**Disability Awareness Month Celebration – October 2022**

**“Amplifying Voices, Enhancing Access”**

Disability Awareness Month Kick-off – Amplifying Our Voices Showcase

Saturday, October 1st at 7:00 pm

Digital Auditorium, Hurley Convergence Center

Join us for the kick-off event for Disability Awareness Month! You are invited to amplify your voice and showcase your creative talent, whether it is singing, spoken word, dancing, or digital art as we celebrate disability culture. There will be door prizes given away!

“Let’s Taco ‘Bout Your Career” – Focus Group Collaboration with the Center for Career and Professional Development and Goodwill

Tuesday, October 4th at 4 p.m.

Colonnade Room, Rucker University Center

UMW students with disabilities are invited to participate in a focus group (and eat tacos!) to learn more of your thoughts on what career supports would be meaningful for you. This event is hosted by Center for Career and Professional Development, Goodwill, and the Office of Disability Resources.

Digital Accessibility: Top Things to Know

Wednesday, October 12th at 3:00 pm

Capital Room, Rucker University Center

This training will focus on quick tips and tricks for anyone in the UMW community interested in learning more about digital accessibility. This is a great opportunity for students, faculty, and staff involved in sharing any information with a wide range of individuals. Come, learn, and ask questions in a judgment free environment with training provided by ODR’s Assistive Technology Coordinator, Danielle Smith.

Assistive Technology Demo Day

Thursday, October 13th at 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Office of Disability Resources Suite, Seacobeck Hall, Room 005

Assistive Technology (AT) changes lives, and many of us use it every day! See how high-tech and low-tech devices can support learning and every day activities. Come check out Assistive Tech Demo Day to play with and see AT in action at UMW.

Disability Awareness Month Table Fair

Friday, October 14th at 11:00 am – 2:00 pm

Campus Walk in front of Lee Hall

(Rain location: Rucker University Center, Colonnade Room)

A table fair will be held to share information about both on- and off-campus disability organizations. There will also be a tye-dye table set up for students who would like to tye-dye a t-shirt with the month’s theme: “Amplifying Voices, Empowering Access.” There are a limited number of t-shirts available so come early to join the fun! In the event of inclement weather, the table fair will be moved inside and the tye-dye activity will be rescheduled for another date.

Disability Awareness Month Major Speaker: Rachel Loria

Thursday, Oct. 13 at 7:00 pm

Chandler A/B, Rucker University Center

Rachel Loria is a Disability Rights Advocate at the disAbility Law Center of Virginia, where she has been working for over 8 years. She works particularly on cases involving vocational services, Pre-Employment Transition Services, and assistive technology. She was born and raised in Richmond where she also began her journey as a self-advocate. She had the privilege of working with both Virginia Board for People with Disabilities and the Partnership for People with Disabilities in her 15 year career as a self-advocate working to help individuals who have disabilities.

Silent Dinner

Wednesday, October 18 at 5:00 pm

The Underground, Lee Hall

*Sponsored by Talk to the Hands Club*

Join Talk to the Hands, UMW’s American Sign Language club, for their second annual Silent Dinner! The purpose of this event is to encourage attendees to try to communicate without using verbal language but by using American Sign Language, written language, or any other form of non-verbal communication while eating and having fun! So many people in our world do not use verbal language to communicate. By trying to find new ways to communicate, we are attempting to make our community more inclusive.

Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Tuesday, October 18th at 6:00 pm

Chandler Ballroom, Rucker University Center

Contact: Danielle Smith, DAPi Faculty Advisor (dsmith24@umw.edu)