Call for Proposals

Impact UDL is now seeking proposals for a conference that will provide cutting edge information on how best to apply Universal Design for Learning (UDL) and Accessibility principles to online and blended learning at the post-secondary education level.

Attendees will gain innovative knowledge via informative presentations, practical workshops, be inspired by projects and research, as well as create networks with others who want to learn, promote, and implement UDL and web accessibility.

This event will be held on January 28 to 30, 2016, at the Chateau Louis Conference Center, in Edmonton, Alberta.

Conference Objectives

The aim of this conference is to:

- Raise institutional awareness of challenges to accessing learning in online or blended education
- Identify organizational opportunities to enhance access, enrollment and student retention
- Provide scaffolding and skills to create institutional strategies, processes, and infrastructure to implement UDL
- Showcase current initiatives, innovations and techniques used in the UDL and accessibility fields
- Facilitate the creation of networks and allow for sharing of practices and resources

Conference Streams

There are four identified session streams.

- Teaching and Using UDL in Online or Blended Learning: provides a practical foundation in UDL principles, pedagogical impacts, assessment, evaluation using LMS data, course design and delivery
- AT/ICT: explores Assistive Technology (AT) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) trends and accessibility issues that impact students, document digitization and IT infrastructure.
- Tech Talk: dives into industry guidelines and techniques to create and evaluate accessibility of web properties, mobile platforms, LMS and ICT projects including development, design and coding
- Leadership: focuses on implementation and institutional changes such as infrastructure, staff engagement, accessibility vs. accommodation approaches, policies and legislation guiding accessibility in Canada

Conference Target Audience

The conference is geared towards those involved in post-secondary education who have the desire to positively affect the student experience and who are looking for the knowledge, skills and evidence that UDL works.

- Faculty and Tutors
- Course and Instructional Designers
- Content Editors and Production Teams
- Web Developers and Designers

- IT Specialists and Programmers
- Student Services Staff
- Vendors to PSE
- Policy Administrators, Procurement Staff

Session Types

We are interested in a variety of proposal types including:

- Presentation (30-60 minutes)
- Panel Discussion (60 minutes)
- Workshop (60-90 minutes)
- Poster (2 days, table or display in the common meeting room)

Proposal Submission Requirements

To submit proposals or to acquire more information, contact the organizing committee at udlevent@athabascau.ca. Proposals should include the following information:

- Title of Session
- Name of Presenter
- Presenter Biography (100 words)
- Conference Stream
- Session Type
- Target Audience

- Abstract (150 words)
- Full Description (500 words)
- Three Learning Objectives
- Contact Details (include phone and e-mail)
- Room and Audio-Visual Needs

Submission Deadline is October 30, 2015

Vendor Fair and Sponsorship

A 2-day vendor showcase of related products and services for post-secondary education will be in the solarium of the common meeting room. Register at http://udl.athabascau.ca

Opportunities are available to sponsor keynote speakers, an early-bird registration prize, student bursaries to attend, topical conference sessions, the wine and cheese reception (Jan 28), program ads and more. Sponsor Package Levels are found at http://udl.athabascau.ca/sponsors/ or contact udlevent@athabascau.ca.