

Supporting Disability Communities in Higher Education



D CENTER

Lesley Ellis, MA

D Center Manager

She/her

disabled person

Email: lesellis@uw.edu

Disability Justice

“Nothing About Us Without Us” – James Charlton, Disability studies academic and activist

Picture caption:
A group of disabled activists at the 1st disability pride march in



Disability Rights Key Events

1962: Ed Roberts Fights for Admission to University

Ed Roberts, a young man with polio, enrolls at the University of California, Berkeley. After his admission is rejected, he fights to get the decision reversed. He becomes a key disability rights activist and helps establish the first Center for Independent Living (CIL).

1977: Disability Demonstrators Occupy Federal Office

Demonstrators led by Judy Heumann take over the Health Education and Welfare (HEW) office in UN Plaza, San Francisco, California, in protest of HEW Secretary Califano's refusal to complete regulations for Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

1990: Americans with Disabilities Act Becomes Law

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is signed into law by President George H. W. Bush (R) alongside its "founding father," Justin Dart. The ADA is considered the most important civil rights law since Title 504.

Ableism/disability oppression

...a set of assumptions and practices promoting the differential or unequal treatment of people because of actual or presumed non-typical functioning (i.e., disability).

History of the D Center

The D Center emerged from a 20 year timeline of disability activism and scholarship at UW and was established in 2012 by student activists determined to create space for disabled students and have the UW acknowledge disability as a part of diversity.

The D Center

HUB 327

Image caption: Image is of a large room with a brown carpet and several tables along the walls, there are bookshelves at the end of the room and a sign that reads 'D Center' hung up on the wall to the left.



D Center Structure

- ❖ Student employee led (5)
- ❖ One full time staff
- ❖ Supervised through Student Union Director (Dr. Justin Camputaro)
- ❖ Funded through Student Activities Fund (SAF)

What is the D Center?

The D Center is an accessible space on the University of Washington's central campus and a community of students, staff and faculty that celebrate all abilities and identities.

The D Center is community that values the capabilities of all people and recognizes that all individuals have the potential to excel and contribute to the academic and social environment at the University of Washington.

The programs the D Center implements support the belief that disability rights are expressions and forms of cultural diversity and an integral part of society.

Purpose and Mission of the D Center

- Fostering community of disability and d/Deaf pride.
- Sharing resources and tools for fostering self advocacy and empowerment.
- Developing and supporting social, cultural, and educational programming.
- Collaborating with other spheres of UW student life about issues relating to disability in higher education.
- Serve as a meeting place for students, faculty, staff, and others who seek a safe anti-oppressive environment in which all individuals are welcomed, respected, and included.

Supporting Students with Disabilities

- ❖ Cultural Center - Tool kit
- ❖ Education - Staff leader
- ❖ Events - Access
- ❖ Student Leadership
- ❖ Diversity initiatives - Inclusive
- ❖ Executive Leadership - Acknowledge students with disabilities

Questions?

D Center Connections



Facebook: D Center at the University of Washington



Instagram: @dcenteruw



Twitter: @uwdcenter

Website:

<http://depts.washington.edu/dcenter/wordpress/>