

## BUDGET PROPOSAL CONTACT INFORMATION

Department Name: Disability Resources for Students

Create Date: 03/01/2022

Due Date: 04/08/2022

Submitter Name: Victor Flores

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Department Head Approval:

Department Head: Bernard Anderson, AVC for

Requested Amount: **\$72,448**

## Departmental Information

### STUDENT UTILIZATION

As of winter 2020, the Disability Resources for Students (DRS) office was relocated to Mattress Factory 107 (while maintaining our testing center in Mattress Factory 354). The move to MAT 107 initiated a new philosophy and shift on how DRS will provide services and support to students with disabilities and students who are advocates for accessibility and universal design. Historically, disability offices have provided transactional services where students apply for academic accommodations and the disability offices assess, evaluate, and approve student accommodations.

The move into a larger space designated for DRS students, and in a centralized location, enables us to expand our services offering to include a space for students to engage and interact with their peers, build relationships and disability community, develop leadership skills, participate in educational events and advocacy, and workshops and training that will enhance student out of classroom experiences and learning. Our new community space provides students to create that home away from home; to be a part of and not apart from the campus culture. This space will also give students with disabilities a voice to engage with UW Tacoma student and campus leadership, ASUWT, and DRS students on equal access educational opportunities, eliminating physical and educational barriers and enabling all students the opportunity to participate in all facets of UW Tacoma life.

### CORE VALUES/MISSION ALIGNMENT

**A. Impact Goal: Communities** – The goal of the new DRS community space is to begin to develop and foster a sense of belonging for students with disabilities and provide them a voice on campus, similar to other UW Tacoma community spaces on campus – First Gen, CEI, VMRC, a place where students can engage their peers, build community and create learning opportunities.

**Success Indicator #1:** To increase student involvement, advocacy, and engagement with the disability community

**Success Indicator #2:** To create a safe and welcoming environment that has the qualities of a home away from home

**B. Impact Goal: Growth** – The goal is to increase the number of students that utilize DRS services and encourage participation in DRS and student-led initiatives

**Success Indicator #1:** To increase students with disabilities accommodations from 3.5 to 5 percent of the UW Tacoma population

**Success Indicator #2:** To build programs and services that will provide students with advising, organizational development, personal growth, and referrals to different departments and programs

**C. Impact Goal: Students** – The goal is to increase marginalized community/students with disabilities opportunities to develop community and leadership on campus

**Success Indicator #1:** To increase students programs and services that will provide student mentorship, welcome and graduation celebrations,

**Success Indicator #2:** To strengthen persistence to graduation for all student populations.

### SAF-FUNDED PROGRAM OR SERVICES GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Currently, DRS has no SAF-funded programs or services. The current academic year has consisted of planning, organizing, and setting the foundations for the new DRS space. One of our main goals was to get this new community space open and active, which DRS has successfully done. We have also partnered with staff members from other campus offices such as CEI, Fist-Gen Fellows, and Global Affairs, to facilitate the development and promotion of the new space.

At the beginning of the year, DRS held a grand opening ceremony which was carried out successfully. Since then, we've helped around 180 students with resources, accommodations, and support and campus staff and faculty. Additionally, DRS held an open house where students, faculty, and other community members could come to learn more information, get resources, or just stop in to check out upcoming plans. Additionally, during the month of October, DRS hosted the annual Disability Awareness Month, during which, we partnered with several campus offices (CEI, NAMI, Square Pegs) to carry out nine different events including disability-related discussions, conferences, and activities.

Moving forward, DRS plans to activate this space with additional programs and events designed to promote student development and encourage the building of relationships and connections. This spring we have several programs planned to create opportunities for collaboration and education for student learners. Below is a list of events we have tentatively planned, but not limited, to the following:

1. **Study Abroad Information Session** – collaborate with Courtney Kroll, Study Abroad office, to host an information session at MAT 107 for DRS and students interested in traveling abroad
2. **Testing Anxiety and How to Prepare for Exams** – collaborate with Maddie Brown, Health and Wellness office, to host workshop to educated student on how to best prepare for exams with proper sleep, nutrition, and health
3. **DRS 101** – collaborate with VMRC, CSI, etc., for tabling sessions, presentations to RSOs and ASUWT, departments and programs (faculty and staff) to educate on DRS services and support
4. **Percussion Event** – collaborating with graduate student capstone project, Square Pegs (RSO) on arts programs
5. **Welcome Days** – partner with CSI, NST, etc on hosting a reception for students and families in Autumn quarter to welcome students to the campus

#### STUDENT UTILIZATION (COMPARISON OVER PAST 2 YEARS)

The new DRS community space has only been open to the campus community since Autumn quarter 2021 and does not have student utilization numbers to compare for the past 2 years. Our new space is open to all students, faculty, staff, and the campus community. However, it has been difficult to make use of the space in light of course modality changes, decreased student presence on campus, and other contributing factors resulting from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As we look toward a post-COVID campus and determine what that looks like, DRS is hopeful that these new programs and events/services will increase student utilization. This would give us the structure to develop a demographic analysis of DRS students, programs, and services, which we could use to further enhance the supports and resources we provide to UWT Students.

#### COLLECTION OF FEEDBACK & IMPROVEMENTS

The DRS has implemented a variety of different mechanisms to collect feedback on current programs and services:

- A. **Survey** – DRS sent a survey to current DRS students to solicit student feedback on programs and services they would like to see offered by DRS
- B. **Sign-in Sheets** – to record all student, faculty, staff, and community that has visited new community space
- C. **Programs and Events** – attendance sheet that records attendees
- D. **DRS Student Advisory Board** – student representatives that provide feedback and consultation on vision and future programs and services of new community space

Due to Covid, like many other UW Tacoma units, DRS has seen a dramatic decrease in attendance with department-led programming and visits to our new space. Once UW Tacoma returns to primarily on-campus learning in Spring Quarter 2022, DRS hopes to see an increase in student users and participants at DRS programs, events, and at MAT 107.

#### SERVICE BENEFITS TO STUDENTS

The funds that DRS has requested will support several key initiatives:

- a. **Student Navigator positions** – student employees will engage with DRS students to provide information, support, and mentorship to new and returning DRS students. Assist DRS students with the transition to the university and building of relationships with other students. Benefits to navigator positions – student leadership position on campus, working in a professional environment to plan and program events; and student-led programming and campus-wide retention efforts.
- b. **Student Office Assistants** – positions that will support and provide engagement with students, faculty, staff, community, and prospective students with information on academic accommodations and access services.
- c. **Events and Workshops** – educational programs that will deepen the understanding of accessibility, universal design, disability advocacy, and mental and physical health issues. This may include but is not limited to: outreach efforts (tabling – welcome daze, student involvement fair; outreach presentations of disability services – pack advisors, faculty, departments, PAWS), guest speakers, disability awareness month, training – disability 101, testing anxiety, and advocacy.
- d. **Increase student education and understanding of DRS academic accommodations; and accessibility on campus, which will increase the number of students registered for DRS academic accommodations**

## Staff Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>DRS Student Navigator - two (2) positions charged with coordinating outreach efforts to new DRS students, assist with new students transitioning to the campus culture, coordinating workshops and trainings on advocacy, disability services and support DRS major events. Will also serve on the DRS Student Advisory Board.</b> E001	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$28,633</b>
	Fringe @ 20.4%:	<b>\$5,841</b>
Student Staff <sup>3</sup>	<b>DRS Student Assistants - two (2) positions charged with office support and greeting prospective students seeking accommodations, support and administer DRS Testing Center, assist with website, social media and marketing materials of the DRS program and services.</b> E002	
	Student Staff Wages:	<b>\$28,633</b>
	Fringe @ 20.4%:	<b>\$5,841</b>
PERSONNEL TOTAL:		<b>\$68,948</b>

### Other Budget Requests

Category	Details	Amount Requested
Other Services	Welcome reception, end of year celebration, fall open house, Disability Awareness Month S001	<b>\$1,500</b>
Non-Food Supplies & Materials	Marketing and outreach materials, events and program flyers and training materials; and office supplies S002	<b>\$1,000</b>
Food	Events, programs (welcome reception and end of the year/graduation celebration, Disability Awareness month) and staff trainings. S003	<b>\$1,000</b>
SUPPLIMENTAL TOTAL:		<b>\$3,500</b>

PERSONNEL TOTAL:	<b>\$68,948</b>
SUPPLEMENTAL TOTAL:	<b>\$3,500</b>
<b>COMPLETE PROPOSAL TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$72,448</b>

### Supplemental Documents



**DRS NAVIGATOR PROGRAM**  
 DRS Navigator Program Fact Sheet

