
Letter from the Editor

Welcome to the Spring 2021 edition of the AHEAD Journal. Firstly, I would like to thank all our contributors for finding time to share their work during this difficult time. It is really good to hear how colleagues have managed the sudden changes creatively and to hear feedback from students.

CEO Dara Ryder outlines opportunities to influence forthcoming legal changes and national strategies and identifies how we might make a difference. Do share this important information within your team and institution.

An encouraging theme in this edition is the development of opportunities for students not just to give feedback but to participate in developing a strong student voice. Trinity's Ability Co-op, Inspired's case study involving adults with Intellectual Disability, and Ailbhe Kelly's Erasmus experience give us a great perspective on student experiences. AHEAD's own plans for a Student Advisory Group are well underway and there will be more to read about this in the Autumn edition of the Journal.

Alan Hurst's Book Review introduces an important publication to extend our understanding of designing Inclusive learning opportunities - definitely a book to be considered.

I do hope you enjoy read the Journal, we aim to include something for everybody.

Happy Reading

Barbara Waters

Editor



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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.

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