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

Images from Flickr user Stan1ey [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0]; bwillis [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0]

Do These Look Familiar?

Information about OXO and Universal Design is here

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
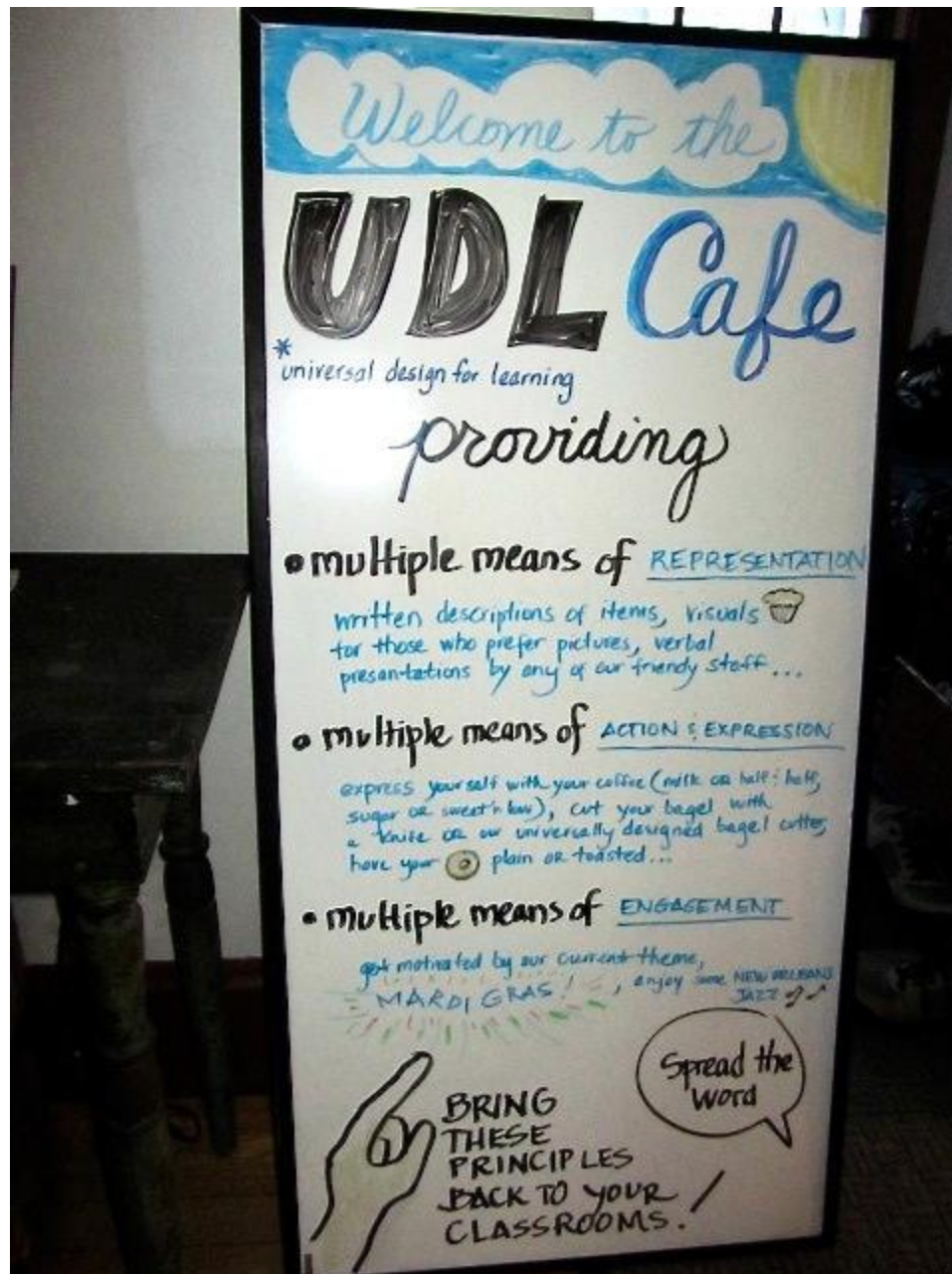
What does this have to do with learning?

Image from Flickr user lloydcrew [CC BY 2.0]

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?

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!