

Inclusivity for Less Able Students in the College of Engineering





Background

Problem Statement

Importance

Solution

Expected Impact

Background Information

- Interviewed student named “Jane” who uses powered wheelchair
- Intended engineering major at UW
- She felt discouraged from pursuing engineering degree



Problem: perceived lack of accessibility to STEM labs

Students feel they won't get the classroom help or accommodations they need to succeed in completing lab assignments for a STEM degree

This is due to:

- Lab spaces are generally not wheelchair friendly
- Little awareness of resources offered to STEM students through DRS

Importance of Issue

- Students should feel that they are able to pursue what they are passionate about
- Engineering at UW should not just be for the more abled
- Missing out on students who can contribute a lot to the STEM community

Solution

- Put disability friendly tables in lab spaces
- Specifically advertise STEM accessibility to people with physical disabilities
 - Banners, flyer for DRS
- Market ways these students can contribute in labs and class



Expected Impact

- Inspire more physically disabled people to pursue STEM careers
- Increase diversity among the STEM classroom
- Propose different problems & problem solving methods

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Thanks for your time!



BE BOUNDLESS