



# Senate of the Associated Students of the University of Nevada

*90<sup>th</sup> Session, 2022-2023*

## A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF IMPLEMENTING UNIVERSAL DESIGN

Resolution Number:

Authored By: Senator Dean

Sponsored By: 2022-2023 Student Government Assembly

*Whereas*, the University of Nevada-Reno is publicly committed to serving those with visual and physical disabilities, as elaborated on their statement on the matter “The University is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Sections 503/504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973”<sup>1</sup>;

*Whereas*, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 is defined as prohibiting “discrimination against people with disabilities in several areas, including employment, transportation, public accommodations, communications and access to state and local government’ programs and services”<sup>2</sup>;

*Whereas*, Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is defined as prohibiting “federal contractors and subcontractors from discriminating in employment against individuals with disabilities and requires employers take affirmative action to recruit, hire, promote, and retain these individuals”<sup>3</sup>;

*Whereas*, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is defined as forbidding “organizations and employers from excluding or denying individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to receive program benefits and services”<sup>4</sup>;

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.unr.edu/hr/employee-resources/accommodations/ada>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/general/topic/disability/ada>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/ofccp/section-503#:~:text=Section%20503%20of%20the%20Rehabilitation,promote%2C%20and%20retain%20these%20individuals.>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/504.pdf>

*Whereas*, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) defines physical or mental impairments as “visual, speech, and hearing impairments; mental retardation, emotional illness, and specific learning disabilities; cerebral palsy; epilepsy; muscular dystrophy; multiple sclerosis; orthopedic conditions; cancer; heart disease; diabetes; and contagious and noncontagious diseases such as tuberculosis and HIV disease (whether symptomatic or asymptomatic)”<sup>5</sup>;

*Whereas*, the University has made bold and necessary strides in recent years to accommodate those with disabilities, this being evident in the 2007 ADA Transition Plan and the 2018 Expansion timeline<sup>6</sup>;

*Whereas*, the timeline for the improvements to accessibility are as follows,

- 2007: Initial Self Evaluation-the University of Nevada assess all barriers to facilities, services, programs, and activities
- 2008: Developed a Transition Plan- the University of Nevada list barriers, prioritize them for removal, and work toward removing them
- 2018: Conducted Second Study- the University of Nevada decides to focus on athletic facilities, residence halls, and off-campus properties; shared results at a public meeting in September
- 2019: Updated Transition Plan;

*Whereas*, the DRC estimates 307 students are visually and physically impaired: cane, walker, wheelchairs, legally blind and struggle with mobility<sup>7</sup>;

*Whereas*, students with visual and physical impairment struggle to navigate campus;

*Whereas*, students with visual and physical impairment are entitled to the same rights as their able-bodied peers to enjoy the same freedoms, opportunities and ability to learn;

*Whereas*, modern technology has enabled the visually and physically impaired to navigate spaces designed for able-bodied peoples;

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/civilrights/resources/factsheets/ada.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.unr.edu/main/pdfs/verified-accessible/general/accessibility/open-forum-2021-web-version-technically-accessible.pdf>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.unr.edu/drc>

*Whereas*, this includes technology such as, but not limited to Blindsight, Clew, Concept3D, Lazarillo, Goodmaps explore, We Walk, etc<sup>8</sup>;

*Whereas*, these services offer a technological solutions for people with disabilities when in transit from one location to another. Listed are mobile applications (apps) for mobile devices that can aid people with visual and physical impairments in finding destinations. The apps listed above are for use in conjunction with other aids, not to replace them;

*Whereas*, other college campuses nation-wide have successfully implemented similar technologies including, but not limited to Ole Miss, University of Colorado Boulder, University of Tennessee, Texas A&M, ect<sup>9</sup>;

*Be it resolved that*, that ASUN supports the implementation of a Universal Design Program at the University of Nevada-Reno;

*Be it further resolved that*, that ASUN supports all necessary capital improvements to facilitate the implementation of this program. Including but not limited to: automatic doors, braille signage, ramp entrances, global positioning systems (GPS), mobile apps, tactile pads, task lighting, ect;

*Be it further resolved that*, this legislation be sent to the following individuals.

- Brian Sandoval, President of the University of Nevada, Reno
- Dean Hitchcock, Senior Director for Planning and Construction, Facilities Services
- Dionne Stanfill, ASUN President
- Scott Brown, Senior Project Manager, Architectural Services
- Sandra Rodriguez, ASUN Director

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<sup>8</sup> <https://www.loc.gov/nls/resources/general-resources-on-disabilities/gps-and-wayfinding-apps/>

<sup>9</sup> <https://maps.utk.edu/?id=314#!m/330269?s/>

- Scott Youngs, NCED Project Manager
- Shane Carter, Director of Disability Resource Center

Adopted in Senate on March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Attest:

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Wyatt Layland, Senate Secretary

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Andrew Thompson, Speaker of the Senate