Collaborative discussions followed these break out sessions, allowing for attendees to share and learn among their peers. UNI also showcased some of the unique efforts happening on campus through a resource fair that was available for most of the afternoon.

Next year, the Disability Summit will be hosted by the University of Iowa. I encourage all that attended this year to consider making the trip to Iowa City. Thank you to everyone who made the event a success!

Ashley Brickley
Coordinator, Student Disability Services
News You Can Use: Documentation Guidelines

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, individuals with disabilities are guaranteed certain protections and rights to equal access to programs and services. In order to access these rights, it is the policy of the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) for students with disabilities to register with the office of Student Disability Services (SDS) in order to determine eligibility for academic accommodations.

Accommodations for students are determined by SDS staff on a case-by-case basis after reviewing both the student self-report and supporting documentation. Students with disabilities should complete the following registration procedure in order to receive accommodations and services through SDS:

1) Complete and submit a Request for Services and Documentation Review Form
This form can be found at www.uni.edu/sds/ApplyforServices.shtml and should be completed by the student to the best of her/his ability.

2) Submit documentation in support of the request for academic accommodations
Types of supportive documentation may include:
- A recent IEP or 504 Plan
- A Summary of Performance or Support for Accommodation Request Form (Iowa Residents) (http://www.uni.edu/sds/SAR.shtml)

3) SDS will review the information submitted and contact the student to schedule an initial accommodation appointment

4) Student meets with SDS to discuss academic accommodation needs and to determine eligibility for services

If, at any time during this process, you have a question about the registration procedure or services available through SDS, please contact the office at 319-273-2677.

Assistive Technology: EchoPen

What is the EchoPen?
The EchoPen is a smart pen made by LiveScribe Technology. It combines sound recording, smart pen, and note organization into one.

How does it work?
EchoPen has special ink and special notebooks that record everything you write and can be uploaded onto the computer. In addition to that, it can record sound, such as a lecture. You can select a part of your notes, and it will play back the part of the lecture that was going on right at the time you took that note!

Why is this accommodation needed?
This technology can help students who might need to record a lecture for future reference and to organize their notes.

For more information about the EchoPen, please visit: http://www.livescribe.com/en-us/smartpen/echo/
Get to Know Accommodations: Sign Language Interpreting

Sign language interpreting is an accommodation provided by the Office of Student Disability Services. This accommodation is for any person is Deaf or hard of hearing. Below are a few frequently asked questions and their answers:

Why would someone need an interpreter?
An interpreter may be used any time communication is occurring between people who do not share the same language. Deaf and hard of hearing people may not have access to information if it is presented in English, either verbally or in writing. Some simple communications (for example, between a Deaf customer and a clerk in a store) can be done through written notes or gestures, but any time important content is being communicated, having an interpreter present ensures that all parties can communicate with each other.

If I want to talk to someone who is Deaf or hard of hearing, can I just talk to their interpreter?
No, you should always speak directly to the person you are communicating with. The interpreter is not part of the conversation and is not permitted to voice personal opinions or enter the conversation. The interpreter is required to interpret everything that is said.

They does not screen information at the speaker’s request.

Where can I go for more information?
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karlene.kischer-browne@uni.edu
(319) 273-3688 CAC 256 0356
National Association for the Deaf
www.nad.org
Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf
www.rid.org

Sources: http://www.signonasl.com/faq.html
http://www.uni.edu/sds/documents/FacultyTipsforWorkingwithInterpreters.pdf
Image source: http://lifeprint.com/asl101/pages

Universal Design in Learning

One of the hot topics discussed at the Regents Disability Summit was Universal Design in Learning. Having initially started as an architectural concept, Universal Design has evolved into a concept that can be applied in nearly every facet of the university experience, including the classroom. By using UDL techniques, instructors can help minimize barriers to learning that many students, regardless of ability, face in the classroom.

During his presentation, Jason Vetter, ITS-Educational Technology Services, provided examples as to how technology can assist in creating a universally designed classroom. To view his presentation, please visit:

http://panopto.uni.edu/Panopto/Pages/Viewer/Default.aspx?id=2ee345fd-6317-4598-a838-596257d63f02
**SDS Philosophy and Mission**

Student Disability Services is a university resource that provides specialized services to enhance the overall academic career and personal development of each person with a disability.

Therefore it is our philosophy and mission to provide services and promote an accessible environment which allows people with disabilities an equal opportunity for participation in educational and other campus activities.

SDS is committed to providing opportunities and accommodations in higher education to all academically qualified students with disabilities. It is the responsibility of the student to seek available assistance at the university and make his or her individual needs known.

SDS affirms that no qualified person shall by reason of disability be denied access to participation in, or the benefits of, any program, activity, or service operated by the University of Northern Iowa. Each qualified person shall receive appropriate accommodations to ensure equal access to educational opportunities, programs, activities and services in an integrated setting.