

Accessibility Services Spring Newsletter

A publication for students, faculty and staff at North Shore Community College

Director's Corner By Susan Graham

I am pleased to share with all of you the spring edition of the Accessibility Services Newsletter. This publication of our newsletter showcases several articles that we hope you will find both valuable and informative.

Accessibility Services will be presenting a Program Review to the President's Cabinet in June. Working on

the Program Review has been an enlightening process and one that will assist with opportunities for growth and improvements along with highlighting our departmental strengths.

We are here to provide support to faculty, students and staff so as to offer the best possible services for our student population. For further

information about our services please visit our webpage, [Accessibility Services](#).

Best wishes for the remainder of your semester!



Accessibility Services Staff

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Lucy Bayard, Disability Counselor

Liz Dwyer, Disability Counselor

Susan Graham, Director of Accessibility Services

Kendalle Jones, Disability Counselor

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Kaitlyn Rogers, Disability Counselor

Alena Vitvitskaya, Assistive Technology Learning Specialist

Delta Alpha Pi (DAPI) 2018 by Kendalle Jones

I have had a truly extraordinary experience serving as the advisor for the Delta Alpha Pi Honor Society this year.

The mission of DAPI is to celebrate academic distinction and to champion the rights of students with disabilities. The students in DAPI set themselves apart by successfully pursuing academic excellence, maintaining at least a 3.1 grade point average, in the

midst of identifying as someone with a disability.

Recently, DAPI students released a publication called “Breaking Barriers” in which they share writings and other artistic mediums that express their personal journeys in overcoming the challenges of having a disability. Please take a moment to review their stories of determination and personal triumph by clicking here: [Breaking Barriers](#). I am extremely proud of their contributions.

One of the tenants of DAPI is to celebrate accomplishments. On April 25th, DAPI will host a year end awards ceremony in which we will celebrate our accomplishments, acknowledge individual staff and faculty members who have had a significant impact on DAPI members during their time at NSCC, and celebrate graduating members. I am excited to end this year of DAPI on a celebratory note!

Weekly Check-ins by Kaitlyn Rogers

“North Shore Community College (NSCC) is a diverse, caring, inclusive community that inspires our students to become engaged citizens maximizing our students’ ability to learn and achieve academic, personal, and professional success through appropriate support and services.” This NSCC value statement is, at its core, what Accessibility Services strives to

accomplish. One of the ways we work to achieve this is through weekly check-ins.

Weekly check-ins, one-on-one meetings with a disability counselor, are individualized to meet the specific needs of the student. Some students come to weekly check-ins to get strategies for organization, time management and studying while others come for help with the transition from high school to college.

We create a safe place for

students to ask questions and feel emotionally supported; where students can be themselves and know they will be held accountable for their education. We encourage the students to self-advocacy and connection to resources both on and off campus.

Weekly check-ins give students the knowledge that someone is in their corner. All students with accommodations may request weekly check-ins with one of our disability counselors and can contact us to set up an appointment.

What is Universal Design for Learning (UDL)? By Lucy Bayard

UDL is a research based framework and proactive approach to developing course design which removes barriers to learning by addressing students diverse learning needs.

Faculty across departments have shared best practices on how to integrate UDL in curricula design and teaching practices. Here is one example of UDL in practice:

Barbara Heath is the Program Coordinator for the Environmental Horticulture Program and

serves as a member of the college's green team. Here is what she has to say about UDL:

"I give students choices as to how to approach certain assignments. For example, I might post a news podcast, a video and a textbook reading all pertaining to this week's class and ask the students to read or view one of the three prior to our discussion. I find that often the students will do more than one when presented with multiple ways to access material. I

create a "Digging Deeper" page for major themes and topics covered in my classes. These pages become a repository for articles, links, movies, and other online resources that we just didn't have time to explore in class. It is labor intensive at first, but it becomes second nature once you see the payoff in student success. Accessibility Services and the Center for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation are all great resources to help."

Spotlight on: Office of Student Engagement by Liz Dwyer

"I'm extremely thankful for the friendships I've formed and the opportunities to develop myself as a leader on campus."

- **Fanny Cai**, SGA President, President of NSCC Student Art Club, Member of MultiCultural Society, Gaming Club, and Film Club.

Do you want to get involved on campus? Meet new people? Discover a sense of community? Then the Office of Student Engagement (OSE) is the place for you!

North Shore students have the opportunity to develop personal, organizational and civic leadership skills, and to create meaningful lasting memories through their participation in clubs, organizations and a variety of community service projects.

Students involved in school clubs and activities report an overall increased sense of belonging, therefor improving school

culture. The office also has information on Honor Societies, recreation & wellness, and employment opportunities!

For more information visit the OSE on either campus at
Lynn: LW-171
Danvers: DB-132

Or click on these links:

[Student Engagement webpage](#)

[Student Engagement Facebook](#)