A DARC CAMPUS ROAD TRIP
“Gems and Bloopers Tour”
EXPERIENCES AND OBSTACLES TO ACCESSIBILITY

OVERVIEW:

The purpose of this workshop is to provide opportunities for staff to learn about the experiences and obstacles of students and staff and visitors with disabilities in regard to accessibility in the learning environment. An invitation (see attached example) and any publicity for the workshop will include information about dressing appropriately to move around campus in rain or sunshine.

In order to assure a good number of participants (15+), personal phone calls and visits will be made to DARCs and others, in addition to posters, e-mail notices and other means.

The 2 DARC Managers and 1-2 Disability Service Providers will meet with participants in a central location, to be decided. An initial 20-minute meeting will be held with participants to cover itinerary, hand-outs, expectations, and any other additions. One incentive is to offer a modest prize to the individual who finds the most items for comment.
Central areas of campus, such as the libraries, union, I & MT, bookstore, recreation center, a lecture hall, classroom and associated restrooms will be included on this “road trip”. Appropriate personnel in each area will be consulted to determine appropriate “stops” for the group in each of their respective areas. Availability of rooms must be determined and a walk-through of facilities with the appropriate personnel (ahead of the actual workshop) will enable them to become aware of accessibility issues prior to the workshop. The purpose is not to offend or surprise any personnel regarding their particular area. These contacts will also be asked to participate in the full workshop. Students or staff with disabilities can be invited to participate, if willing, and discuss their own experiences on campus. Experiences will cover the physical environment, the learning environment, and information media/technology, the three primary areas specific to campus life. Depending on the size of the group, smaller groups can be assigned to one of the group leaders. (OT students can also be involved to assist in the “experiential aspects” using the wheelchair or other assistive tech devices.)

This will be a 2-hour workshop with a schedule of stops, such that campus personnel can join the participants at any juncture to “drop in” or participate in a segment of the workshop. Attention will be to signage, door openings and knob/levers, accessibility to information technology at kiosks, ramp locations, classroom materials, placement of equipment, etc.

A closing session will be held for the last ½ hour to discuss group reaction and experiences, and to ask what individuals are doing and/or can do to assist in creating a more accessible, universally designed, inclusive campus climate. Specific materials will be provided to and suggested for DARCs to disseminate to their departments. Information will be available through the ACCESS-ed website.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To inform the practice of DARC(s) (and other interested campus personnel) from instructional, service, and administrative departments throughout the UWM campus about the experiences and obstacles for post-secondary ed students, staff and visitors with various disabilities.

- To impact current practices and campus climate through awareness of disability and implementation of universal design approaches to inclusiveness.

- To provide each DARC with tools to bring back for dissemination to their departments.

BY PARTICIPATING:

Participants/DARC(s) will be able to view their own departments and approaches to learning with greater awareness and with “different eyes”.

Participants/DARC(s) will be able to provide valuable experience and information to share with department regarding strengths and weaknesses of department in terms of accessibility.

Participants/DARC(s) will be able to identify at least one area of their own and/or their department to adjust for better design and accessibility (with no cost or reasonable cost).

MATERIALS:

- 2 Wheelchairs
- Other Assistive technology devices, as available
• Handouts
Campus Accessibility Bloopers

2 pm (sharp!): Meet at Library Grind. Look for the ACCESS-ed sign

#1

2:10 Enderis Hall – Main Entrance

#2

2:25 Klotsche/Pavilion – Pool area

#3

2:45 Sidewalk/Ramp next to and west of the Klotsche Center

#4

3:00 Bolton Hall – North Door

#5

3:15 Student Union – Bookstore Entrance

#6

3:30 Wrap Up – Union 342