Inclusivity for Less Abled Students in the College of Engineering
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
Thanks for your time!