

Climbing the UDL Ladder: Building a Culture of Inclusion in Higher Education:

Overcoming Obstacles to Enhance and
Sustain UDL Collaboration in Tertiary Education

ATU Teaching
& Learning Centre



Thursday 1st June 2023
Commencing at 9.30am



Ollscoil
Teicneolaíochta
an Atlantaigh
Atlantic
Technological
University



MTU

Ollscoil Teicneolaíochta na Mumhan
Munster Technological University

Welcome Message



Dr. Niamh Plunkett
Head of Teaching & Learning, ATU Sligo

Welcome to our 3rd Universal Design for Learning Conference! We are delighted to have leaders, academics, and student services professionals joining us for this important event. Our speakers and presenters will explore the latest insights, innovations, and best practices in UDL. This year our focus is on the diverse perspectives that are critical to advancing UDL and creating inclusive learning environments for all. We are confident that this conference will be a valuable and enriching experience for all who attend.

Thank you for joining us!

Niamh Plunkett

This year Atlantic Technological University (ATU) and Munster Technological University (MTU) have united to deliver this National UDL Conference. The conference not only explores a whole Institute approach to UDL but draws on learning and reflection from the HEA Path 4 Phase 1 Project in which both Universities partnered on a work package considering leadership approaches to supporting UD. With increased evidence available on the effectiveness of UDL in creating a more inclusive environment across classrooms in Further & Higher Education, this year we explore UDL from three key perspectives: Leaders, academics, and student services. At this conference, you'll have the opportunity to engage with leading experts in the field, exchange ideas and best practices and gain practical insights and innovations. This conference promises to be a dynamic and enriching experience for all.

Conference Themes

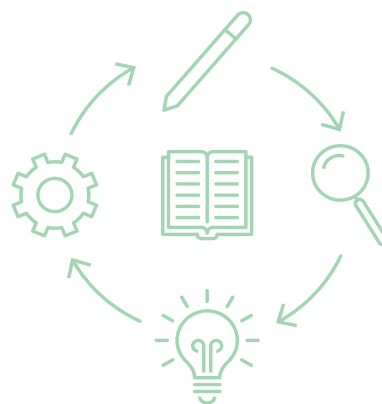
UDL in Leadership: Opportunities and challenges in supporting sustainable inclusive learning in tertiary education

Presenters will guide conference participants through an examination of development processes (be it evidenced or aspirational) recognising the importance of supports for programme teams when designing programmes of study that considers the variability of the student body. By promoting the empowerment of staff and learners, educational leaders can build cohesive and resilient learning environments that support sustainable inclusion.



Furthering UDL in the classroom: An academic perspective on overcoming obstacles

Presentations will address alternative pathways to success which remove potential barriers making learning goals attainable. This discourse will consider a positive learning environment with flexibility built from the onset be it based in evidence or recommended, ensuring that flexibility, accessibility and learner voice and choice are built into all approaches to teaching and learning.



Empowering the inclusive student experience: Student Services approaches

Presentations will showcase the promotion of removing barriers to education by student support services who are key players in this process. These presentations address a whole systems educational design as a driver in relation to student wellbeing. Innovative approaches to student support are most welcomed.



Conference Speakers

Welcome & Opening the Conference



Dr. Orla Flynn
President, Atlantic
Technological University



Prof. Maggie Cusack
President, Munster
Technological University



Minister Simon Harris T.D.
Minister for Justice and Minister
for Further and Higher Education,
Research, Innovation and Science

Nationally Funded UDL Project Presentations

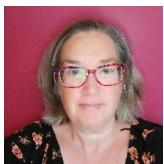
UDL in Leadership



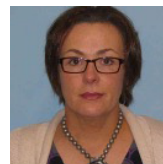
Mairead McCann
Lecturer,
Atlantic Technological University



Laura Hegarty
Lecturer,
Atlantic Technological University



Margaret Finch
Teaching and Learning and
Student Engagement Lead,
Munster Technological University



Aileen Kennedy
Assistant Registrar and Head of
Student Engagement,
Munster Technological University

Leadership in Universal Design Training Package for Senior Leaders - A Symposium for Tertiary Education to share views on proposed training package and future of tertiary education.

This is a collaborative project led by ATU in partnership with MTU and in collaboration with NStEPS, IADT, RCSI, MIC, UL, MU, UCC, UG, MSLETB, and Kerry ETB. This symposium will share units of the pilot training package in development to garnish attendees' views and stimulate discussion and debate on what senior leaders wish the package to contain to enhance future leaders' UD practices in tertiary education. Attendees will have the opportunity to share experiences of challenges and opportunities to embed UD in tertiary education. Attendees will be updated and welcomed to PATH 4 national collaborative tertiary actions on the development of leadership in UD and the development of the Charter in UD for Tertiary education. The symposium will focus on continuing to enhance cross-collaborations in tertiary education to together enhance UD applications in strategy, policy, and implementation for furthering equity of educational experience for all students and staff.

Furthering UDL in the Classroom



Cathy O'Kelly
Lecturer,
Atlantic Technological University



Jennette Kilroy
Lecturer UDL,
Atlantic Technological University

Implementing UDL, the benefits, and barriers, listening to the voice of faculty and staff.

The training is complete, faculty are committed to UDL, and changes have been made to teaching strategies, but what comes next? What do faculty and staff who are implementing UDL identify as the benefits of UDL, and what challenges have they encountered? Finally, what changes need to be made for the continued success of UDL across the academic institution?

Faculty and staff across the ATU, who completed the UDL digital badge, were invited to a focus group session to share their experience with implementing UDL, including student reactions, implementation challenges, and satisfaction with UDL. Participants were asked to complete online questions, that allowed the facilitators to guide the group discussion. This presentation will provide a synthesis of the focus group sessions, identifying common themes as we look to find answers to the benefits and barriers to UDL implementation.

Student Empowerment



Maureen Haran
Lecturer UDL,
Atlantic Technological University



Dr. Shelley Brady
Disability Officer,
Atlantic Technological University

Underpinning Genuine Student Partnerships; Starting the conversation of engagement, representation and action.

As educators, and professional support staff, the Student is at the heart of everything we do. Authentic Student Partnership is built on relationships which consider many aspects of the student experience. In order to ensure students can authentically partner, we need to look at the pre-requisites to student engagement and listen to the student voice in terms of how to build relationships accessibly.

Keynote Speaker



Dara Ryder, AHEAD

Dara Ryder is Chief Executive Officer of **AHEAD**, having previously managed AHEAD's digital presence and developed a suite of online CPD programmes relating to inclusive practice in his role as Digital Media and eLearning Manager there.

After graduating from Queens University in 2005, Dara joined Dun Laoghaire College of Further Education as a lecturer, where he became interested in inclusive education when working first-hand with students with disabilities in his classroom. When the opportunity arose in 2008, he joined AHEAD where he has been working ever since on creating inclusive environments in education and employment for people with disabilities.

Teaching and Learning in the Real World: UD as a Lens to let quality consider reality

The demographics of tertiary education are changing. Our learner population features increasing numbers of students with disabilities, and a broad range of diversity in terms of age, cultural, ethnic and socio-economic background.

Students' lives are increasingly complex. They often have to work full-time jobs on top of their studies. Higher rates of participation has led to the enrolment of more learners with family and caring demands, and housing issues mean that many have to travel huge distances to engage in on campus activities.

The staff in our system experience similar challenges. Having gone to the well for learners to keep the show on the road during Covid, many are at risk of burnout, support services are overstretched, and precarious contracts are common.

And yet, with all this change and pressure, our systemic approaches to integrity, quality and rigour have not much shifted to meet these forces.

This session will explore these challenges and frame the implementation of universal design as a system response.

Additional Presenters

UDL in Leadership: Opportunities and challenges in supporting sustainable inclusive learning in tertiary education.

Theme I



Institutional Partnerships Towards Inclusion at UCC

Dr. Laura Lee, University College Cork

Laura works across project management, research, teaching, and administrative roles in UCC's Teaching and Learning Centre. A core focus of her work is supporting the implementation of Universal Design for Learning within UCC's teaching, learning, and assessment practices.



Getting the message across siios: exploring the difficult art of involving multidisciplinary campus partners in UDL implementation and growth

Dr. Frederic Fovet, Thompson Rivers University

Frederic is a UDL and Inclusion scholar. He consults both domestically in Canada and overseas with post-secondary institutions and the K-12 critical pedagogy. Much of his current research focuses on the strategic process of UDL implementation across organizations.

Furthering UDL in the classroom: An Academic perspective on overcoming obstacles.

Theme II



Obstacles, doubts and sleepless nights: A story of my imperfect implementation of UDL at a technological university.

Dr. Ruth Quinn, Atlantic Technological University

Ruth is a water engineer with a focus on community water management. Having recently transitioned to a more teaching focused role, Ruth is keen to implement research-led teaching in her modules and combine it with other teaching practices, such as Universal Design for Learning.



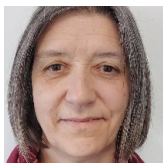
Digital Innovation in Science Education (DISE): A UDL approach to support learning in science practical classes

Dr. Clare Finnegan-Coyne, St Angela's College Sligo

Clare is a lecturer in Biology in St. Angela's College, Sligo. Since joining St. Angela's College in 2018, Clare has carried out research on digital innovations in science practical classes in third level education and most recently examining student outcomes following degree completion with ATU Sligo.

Empowering the inclusive student experience: Student Services approaches.

Theme III



Flexible, personal and individualised study guidance: a keystone for inclusion

Ms Jane Brennan, Munster Technological University

Jane is a teacher of language and communication with a background including second-level, FE and higher education. She is currently Study Guidance Facilitator at MTU in Tralee.



Amplifying the Student voice through equity, diversity, and educational innovation

Ms. Mandy Kelly, Insurance Institute of Ireland

Mandy is an education development specialist with over thirteen years experience in the education field. She holds a B.A Hons in Economics, Politics and Law. In 2019 she joined the Insurance Institute and works as an education development specialist.

Agenda

8:45am Registration with Tea/Coffee



9:30am Opening of Conference

Dr. Niamh Plunkett – Head of Teaching & Learning, ATU Sligo
Dr. Orla Flynn – ATU President
Prof. Maggie Cusack – MTU President Video
Minister Simon Harris T.D. – Minister for Justice and Minister for Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation & Science

10:00am Path 4 ATU MTU Symposium

Dr Michèle Glacken, Registrar & Vice President, Students, Teaching & Learning, ATU

Leadership in Universal Design Training Package for Senior Leaders

Mairead McCann, ATU & Laura Hegarty, ATU
Margaret Finch, MTU & Aileen Kennedy, MTU

Implementing UDL, the Benefits, and Barriers, listening to the voice of faculty and staff.

Cathy O'Kelly, ATU & Jennette Kilroy, ATU

11:25am Coffee Break & View Posters

11:50am Underpinning Genuine Student Partnerships; Starting the Conversation of Engagement, Representation and Action

Maureen Haran, ATU and Dr. Shelley Brady, ATU

12:15pm Theme 1 – UDL in Leadership: Opportunities and challenges in supporting sustainable inclusive learning in further and higher education.

Dr. Laura Lee, UCC
Dr. Frederic Fovet, Thompson Rivers University

1:00pm Theme 2 – Furthering UDL in the Classroom: An academic perspective on overcoming obstacles

Dr. Ruth Quinn, ATU
Dr. Clare Finnegan-Coyne, St Angela's College

1:30pm Lunch & View Posters

2:15pm Theme 3 – Empowering the inclusive student experience: Student Services approaches

Ms. Jane Brennan, MTU
Ms. Mandy Kelly, Insurance Institute of Ireland

2:45pm Keynote Speaker

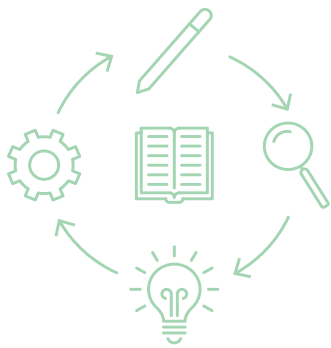
Dara Ryder, AHEAD

3:45pm Close of Conference





Leadership



Classroom



Student Services



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