
Issue 1

I am delighted to be able to bring you such a rich and diverse range of articles for this very first AHEAD Journal. We plan to publish two editions a year. I hope you will find it useful and stimulating – do feel free to share it amongst your colleagues and networks. I hope it might also inspire you to write something for a future edition of the Journal yourself. Contact our Sub-editor Lorraine Gallagher for details on how to submit an article lorraine.gallagher@ahead.ie We would also welcome your feedback on the Journal and suggestion for other topics you would like to see covered.

We start the Journal with two articles on universal design for learning which give some welcome definitions and ideas on how to move forward. You might then want to consider attending the [AHEAD conference in March which explores the UDL framework](#).

Supporting students with mental health difficulties is high on the agenda for practitioners and Emma Farrell's research aims to give insight from the student's point of view.

It's good to have employer input and James Quinn's experience leads into Mary Quirk and Fiona Ring's article on the support the WAM programme has given to employers and students in getting into work.

But the seeds of success are sown early and Patricia McCarthy's work highlights the importance of providing real choices for disabled pupils at secondary level.

I do hope you enjoy a good read, and along with all my AHEAD colleagues, I wish you a Merry Christmas and happy holiday season and successful new year in 2015.

Barbara Waters, Editor

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Barbara Waters

Journal Editor, AHEAD

Barbara Waters is the Project Lead on the Reasonable Accommodations, Professional Placements (RAPP) Project, Barbara was Chief Executive of Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, UK. 1996- 2010. Barbara represented Skill nationally on policy issues in education and disability related to post 16 education, training and employment. Since 2010 Barbara has worked as a researcher on further and higher education and disability. She was part of the LINK European network concerned with disabled students in higher education and has undertaken research on competence standards and learning outcomes in higher education for the Equality Challenge Unit, UK, published in 2015, looking particularly at Nursing, Teaching, Foreign Languages and STEM subjects. She was the evaluator of the Erasmus + programme on Universal Design for Learning completed in October 2016, and rapporteur for AHEAD Ireland in the MappED access programme with the Erasmus Student Network in 2017. Currently, she is the editor of the peer to peer Journal for AHEAD Ireland. She has an MA in Business and Public Sector Strategy and received an honorary doctorate from the Open University, UK.

This article appeared in the AHEAD Journal. Visit www.ahead.ie/journal for more information
