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## From the Editor

Welcome to Journal 14, it has been really good to read about all the interesting work that has been going on, and well done to all of you who have navigated the waters of Covid-19 to find time to tell us about what you are doing, including our Belgian colleagues. AHEAD's CEO gives us an excellent insight into how the uncertainty around the pandemic has had the effect of focusing interest in UDL and the learning opportunities available through the Digital Badge. The momentum created has resulted in the new delivery model, which will, I am sure, suggest opportunities within your own teams. The article from National College of Ireland (NCI) gives hands-on examples of the different ways UDL can be applied to course delivery as part of their work on the Digital Badge. Communities of Interest are growing as models of sharing interests to deliver projects, and it's good to see results at UCD producing a new learning resource. We are always interested to hear about your work with students with disabilities at all levels, and it is good to read about the new QQI Level 4 Major Award for people with visual impairment or blindness. I do hope you enjoy this edition of the Journal, and do get in touch if you have ideas about articles for the Journal, you can contact [lorraine.gallagher@ahead.ie](mailto:lorraine.gallagher@ahead.ie) who is happy to work with you.

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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.