

Beyond Compliance: Proactive Accessibility in Student Advising



1

What's my job?

- Aaron Masi, Accessibility Specialist – SAS/OAS
- ADA/504 compliance
- Determine eligibility for accommodations
- Referrals to campus partners
- Information for students, families, staff, faculty, providers, etc.



2

How did I get here?



1992-1996



2003-2021



1998-2003



2021-????



3

Big changes – wait what?!

- Diagnosed with ADHD, Anxiety, and Depression
- Life dedicated to service – could no longer serve in the same capacity
- Wanted to continue to help yet needed help myself

4

Serendipitous happenstance...

what are other words for serendipitous?

fortuitous, lucky, chance, accidental, unforeseen, unexpected, random, casual, fluky, fortunate



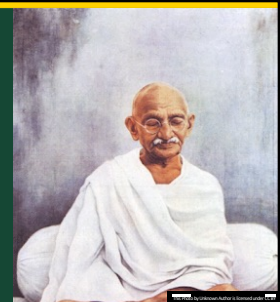
Thesaurus.plus



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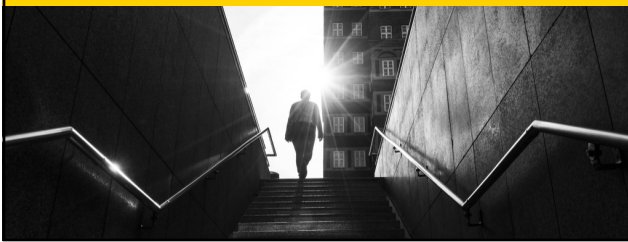
Be the Change

"You must be the change you want to see in the world" is a popular quote often attributed to Mahatma Gandhi. It essentially means that to bring about positive change, you should start with yourself and your own actions, rather than waiting for others to do so. This can involve leading by example, taking initiative, and actively contributing to the change you desire.



6

What's my (our) approach?



7

Holistic Approach

WELLNESS

- CAPS
- Living Well
- Catamount
- Recovery Program (CRP)
- Student Health Center



ACADEMIC

- Tutoring Center
- Writing Center
- Academic Staff/Student Services Staff
- FirstGen@UVM
- Student Accessibility Services

FAITH-BASED

- Interfaith Center
- Muslim Student Association
- Hillel
- Catholic Center

Other Helpful Resources

- Career Center
- Student Financial Services (SFS)
- UVM Dining

IDENTITY CENTERS

- Prism Center
- Women and Gender Equity Center
- Mosaic Center for Students of Color



8

You are welcome...



9

How are you welcomed?



10

Genuine Care

Are you smiling? Are you present and available? How's your sense of humor? Is your space welcoming and warm? Would people like to just take a seat and rest? Do you offer them a cup of tea and a snack? Do the people you serve feel that you are sincerely there to help? Do they feel comfortable coming back to see you?



11

Inviting Service



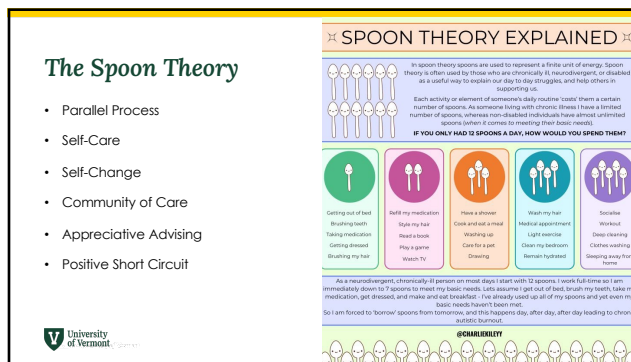
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