

This Thursday on the Future Trends Forum: universal design for learning

1 message

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Greetings, Future Trends Forum friends!

[This week](#) we're exploring how campuses can best use universal design for learning (UDL). [On Thursday, October 1st, from 2-3 pm ET](#), we'll be joined by educational consultant [Thomas J. Tobin](#), author of the new book *UDL at Scale: Whole-Campus Universal Design for Learning*. ([University of Oklahoma Press](#))

Tobin is an internationally recognized scholar, author, and speaker on quality in technology-mediated education—especially copyright, evaluation of teaching practices, academic integrity, accessibility, and universal design for learning. He holds a master's and Ph.D. in English literature, an information science master's, a professional project management certification, a master online teacher certification, the Quality Matters reviewer certification, the Professional in Accessibility Core Competencies (CPACC) certification, and the Penn State Academic Leadership certification (he tells his nieces and nephews he is in 47th Grade).



Tobin's career has focused on extending higher education beyond traditional audiences. He advocates for the educational rights of people with disabilities and from disadvantaged backgrounds. He served five years as the Coordinator of Learning Technologies at Northeastern Illinois University, seven years on the Learning, Talent, and Communication team for Blue Cross and Blue Shield, four years as the Program Area Director for Distance Teaching and Learning at UW-Madison, and helped to found the Center for Teaching, Learning, & Mentoring at UW-Madison, as well.

As a 2018 Fulbright Scholar, Tom helped Eötvös Loránd University in Budapest to develop its first faculty-development program, and provided workshops and training to twelve other Hungarian colleges, universities, and military programs. In 2026, Tom worked with the University of the Cordilleras in the Philippines to establish their first teaching center, via a Fulbright Specialist grant.

He was named to Ed Tech Magazine's 2020 "Dean's List" of Educational Technology Influencers, was honored with the 2022 Wagner Award for Outstanding Leadership in Distance Learning Administration, and Eduflow named him in 2023 among the world's Top 100 Learning Influencers.

His books include: *Evaluating Online Teaching: Implementing Best Practices* (2015) with Jean Mandernach and Ann H. Taylor; *The Copyright Ninja* (2017); *Reach Everyone, Teach Everyone: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education* (2018) with Kirsten Behling; *Going Alt-Ac: A Guide to Alternative Academic Careers* (2020) with Katie Linder and Kevin Kelly; *UDL for FET Practitioners: Guidance for Implementing Universal Design for Learning in Irish Further Education and Training* (2021) with Ann Heelan and Dara Ryder.

I plan on asking Tom about how best to support UDL. What practices work best for faculty? Which institutional units can support UDL at scale?

More importantly, **you** will have the chance to ask your own questions. After all, the way the Forum works is that all attendees can ask our guests questions, engage and collaborate with other leaders in education technology, and also invite friends and colleagues to join.

To RSVP ahead of time, or to jump straight in at 2 pm ET this Thursday, click here:

<https://georgetown.zoom.us/meeting/register/D7pqGDLVRN6UQhkvLGbjqw>

To find more information about the Future Trends Forum, including notes and recordings of **all** previous sessions, click here: <https://bryanalexander.org/the-future-trends-forum/>.



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