Keeping Campus Events Accessible: It's about Inclusion

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Where do we start?

When you begin to plan a program where do you start?

What assumptions do you make (whether conscious or unconscious)?

Ice Breakers

Everyone's favorite way to start the day – Ice Breakers

What was the last ice breaker you took part in?

Never have I ever... Or have you?

Who has ever participated in:

- Lap sit
- Cross the Line
- Sit/Stand if
- Ice breakers outside in the heat?
- On the beach/in the woods?

What assumptions are we making?

How could we modify these activities?

ABLEISM

People who do not have a disability or who are not close to someone who does, might not understand how the world is wired for non-disabled people. It may be invisible to those who do not have disabilities. It is sometimes not intentional, but in certain circumstances, it is very intentional.

An ableist society is said to be one that treats non-disabled individuals as the standard of 'normal living', which results in public and private places and services, education, and social work that are built to serve 'standard' people, thereby inherently excluding those with various disabilities.

Persons with disabilities face many kinds of barriers on a daily basis. These can be physical, attitudinal or systemic.

ABLEISM/DISABLISM

Ableism – are the practices and dominant attitudes in society that devalue and limit the potential of persons with disabilities.

Ableism - a set of practices and beliefs that assign inferior value (worth) to people who have developmental, emotional, physical or psychiatric disabilities.

Disablism - a set of assumptions (conscious or unconscious) and practices that promote the differential or unequal treatment of people because of actual or presumed disabilities.

Planning Accessible Events

- Florida State University and the SDRC are committed to accessible and inclusive experiences for all members of our campus community. The goal is to design and implement events, programs and services that are welcoming to everyone and to try to reduce the need to retrofit individual accommodations in order to make the event inclusive.

- Planning with specific thoughts, parameters, and understanding in mind is critical to ensuring everyone feels included and valued within the Seminole community.

Things to Think About

❖ Availability of accessible parking and an accessible drop off area

❖ Accessibility of primary entrance

    ❖ Level or ramped?

    ❖ Accessible door or automatic door opener?

    ❖ Accessible entrance that is the same or near main entrance?

Things to Think About, slide 2

- ❖ Availability of wheelchair accessible seating in a space that allows for wheelchair-users to sit with their friends/peers/colleagues

- ❖ Clear signage (accessible entrance, flow of traffic, elevators, parking, restrooms, etc.)

- ❖ Accessibility of restrooms and drinking fountains

- ❖ Adequacy of lighting and space

- ❖ Will the event have food? If so, how will handle food allergies?

Things to Think About, slide 3

❖ Space considerations:
  ❖ Space for sign language interpreters
  ❖ Service animals
  ❖ Wheelchair maneuverability
  ❖ Use of microphone
❖ Path of travel to the venue is absent of barriers like gravel, uneven surfaces, curbs, stairs
❖ Path of travel within the venue is absent of barriers like too many chairs, bags in pathway
❖ Accessibility of Outdoor Spaces

Captioning

○ If your event includes film or video, you should only used captioned material. Try to find video or web video content that is already captioned

○ Ted Talks are almost all captioned and offer a wealth of options.

○ News venues like CNN caption videos and if something you would like to use is not captioned you can ask them to caption it for you.

○ When showing your video be sure to turn the captioning on.

○ Remember: use of captioning on videos is required whether a request has been made or not. Public event = full accessibility for all attendees

Braille, Digital Documents, and Sign Language Interpreters

○ The SDRC can produce Braille versions or digital conversions of items needed for your event, with advance notice.

○ If you receive a request for a sign language interpreter at your event please contact the SDRC as soon as possible to determine how that request will be fulfilled by the university. There is a request for interpreter form on the SDRC webpage.

Inclusivity starts at the beginning

Make sure all materials used are accessible or available in an accessible format.

- Post your materials online (be sure they are fully accessible)
- Email them to participants in advance (in accessible format)

Using paper copies to promote an event?

- Consider having some copies available in large print
- Be prepared to email anyone who asks the information in an accessible format

Publications

- Be sure that any of your publications (catalogs, brochures, etc.) include:

  "To request this information in an alternative format (Braille, digital, or large print) please contact {insert name and contact information which includes email and phone number}"

- Be sure that the contact person understands how to answer questions about accessibility AND will be prompt in requesting the accessible materials from the SDRC.

Registration Forms

To appear on printed and on-line materials:

"If an accommodation due to disability is needed to ensure full participation in this {insert activity: seminar, conference, program, training}, such as sign language interpreting, digital handouts, dietary requirements, etc. please contact {insert contact person name, phone and email address} at least five days in advance of the program."

Again, be sure that the individual answering the phone or email is able to fully answer all questions, respond appropriately, and knows the next steps to ensure the requested accommodation is provided.

Cornell University Program Checklist

SDRC Contact Info

If you have any questions regarding program planning or implementation, please contact the SDRC for assistance:

Student Disability Resource Center

108 Student Services Building, 874 Traditions Way

(850) 644-9566

sdrc@fsu.edu