2011-05

Disability and Accessibility Concerns @ UM

Schnitzer, Anna Ercoli

https://hdl.handle.net/2027.42/94420

Disability and Accessibility Concerns @ UM

Disability, part of diversity, on everyone's radar, will make UM a disability-friendly campus

Problem Statement or Objective

- Disability issues: accessibility, universal design; ADA accommodations, etiquette, special parking, individual problems, stigma, etc. to be focused on and addressed to make UM become a disability-friendly campus. Need for institution of best practices.

Improvement

- Accessible website for Council; regular Council meetings to discuss both individual and general needs; improved annual week in October with various events highlighting disability issues. Final event heavily advertised resulting in an audience of over 500 for wheelchair basketball game.

- Process of deciding on events was improved by having weekly meetings of Investing in Ability Committee and including additional members to provide a variety of ideas and input.

- Invitations issued to various presenters (e.g., representative of Down Syndrome Support Group, public schools' transition specialist; director of low vision club, representative of student disability committee, etc.).

- ADA regulations presented, publicized and promoted by ADA coordinator.

Goals

Raise campus awareness of both visible and hidden disabilities

Provide accessible websites campuswide

Promote universal design in new campus construction

Provide a friendly, welcoming atmosphere for all

Your Contact Information

Anna Ercoli Schnitzer

734 936 1402

schnitzr@umich

Results

- UM Community members are now more conversant with etiquette for the individuals with challenges.

- What is the impact? Since most people either will have-- or will know someone with-- a disability, by raising consciousness about accessibility, universal design, and the possibility of accommodations, stigma has been reduced.

- M-Library is incorporating disability information on websites of each individual library. Accessibility of other campus websites is being improved as a work in progress by our accessibility webmaster.

- Disability librarian position established unofficially.

Future Development

- More people aware of issues spreading word further

- A timeline of planned activities.

- Communication with other units to disseminate information about disability issues

- Because of heightened awareness, other units will make use of accessible websites, universal design will be employed in constructing campus buildings