UNIVERSITY SYSTEM *of* MARYLAND
KIRWAN CENTER FOR ACADEMIC INNOVATION

USM Digital Accessibility Transformational Seminar

Friday, October 6, 2023

National Federation of the Blind Headquarters, Baltimore, MD

TIME	TOPIC
8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	**Registration and Coffee**	Members Hall
9:00 a.m.– 9:20 a.m.	**Welcome and Overview of the Day**	Members Hall **Nancy O'Neill**, *Acting Director, Kirwan Center for Academic Innovation, University System of Maryland* & **Anil Lewis**, *Executive Director, Blindness Initiatives, National Federation of the Blind*

Experiential Rounds

Nikki Jackson *(Cane Travel),* **Bre Brown** *(Braille)*, and **Kennedy Zimnik** and **Karl Belanger** *(Access Technology), all of the National Federation of the Blind*

Participants will move through a series of experiential rounds – cane travel, the use of Braille, and the use of access technology – designed to recalibrate expectations related to the abilities of individuals who are blind or low vision and expose them to tools that promote independence and inclusion. These segments will conclude with time for participants to discuss their perceptions, assumptions, fears, and insights. Participant group numbers can be found on their name tags; group assignments are listed below.

TIME	TOPIC
9:20 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	**Transition to First Experiential Round**
9:30 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.	**First Experiential Round** ● Group 1: Braille	Members Hall ● Group 2: Access Technology	4th Floor Computer Lab ● Group 3: Cane Travel	Hallway Adjacent to Members Hall
10:20 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	**Transition to Second Experiential Round**
10:30 a.m. – 11:20 a.m.	**Second Experiential Round** ● Group 1: Cane Travel	Hallway Adjacent to Members Hall ● Group 2: Braille	Members Hall ● Group 3: Access Technology	4th Floor Computer Lab
11:20 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	**Transition to Third Experiential Round**
11:30 a.m. – 12:20 p.m.	**Third Experiential Round** ● Group 1: Access Technology	4th Floor Computer Lab ● Group 2: Cane Travel	Hallway Adjacent to Members Hall ● Group 3: Braille	Members Hall
12:20 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.	**Transition to Lunch**
12:30 p.m. – 1:20 p.m.	**Lunch and Team Reflection**	Members Hall *Teams will have the chance to debrief the experiential rounds and discuss where we might "surface" digital accessibility across institutional practices and processes. Facilitated by* **Jonathan Lazar**, *Professor and Executive Director of the Maryland Initiative for Digital Accessibility, University of Maryland, College Park*

1:20 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	**Transition to Concurrent Sessions**
1:30 p.m. – 2:20 p.m. *Concurrent Sessions*	**Exploring Digital Accessibility Initiatives and Strategies** | Members Hall **Ana Palla**, *Senior IT Accessibility and UX Specialist, Division of IT, and Associate Director of UMD Engagement, Maryland Initiative for Digital Accessibility, University of Maryland, College Park* *This session will explore initiatives and strategies undertaken to spread digital accessibility basic concepts to several constituencies in a large campus community. The presenter will share the Digital Accessibility Journey taking place at the University of Maryland, College Park, including the institution's Digital Accessibility Plan, the development and implementation of the UMD Web Accessibility Policy, and the Six Essential Steps framework used to educate the campus community about the basics of digital accessibility.* **Roaring Towards Digital Accessibility**| 4th Floor Conference Room **Teresa Valais**, *Sr. Instructional Designer, Faculty Academic Center of Excellence at Towson, (FACET), &* **Brian Williams**, *Digital Accessibility Analyst, Office of Technology Services, (OTS), both of Towson University* *In this session, digital accessibility partners will discuss the ways in which digital accessibility is advancing on the Towson University campus through the lens of accessible course design, faculty development, and the support and development of an accessible technological infrastructure.* **Teaching Accessibility: A 21st Century Skill** | 4th Floor BZ Room **Kate Sonka,** *Executive Director &* **Rolando Méndez-Fernández**, *Director of Education, both of Teach Access* *How might we ensure that students who graduate from our programs are equipped to develop inclusive practices, policies, and products in their work lives? In this session, leaders from Teach Access (www.teachaccess.org) will highlight their efforts to promote the teaching of accessibility as a 21st century skill. The presenters will address the question "Why Teach Accessibility?", discuss fundamental concepts and skills to include in courses and curricula, and highlight resources for faculty across disciplines.*
2:20 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	**Break and Transition to Closing**
2:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	**Action Planning and Closing** | Members Hall **Nancy O'Neill**, *University System of Maryland &* **Jonathan Lazar**, *University of Maryland, College Park* *In rapid rounds, teams will brainstorm action steps for next week, next month, and next semester, followed by final sharing and closing.*