



## Faculty Newsletter Winter 2020

Center for Accessible Resources

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Normally the Center for Accessible Resources (CAR) releases this newsletter at the start of the term to inform faculty and staff of breaking news and give important reminders, but this term we held off a bit to bring you some information about some important upcoming events we have in store for Disability as Diversity month this March.

Contact CAR or visit our [website](https://www.lanec.edu/disability) for more information: <https://www.lanec.edu/disability>

In this issue we cover:

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- **Disability 101:** Working with students with mental health disabilities
- **Disability History Display**
- **Brown Bag Discussions**
- **OSLP Art Exhibit**
- **Flags around campus**
- **Reminders!**

#### Feature: Disability as Diversity

We talk a lot about diversity as an institution. We've made a concerted effort as a college to be more inclusive to more identities than ever before, but does that extend to people with disabilities as well? We tend to discuss diversity as it pertains to national origin, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, and so on, but often disability is left out of the conversation.

National studies have shown that at least 19% of undergraduate students identify as having a disability, and 76% of students with disabilities utilize academic accommodations. (And these are thought to be low numbers as many more people with disabilities decline to disclose their disabilities.) How then can we discount one of the largest minority groups in the U.S.?

Perhaps it's because disability is not always apparent. Maybe it's because diversity is meant to be an empowering conceit, and we're still operating under the medical model where disability is seen as a deficiency or deviation from the norm as opposed to a difference. Whatever the reasons, we do need to continue to push for further inclusion for all students and their intersecting identities.

In that spirit of inclusion the Center for Accessible Resources would like to invite you to celebrate Disability as Diversity month with us in March. We will be holding programming throughout the month. Details can be found below.

**Disability 101:****Working with students with mental health disabilities**

Students with mental health disabilities experience a wide range of challenges in the classroom. Mental health conditions are not generally apparent and some students choose not to receive accommodations from the Center for Accessible Resources for these conditions.

We know that it is not possible to generalize about the needs of all students with mental health disabilities. Therefore, it is not possible to list accommodations that work for all students with mental health disabilities. It is important to assess the needs of each student individually. However, there are some strategies that can assist instructors in working with students with mental health disabilities in their classes.

**General classroom strategies**

- Clearly outline course expectations.
- Make yourself available to meet with students during office hours and via telephone or email.
- Provide personal and meaningful feedback on academic performances.
- Approach each student with an open mind about their needs and strengths.
- Summarize important points from the lecture at the end of class.
- These students may need to take breaks, or have food/water with them in the classroom (this will be noted in the student's Letter of Accommodation).

**One-on-one interactions**

- Discuss accommodations and any inappropriate classroom behavior with the student privately. Accommodation specialists can assist with this conversation if necessary. Students are still held to the same behavior standards as all other students.
- Refer the student to the appropriate therapeutic resources if asked (i.e. Counseling Department on campus).
- Be patient with the student. Sometimes communication can take a bit longer and you may have to repeat yourself.
- Listen carefully to the student and work with them to meet their needs when appropriate.

Due to the episodic nature of mental health disabilities, students may go through periods of success and stability as well as acute illness. It is important to only provide the accommodations to a student that are listed in their Letter of Accommodation.

**Disability as Diversity Events:****Disability History Display (March 2<sup>nd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> and March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>; Bldg 19, Rm 263):**

The Disability History Exhibit is a 22-panel collage that traces 3,000 years of seldom-told history. From antiquity to the present, the exhibit brings viewers through an illustrated timeline that shows society's attitudes and how they affect the lives of people with disabilities. Viewers experience powerful feelings as they notice similarities between ancient practices and modern stereotypes. The exhibit is accessible at many levels, striking a balance between easily grasped information and a comprehensive history viewed from multiple angles.

**Brown Bag discussions (Location: CEN 217):****March 3rd, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Brown Bag Session with Terrie Minner, Learning Disabilities**

CAR's Associate Dean will demonstrate audio/visual processing disorders.

**March 5th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Brown Bag Session with Nick Monroe, Universal Design**

CAR Accommodation Specialist Nick Monroe will be talking about how to make your course material accessible to all students by utilizing Universal Design.

**March 10th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Brown Bag Session with DHOH Panel**

Join CAR as we host Rian Gayle (Assistant Director of Access and Inclusion at Western Oregon University) and Sharon Meyers (Doctor of Internal Medicine). These successful professions from the Deaf/Hard of Hearing (DHoH) community will share their experiences as well as strategies and resources that assisted them.

**March 12th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Brown Bag Session with CAR Team**

CAR interpreter Melodie Glimpse and the CAR team will be talking about being an interpreter in the classroom, the DHoH community and culture, and answer questions about working with interpreters in the classroom.

**March 17th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Brown Bag Session with CAR Counselor**

CAR's Counselor will be discussing the impact of mental health on college students and resources and strategies to assist them.

**March 19th, 12:00 – 1:00 PM: Brown Bag Session CAR Open House**

Still curious about what CAR does for students? Bring you lunch and join us as we answer all of your questions, give you a tour, and talk about the changing landscape of disabilities.

**OSLP Art exhibit (March 9<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>; Bldg 19, Rm 263):**

"The Oregon Supported Living Program Arts & Culture Program breaks down barriers to participation in the arts for people of all abilities and builds bridges to a more diverse and inclusive community for all. Their vision is achieved by providing a safe and welcoming environment for creativity, offering classes and workshops in many expressive mediums, curating on and off-site exhibitions, facilitating mentorships

between participants and professional artists, and partnering to provide unique community collaborations.” Come to CAR and see a display of art brought by the OSLP Arts & Culture Program.

### **OSLP Evening Art Showcase, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm, CML 103**

“Larry Hurst III is a prolific and detailed painter. His paintings most often depict scenes of nature inspired by photographs that range from realistic to surrealistic interpretations. Many of his paintings also include unique and fantastical architecture. In addition to painting, Hurst is also a very talented model house builder and has produced scale models of several houses that he has lived in, as well as the historical Shelton McMurphey House. Hurst has been making art for over ten years and learned to paint while living in Texarkana, TX. He has continued his studies here at the OSLP Arts & Culture Program since the winter of 2013. There is nothing this artist cannot do. He is a kind soul with an unlimited imagination and precise eye. He has exhibited artwork throughout Eugene and at Arts Unbound in New Jersey.”

### **Flags for Mental Health Week (March 16<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>; Bristow Square):**

Approximately 3,800,000 US college students identify as having a disability. Mental health disabilities make up a significant portion of those identified disabilities, but are often underrepresented due to their invisible nature. These flags are an approximate representation of how many college students in the US identify as having each of the following mental health disabilities. This display is meant to bring light to how many students are impacted. Each flag represents one hundred students. Each flag represents one hundred (100) students.

### **Reminders!**

#### **CAR Technology Lab**

During the Winter 2020 term, CAR students are welcome to come to CAR’s Technology Center. No appointment necessary! The CAR Technology Lab provides assistance with accessible technology items such as audio recorders, SmartPens, text-to-speech software, screen readers, and more! Please spread the word about this resource for students and feel free to contact us if you have any questions. **Drop in hours can be found on CAR’s announcement page:**

<https://www.lanecc.edu/disability/announcements>

#### **Navigating an LOA**

The Letter of Accommodation (LOA) is confirmation for faculty members that the student has completed the qualification/registration process with CAR. LOAs are sent out electronically every term by CAR and state the student is qualified to receive the specific accommodations identified in the student's letter.

For more information about the LOA please visit our website:

<https://www.lanecc.edu/disability/letter-accommodation-loa>

### **CAR Tips in the *Lane Weekly***

Do you read the *Lane Weekly* emailed each Tuesday? If so, you have probably read some of our tips. Keep watching for upcoming tips that could be helpful to you. Below is an important one: **ADA Chairs**

CAR Alternate ADA chairs can be identified by a mark of faint gold paint on the base. CAR has found that many of these chairs tend to go missing and may be located in offices or moved to other classrooms. Please check your office, and if you have one of these chairs, contact facilities or CAR. If you notice an ADA chair in your classroom, please don't move it to another classroom or between classrooms. The CAR ADA chair has been placed for a CAR registered student to use for the term.

### **Faculty Handbook:**

Looking for information about CAR, accommodations, or working with CAR students? Want to learn more about Universal Design? Questions about confidentiality? CAR has updated our webpage with a comprehensive **Faculty Handbook**:

<https://www.lanecc.edu/disability/faculty-information-index>

### **How to Contact CAR Staff**

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have questions or concerns. We are here to offer any support, coaching, or guidance that you may be seeking.

Phone: Voice, (541) 463-5150

TTY: 711

FAX: (541) 463-4739

Email: [AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu](mailto:AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu)

Building: 19, Room 263A

Terrie Minner, Associate Dean of Accessibility and Support

Phone: (541) 463-3010

Email: [minnert@lanecc.edu](mailto:minnert@lanecc.edu)

To request this information in an alternate format, please contact the Center for Accessible Resources at (541) 463-5150 or [AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu](mailto:AccessibleResources@lanecc.edu)

***LCC complies with all applicable federal and state laws regarding non-discrimination, equal opportunity, affirmative action, and providing reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities.***