



October 4, 2018

To: Career Connect Washington Task Force

From: Washington State Rehabilitation Council

RE: Integration of Universal Design for Learning in Career Connect Washington

Washington State has the historic opportunity to be a national leader by incorporating Universal Design for Learning (UDL) concepts through Governor Inslee's Career-Connected Learning initiative. Partners involved with the Career Connect Washington's Government and Education Workgroup have collaborated to identify strategies for integrating supports for individuals with disabilities into the Strategic Plan.

Representatives from Washington State Rehabilitation Council (WSRC), Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI), Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR), and Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC) reviewed the research for supporting equitable access to career path opportunities for individuals with disabilities and all other [Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act \(WIOA\) Focus 14 "Populations with Barriers"](#). In the attached "Document of Support for Universal Design for Learning in Career Connect Washington" the four Task Force recommendations are linked to each of the following:

- Research-based best practices for supporting post-school outcomes for individuals with disabilities;
- Implementation and strategies for overcoming barriers to employment training and access; and
- Benefits to stakeholders (i.e., students, families, educators, employers, support providers).

Our recommendation is for the integration of Universal Design for Learning into the Strategic Plan being presented to the Governor on October 25, 2018. The long term approach to ensure successful UDL integration at all career path entry points, is to have a UDL expert take a seat on the advisory body over the Strategic Plan.

We look forward to working with you and key stakeholders to ensure successful integration of these recommendations that will provide supports that benefit all participants, including individuals with disabilities.

Questions can be directed to Shelby Satko, Executive Director of the WSRC.

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