



Access Advisory

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Improving Services: Implementing the AIM Database

The number of students with disabilities connected with Access & Disability Services (ADS) has increased significantly in the past several years to more than 1,400 students annually. This has created the necessity for increased efficiency and effectiveness of our office operations so we can continue to provide quality services to our students with disabilities. ADS recently purchased disability management software called Accessible Information Management (AIM) which will allow our office to become more efficient by going nearly paperless with all

of the documentation and information stored in a secure, centralized location on the software.

With AIM, prospective students and their high school Teachers or Counselors will be able to fill out and submit an initial ADS intake application online and also upload the documentation electronically. The initial application should only take 15-20 minutes to fill out and will provide ADS with the necessary demographic information for the intake interview. Once our office receives the initial application, we will create a student profile on AIM

where the documentation will be stored. Students will complete the intake appointment in our office where our staff will discuss in detail academic and accommodation needs. The intake interview notes, case notes, and the student's accommodation plan will be stored in the AIM database. ADS staff will be able to review and retrieve the information immediately from a centralized location and continue to work effectively with our students and faculty.

Each student will have access to a portal that al-

lows them to do the following activities online: schedule an advising appointment with one of our advisors, submit an accommodation request, and access their Accommodation Plan. Depending on the approved accommodations, students can also: select courses to have a note taker, schedule test accommodations, submit a request for interpreting or captioning services, submit a request for alternative text, and receive text or e-mail reminders for ADS appointments or exams. We look forward to having the database fully operational in the spring.

Upcoming Office Moves

ADS is an office on the move, and will literally be on the move over the next few years. At the end of January, ADS will move to

a temporary home in Building I. The reason for the move is a major renovation of Building D. The office phone number will

remain the same.

Once the Canning Center, currently Building A, is completed, ADS will

move to its permanent home. This final move is expected to occur during the summer of 2017.

Student Success: Nicole Mangiaracina

My name is Nicole Mangiaracina and I am a 21 year old student at Elmhurst College. Before transferring to Elmhurst College, I earned my Associates Degree at Harper College, but my life didn't always go as planned. Shortly after beginning my freshman year, I was diagnosed with ADHD and worked closely with ADS at Harper. I was quite embarrassed by the diagnosis at first, but I eventually grew to accept it and utilize my resources. My grades improved dramatically and I was doing really well

until I was diagnosed with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (connective tissue disorder) that caused some of my internal organs to become weak and prolapse.

From the middle of my sophomore year on, my life began to spiral out of control. As my health worsened, it became difficult to focus on school work. For about a year and a half, I received many different treatments and underwent multiple surgeries. Currently, I have an ileostomy bag (surgical opening of small intestine

through abdomen) which has essentially given me my life back! Although my life is much improved today, I still end up in the hospital quite often with complications. Along the way I learned the importance of finding the good in even the worst situations. Instead of worrying about the appearance of a bag, I chose to embrace it and now I enjoy decorating my bags with patterned duct tape treating my bag more like an accessory than medical necessity.

I am honored to have been chosen to be the

keynote speaker at the annual "Directions Fair" for students with disabilities that took place on September 30th at the Forest View Educational Center in Arlington Heights. I worked extremely hard to get to where I am today, but I could not have done it without the support and assistance from my professors and ADS. I am proud to say that I earned my Associate's Degree and am on my way to earning Nursing and Psychology degrees at Elmhurst College.

Upcoming Events:

Spring 2015— ADS Parent and Student Open House, TBA

April— Disability Awareness Month and Autism Awareness Events, TBA

April 25th, 2015—Co-Ed Volleyball Tournament, 9a-5p Building M, ticket required at the door

*To receive this newsletter electronically,
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