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#### **ADA Overview**

Presented to the Associated Students Management Council

by

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## disAbility Discrimination and Harassment: It's Against the Law

- ADA (1990)
- Sections 503 & 504 of the Rehab Act of 1973
- RCW 49-60-040



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#### **Western Policies**

- Equal Opportunity/Non-Discrimination Policy
- Reasonable Accommodation Policy
- Appendix A of the Student Bulletin
- Related Policies: Faculty Handbook, Section I, VII



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## Definition of "Person with a disAbility:" ADA

- An Individual with a disAbility is a Person who:
- Has a Physical or Mental Impairment that Substantially Limits one or more Major Life Activities;
- Has a Record of Such an Impairment or
- Is Regarded as Having such an Impairment.



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#### **State Definition:**

- Updated May 4, 2007, as part of Washington State's Law Against Discrimination
- Much Broader in Scope
- Includes Temporary as well as Permanent Disabilities



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# Under the ADA, a Faculty, Staff or Student with a disAbility:

- Must be provided with a Reasonable Accommodation
- As long as it does not Create "Undue Hardship" to the Institution



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#### **Resources for People with disAbilities**

- disAbility Resource Services (DRS) for Student Accommodations
- Human Resources for Employee Accommodation
- EO Office for Student and Employee Concerns/Complaints



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## **Examples of disAbility Discrimination** or Harassment

- Refusing to Provide a Reasonable Accommodation when it does not Create and Undue Hardship
- Making Inappropriate and Insensitive Comments or Jokes about a Person's disAbility
- Not Hiring a Person because of their disAbility when they are Best Qualified and can do the job with or without an Accommodation



Active Minds Changing Lives

## What To Do If You Feel Discriminated Against or Harassed

- Tell the harasser to stop, if possible. Say how the behavior is offensive to you
- Document the incident(s) and report it to your Department Chair, Dean or Supervisor
- Utilize EO Office



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#### What to Do: Cont'd

- EO Office will try to informally resolve issue at lowest level if possible
- Alleged victim may file formal complaint (45 days)
- EO Office conducts investigation, ensuring fairness to all parties
- Leadership is informed of outcome & takes appropriate action



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#### **Providing Accommodations**

- DisAbility Resource Services (DRS)
- Human Resources



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#### **Architectural Assess**

- Periodic Studies
- Disability Advisory Council (DAC)



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### **QUESTIONS?**

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