What is accessibility and why does it matter?

Presented by the Instructional Accessibility Group, CTLD.
MSU Denver 2023 Research Symposium Poster Session.

**Accessibility** is purposeful design and delivery of products so that all people can use them regardless of disability or ability. The ease of use should be equivalent for all people.

**Instructional Accessibility** is the process of intentionally creating educational content that removes barriers which prevent students from accessing content fully.

# How you can help!

* Honor intersectionality: ableism interlocks with other systems of oppression; it can’t be addressed in isolation.
* Educate yourself: learn about different disabilities and the different people who have led the disability movement.
	+ Book recommendation: *Disability Visibility* (Alice Wong)
* Adjust your language: much of our language marginalizes people with disability. Learn which terms are harmful and avoid them.
* Be an ally: Remember that accessibility is a civil rights issue.

# IAG Resources

* **Instructional Accessibility Group website:** [**https://bit.ly/IAG-MSUDenver**](https://bit.ly/IAG-MSUDenver)
	+ Self-paced guides
	+ Proactive Accessibility Certification (PAC) virtual workshops
	+ Access Checks and Course Reviews
* Coffee House Accessibility Talks (CHATs): For all faculty, both affiliates and full-time: Let the IAG buy you a coffee or tea for casual conversation about instructional accessibility topics. Schedule on website.

It is much more efficient to build accessibility from the beginning of course design (as opposed to remediating later), so we encourage all faculty to work on making all new materials accessible, as well as going back and checking and updating existing material as you have time.

Implementing concepts from the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Guidelines (on reverse side) can help make courses more accessible and effective. Goals from UDL are to cultivate expert learners who are purposeful and motivated, resourceful and knowledgeable, as well as strategic and goal-directed.

Remember that Instructional Accessibility can help students access your course content regardless of any status of disclosure of disability.