Moving Beyond Accommodations: Creating Learning Environments that Work for All Learners

SCOTT LAPINSKI, PH.D., M.ED.

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES

Brief Introduction

Scott Lapinski

Director of Student Accessibility Services at UNH

Been at UNH since July

Background in teaching and curriculum and instruction

Former LEND Fellow

What We Will Cover Today

What are Accommodations?
- ◦ Defining accommodations
- ◦ Types of accommodations
- ◦ Accommodation approval process
- ◦ Accommodation letters

How Come Accommodations Aren't Enough?
- ◦ Accommodations are individual, process based, limited, general, reactive, static

How Can We Move Beyond Accommodations?
- ◦ Support students in navigating the current accommodations process
- ◦ Individualize without marginalizing
- ◦ Consider how accommodations can be flipped into universal supports
- ◦ Proactively plan to address barriers to student learning

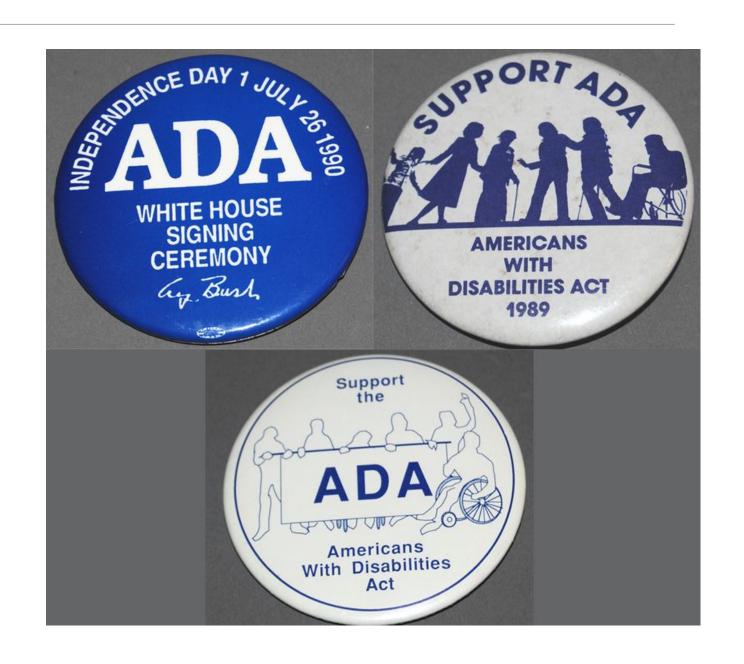# What Are Accommodations?

Accommodations...

Are changes that remove specific barriers to learning while ensuring essential requirements are still met

- Don't change what is learned, but how it is learned
- Are related to accessing, expressing, or engaging with learning in different ways

Meet a specific functional need of the student

Should not be confused with modifications to requirements

Are approved through an interactive accommodations process (at UNH through SAS)

Accommodation Approval Process

Step 1: Student registration

Step 2: Documentation submission

Step 3: Documentation review

Step 4: Student meeting

Step 5: Accommodation approval process

Step 6: Accommodation implementation