Principles of UDL

• UDL is good teaching
• Reaching students where they are
• Focusing on a variety of learning styles
• Using prior knowledge to improve learning
• Relating information to real life
People

Hosted Bruce Pomeroy, Director of Disability Services

• Learned about the experiences of people with learning differences
• Importance of accessibility for all people
Places

• Visited various learning spaces on campus
• Brainstormed advantages and disadvantages of various spaces
• Discussed what makes a good classroom space
Products

• Looked at Herman Miller case studies and various ideas for flexible classroom spaces
  – K-State Olathe
  – New Brunswick Community College
  – Notre Dame
  – Butler Community College
What Might An Ideal Space Look Like?

Image from Flickr user john-norris [CC BY-SA 2.0]
What Would Your Ideal Learning Space Look Like?
Preparing a final report

• The group used all the information we had gathered to brainstorm ideas around 5 guiding principles
  – Adaptability
  – Scale
  – Variety
  – Innovation
  – Quality

• We took our initial list to the FTLC Visioning Group for further brainstorming
Adaptability

• Create multi-purpose spaces
• Build common rooms and lounges near classrooms
• Mobile furnishings (even teaching stations!)
• Supportive environmental systems
• Easy access to software and digital storage space
Scale

- Investigate hybrid classes
- Provide furniture that is the right size for the space - lower density seating
- Sufficient bandwidth
Variety

• Outdoor learning spaces
• Paint and art in classrooms
• Hybrid class meetings/group work
Innovation

• “Home base” for commuters
• Fewer distinctions between lab, classroom, conference room, computer lab, etc.
• Bring technology to the people instead of the other way around
• Think outside the scheduling box
Quality

• Reduce HVAC noise
• Allow users to control temperature
• Locate clocks where they can be seen/put them all on the same time
• Think about door placement
• Strategies for improving acoustics
Next Steps?

• Report submitted
• Learning community members continue to work with UDL
• Year 3 of College STAR grant brings big changes
Questions? Comments?
Thank you for coming!