Disability Driving Innovation

Building Accessibility into Our Design Thinking
Today’s Session

● Introductions
● Principles of Universal Design & Resources
● CIEE Alum Experience
● Setting Goals for Access
● Your Best Practices
● Q&A
Who Are We?

- Abigail Lehner, alum of University of New Hampshire & CIEE
- Ashley Holben, Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
- Susan Sygall, Mobility International USA (MIUSA)
- Morgan Reiss, CIEE Seville
Now it’s Your Turn!

- University/College?
- International education organization?
- Familiar with Universal Design?
- Experience with disability access in education abroad?
Good design is a **social justice** issue
What is Universal Design?

"...The design of products and environments usable by all people to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design." (Ronald Mace)
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• Allows for tolerance in error
• Benefits multiple users
Disability Driving Innovation

Have you ever used...
Disability Driving Innovation

Have you ever used…

- Closed captioning on a television?
- Curb cuts/ramps?
- Ergonomic utensils?
- Speech-to-text?
- Audio description?
- Video transcripts?
- A Segway?
- Texting?
Disability-Focused Programs

- **CSUN, Gallaudet University** and more
  - Deaf/hard of hearing
- **Landmark College** - Learning disabilities, ADHD, & autism spectrum
- **Western Carolina University** - Intellectual disabilities
- **The Amandla Project** - Mobility disabilities
- **MIUSA Exchange Programs** - Cross-disability
Resources from the NCDE

National Clearinghouse on Disability and Exchange
Your free resource for info on accessing international exchange with a disability bro...
Visit [www.miusa.org](http://www.miusa.org) for...

- Traveler stories
- Tip sheets
- Best practices
- Journals
- Sample forms

Email [clearinghouse@miusa.org](mailto:clearinghouse@miusa.org) for 1:1 assistance
UD & International Ed Resources

- 10 Steps to a Universally Designed Exchange Program -
  www.miusa.org/resource/tipsheet/preparefordiversity

- Universal Design and Study Abroad (Soneson & Cordano) -
  https://tinyurl.com/yaypzenw

- Applying Universal Design for Learning to Study Abroad Programs (Lillie) -
  https://digitalcollections.sit.edu/capstones/3061/

- Champions for Inclusion AWAY Journal -
  www.miusa.org/champions
Tales from a CIEE Alum: Abby Lehner

CIEE Accessibility
Wheelchair Horror Stories

First Day Frights
Stairs are the Enemy

Positive Differences from the USA

Infrastructure
Public Transportation
Tales from a CIEE Alum: Abby Lehner

“Helping” is a universal language
Designing for Access

- **Intro**: Seville as a case study and benefits/challenges of universal design
- **Program Design**: from designing for students with disabilities to designing for people with disabilities
- **Materials**: grounding the principle of inclusion as opposed to non-discrimination
- **Recruitment**: importance of using “local” partners and collaborations
Designing for Access: program design

**Housing**: ramps, buzzers, lights, wide doorways, individual bathrooms, free of obstacles/clutter, dietary accommodations, allergen-free, guide-dog friendly….

**Academics**: accessible class materials, technology as a tool and resource, interpreters/scribes, class space, extra-time/quiet testing, out-of-class activities also accessible and designed for everybody

**Extra-curricular**: tours/routes/sites which are fully/partially accessible, interpreters/guides, adapted buses/accommodations for overnight trips, etc.

**Physical Space**: but also public transportation
Designing for Access

**Housing:** host families

**Academics:** teachers, courses, guest lectures, out-of-class activities

**Extra-curricular:** volunteering, activities, tours, workshops, cultural program

**Space:** local student guides, hosts, visitors, parents, guest lecturers…all benefit
Designing for Access

CIEE AWARDS TWO $20,000 GRANTS TO PROVIDE DEAF-ACCESSIBLE STUDY ABROAD PROGRAMS

GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY

CSUN
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY NORTHRIDGE
What Are Some Ways to Incorporate UD into International Exchange?
More Ways to Incorporate UD into International Exchange

- Train staff and volunteers
- Give lists of accepted participants
- Create essential requirements
- Set up more housing options
- Permit early arrival options
More Ways to Incorporate UD into International Exchange

- 6. Offer group insurance coverage
- 7. Connect to local resources
- 8. Set up academic options
- 9. Build in funding supports
- 10. Check in regularly
Q&A

Thank you!

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