

Wherever you are...

we're here for you

TITLE IX | ADA | DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION

*the
mission
continues*

STEPHENS
COLLEGE

Did you know, Stephens launched a new Website?

Visit www.stephens.edu on your phone or a computer near you TODAY!

Now that the new website is up and running, take time to peruse the Equity Offices' pages, which you will find under the "We Care" header on the new site.

- Thanks to the wisdom and hard work of Ellen Orner and Nick Salamone, the [ADA and Accessibility](#) page now has a fillable electronic Request for Services and Accommodations form, which can be accessed and used by faculty, staff, and students when requesting ADA accessibility services through the College.
- The [Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion](#) page now has goals for the office, a message from the Inaugural Director, resources and the ability to report a concern.
- The [Title IX](#) page has links to our policies, educational and support resources for members of the Stephens community and an online report form.

The Equity Offices send much gratitude to Marketing and the members of the Website committee for the beautiful new Website, which will make it easier for the Stephens Community and the public to find and access crucial Equity Offices' information.

Equity Office News

[News from ADA Coordinator Sady Mayer Strand:](#)

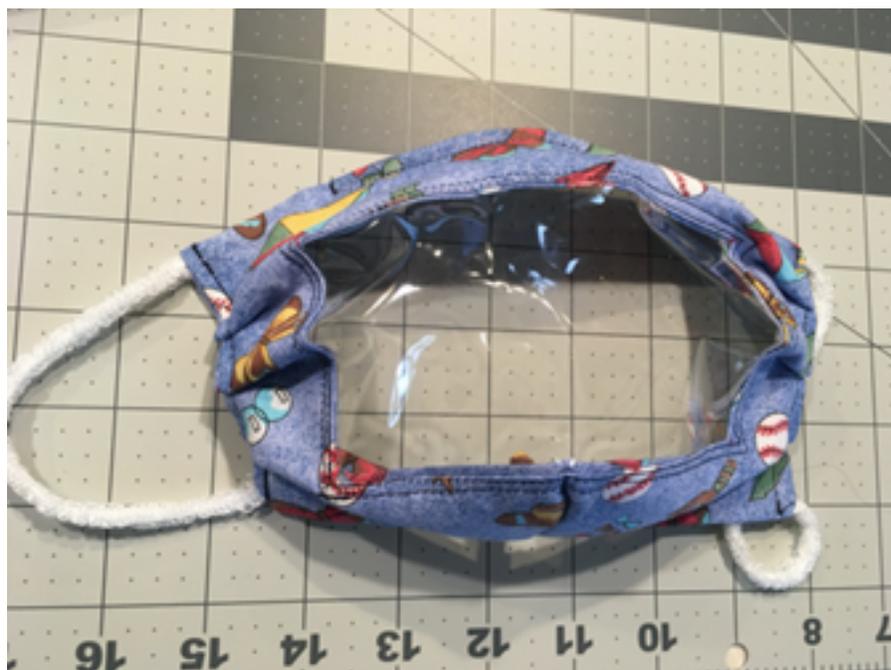
Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is created from the core principles of universal design for accessibility. Universal design champions the idea that facilities and spaces should be usable by all people, as much as possible, without the need for specialized design (e.g., chair lifts are an example of specialized design). For example, universal design holds the idea that ramps, curb cuts, and electronic doors benefit those who are utilizing wheelchairs or scooters, but *also*, benefit many other people in terms of ease of use and access. UDL takes the idea of universal design for facilities and spaces and applies it to education and learning specifically, explaining that best practices for ADA accessibility actually benefit all students in addition to those who have disabilities.

For example, recording and posting lectures online certainly benefits students with learning differences/disabilities who may need to re-watch a lecture to further process information, but it also benefits students who suddenly become ill during a semester and need to miss a class or students who suffer a sports injury and take longer to write lecture notes. Similarly, posting videos with captioning on a course Canvas website not only assists students who are Deaf or hard of hearing, but can also help students who are better at processing written rather than auditory information or students who are having difficulty listening to a posted video while a noisy sibling or child occupies their workspace. UDL values classroom diversity, equity, and inclusion that makes learning as accessible as possible for all students.

If you are looking for ideas as you design classes for the fall semester, you might consider adding one new UDL practice into a course. If you are interested, the following are excellent resources for UDL in higher education:

- ♿ The book [Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education](#), written by Thomas J. Tobin and Kirsten T. Behling
- ♿ [UDL ON CAMPUS: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education](#)
- ♿ [Universal Design in Higher Education: Promising Practices](#)
- ♿ [National Center on Universal Design for Learning](#)

And if you are busy making masks this summer or wish to start, Adult Advocacy Centers offers step-by-step directions for making a mask with a clear panel that makes communication easier for people who are Deaf or hard of hearing. See the link below for directions:



<https://www.adultadvocacycenters.org/news/pattern-for-mask-with-clear-window-panel-now-available/>

[News from Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Shaashawn Dial '98:](#)

The sixth month of the year is a few days away.

If you didn't know June is: [National Caribbean American Month](#), [LGBTQIA Pride Month](#), [National DJ Month](#), [African-American Music Appreciation Month](#), [National Zoo and Aquarium Month](#), [Men's Health Month](#), [National Adopt a Cat Month](#), [National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month](#), [National Candy Month](#), [National Camping Month](#), [National Great Outdoors Month](#), [National Homeownership Month](#), [National Iced Tea Month](#), [National Papaya Month](#), [National PTSD Awareness Month](#), [National Safety Month](#), [National Soul Food Month](#), and [Rose Month](#); just to name a few.

May these month-long observances serve as extra incentive for you to engage, as you are able, to prioritize your mental, physical, spiritual, and economic health. There is great uncertainty of how the COVID-19 pandemic will impact us during the thirty days of June; much is out of our control. The great news is you can prioritize what you can control – how you celebrate your identities, honor your lived experiences, and apply your learned experiences.

June presents each of us with the opportunity to, in the words of Amanda Arbour, Executive Director of the LGBT Center of Central Pennsylvania, “Wake up every day and earn my ally card, only to turn it in at the conclusion of the day and do it all over again the next day.” Here is a video to affirm you wherever you are on your ally-ship journey:

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Allyship&&view=detail&mid=7EA4DAF0CA2EED4B3A997EA4DAF0CA2EED4B3A99&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DAllyship%26qs%3Dn%26form%3DQBVRMH%26sp%3D-1%26pq%3DAllyship%26sc%3D8-8%26sk%3D%26cvid%3D4F9443B48F844BB1AC32C6B42FEF9435>

[News from Title IX Coordinator Shannon Walls '93:](#)

Relationships can be put to the test during quarantine, and there's been much written about how increased stress can lead to abuse while we're cooped up. [LovellsRespect.org](https://www.lovellsrespect.org/), a project of the National Domestic Violence Hotline, has a couple of tools that can be useful in assessing your relationship.

[Are You in a Healthy Relationship?](#)
[Am I A Good Partner?](#)

Did You Know? Title IX also protects victims of relationship abuse and stalking. The Title IX Office can assist with safety planning, no contact orders, connections to support services and other accommodations. Contact us at titleix@stephens.edu if we can ever help.

We, staff, continue to work during the summer (except summer hours Fridays after 1pm), so remember we are just an email, call, or Zoom meeting away.

Congrats on completing the month of May and Happy June!

We are Stephens. Let's continue to LEARN. GROW. LEAD.

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