

How GaLEND uses UDL to Respond to Ableism

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Introducing Kurt Vogel

- Fourth year student in Georgia Tech's Excel Program
- Part-time employee for the Center for Leadership in Disability
- American Association of People with Disabilities Summer Intern at the US Access Board's IT Department (2018)
- GaLEND Individual Advocacy Trainee (2016-2017)
- Member of GaLEND's UDL Workgroup (2016-2017)

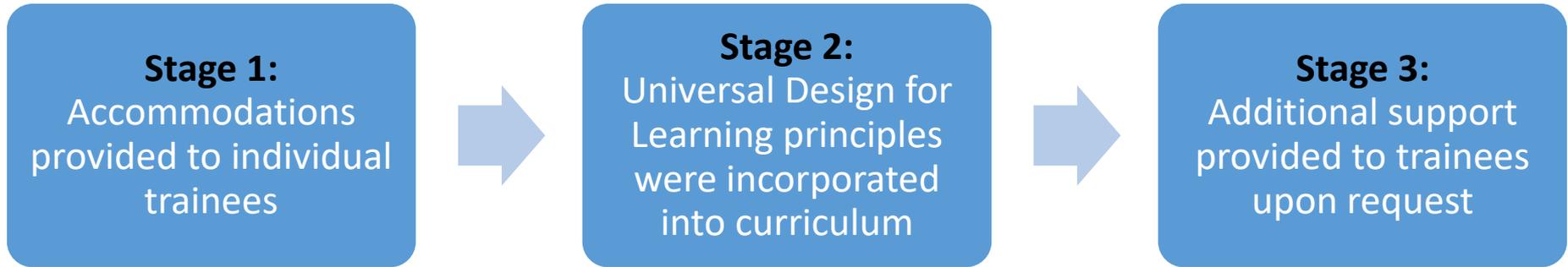


Learning Objectives

Today, we will focus on:

1. **Why** Georgia LEND decided to incorporate Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles into our program
2. **How** UDL has helped self-advocate trainees feel more included in GaLEND
3. **How** UDL can only be accomplished through a team approach
4. **What** you should think about before implementing UDL into your program

UDL and Ableism



- UDL helps redefine the concept of who is a teacher, and who is a learner
- We have made it a priority to have presenters, consultants and trainees, who have a variety of neurodevelopmental and related disabilities
- UDL helps create a community of learners built on confidence and competence in one's abilities and contributions

Self-Advocate Trainee Perspectives

Pre-UDL Implementation

If you only want me to know the key parts of the presentation, why is there so much more additional information presented to us?

During UDL Implementation

UDL challenges everyone, regardless of their experience with UDL, to question their teaching strategies and knowledge of accessibility

Must be responsive to real-time feedback and make changes in real-time

Post-UDL Implementation

Thank you for being intentional about making sure that I was included.

Team Approach

- UDL requires:
 - Ongoing reflection, discussion and evaluation
 - Multiple perspectives and experiences
 - Collaboration between the trainees, LEND staff, university faculty, and community partners
 - Resources and time must be allocated on an ongoing basis
 - Buy-in from leadership from the beginning

Things to Think About

- Universal Design for Learning is a process not a product
- You will fail more than you succeed, but failure will lead to opportunities for continued improvement
- Building relationships with trainees is necessary
- Explain that supports are always AVAILABLE but do not assume that supports are NEEDED
- Do not choose presenters strictly on their content expertise, but also on their abilities to adapt to the LEND learning community

THANK YOU!

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