

**DCAT Meeting
May 2, 2008**

**Presenter
L. Scott Lissner**

L. Scott Lissner has served as the American's With Disabilities Act Coordinator for The Ohio State University since January of 2000. Reporting to the Provost, Lissner works to ensure the University's compliance with State and Federal mandates requiring access for individuals with disabilities by providing seamless access to the full range of the university's programs, employment opportunities, facilities and services; serving as the university's compliance officer, a catalyst for disability related initiatives; and liaison to the disability community.

Lissner is committed to public service and currently sits on the Central Ohio Transit Authority's Mobility Advisory Board, the Board of Trustees for ADA-OHIO), and has been appointed to the City of Columbus' Advisory Committee on Disability, and the Columbus Bar Association's Professional Ethics Committee.

Lissner frequently presents and publishes on disability issues, recently publications include "Universal Design in the Institutional Setting: Weaving a Philosophy into Campus Planning" and "From Legal Principle to Informed Practice"

The Principals of Universal Design in the Institutional Setting

Mr. Scott Lissner talked in depth about the inception of the American with Disabilities Act and how it impacts Federal funded programs such as NC State University as a whole. Some of the points he made were:

Equal Rights:

The Rehabilitation Act of 1973: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is a national law that protects *qualified* individuals from discrimination based on their disability. He shared several examples as it relates to universal design.

Principals of Universal Design defined

Designing any product or environment involves the consideration of many factors, including aesthetics, engineering options, environmental issues, industry standards, safety concerns, and cost. Typically, products and environments are designed for the average user. In contrast, UD is "the design of products and environments to be usable by all people, to the greatest extent possible, without the need for adaptation or specialized design"

When designers apply UD principles, their products and environments meet the needs of potential users with a variety of characteristics. Disability is just one of many characteristics that an individual might possess. Making a product or environment accessible to people with disabilities often benefits others.

The Seven Principals are:

1. ***Equitable use.*** The design is useful and marketable to people with diverse abilities.
2. ***Flexibility in use.*** The design accommodates a wide range of individual preferences and abilities.
3. ***Simple and intuitive use.*** Use of the design is easy to understand, regardless of the user's experience, knowledge, language skills, or current concentration level.
4. ***Perceptible information.*** The design communicates necessary information effectively to the user, regardless of ambient conditions or the user's sensory abilities.
5. ***Tolerance for error.*** The design minimizes hazards and the adverse consequences of accidental or unintended actions.
6. ***Low physical effort.*** The design can be used efficiently, comfortably, and with a minimum of fatigue.
7. ***Size and space for approach and use.*** Appropriate size and space is provided for approach, reach, manipulation, and use regardless of the user's body size, posture, or mobility.