



Welcome to Higher Education Accessibility in Action: Partnership and Progress
May 13, 2026 at The Square
2:00 - 6:00 PM

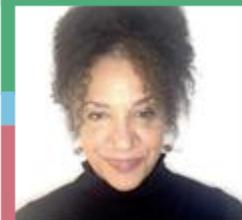
2:00 PM — Opening Remarks



Lisa Marsh Ryerson, President, Southern New Hampshire University

As president of the largest nonprofit provider of higher education in the United States, Lisa is focused on serving SNHU's more than 200,000 learners across the globe and advocating for the more than 40 million Americans with some credit but no degree or credential.

2:05 PM — Panel I: The Power of Partnership



Jada Hebra, Senior Vice President, Chief Diversity & Inclusion Officer, Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU)

Jada joined SNHU in 2016 as the university's first Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer. She works with colleagues to advance SNHU's vision of accessible, affordable and transformative education for all.



Lindsay Jones, CEO, CAST

Lindsay works with innovative educators and researchers across the globe to design education systems that are learner-centered, flexible, accessible, and rooted in Universal Design for Learning.



Wil Del Pilar, PhD., Senior Vice President, EdTrust

Wil spearheads EdTrust's mission to highlight inequities and outline solutions in order to improve access, success, affordability, and completion in higher education for low-income students and students of color.



Moderated by Kimberly Knackstedt, Ph.D., Founder and Principal Consultant, Unlock Access

Kim brings more than a decade of accessibility and disability policy experience, previously serving in disability policy positions in Congress and the White House. She brings experience as a person with Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome and chronic illnesses to her policy perspectives.



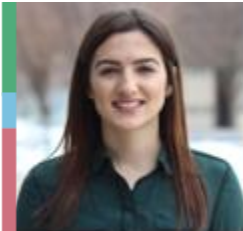
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3:00 PM — Panel II: Policy in Motion



Virginia Delegate Laura Jane Cohen

Delegate Cohen was first elected to the Virginia General Assembly in 2023. As a delegate, she has championed disability policy, including leading the passage of HB 1805, a bill requiring public colleges to accept IEPs to access accommodations in college. She has also started a small business, served as PTA president, and is a parent of a child with a disability.



Dr. Lauren Rodriguez, Director of Resources for Students with Disabilities and Executive Director of SUNY's Disability Support Leadership Institute

Lauren leads initiatives and supports for students with disabilities across the SUNY System and guides the 64 campuses in adopting best practices to mitigate barriers to access for disabled students in all institutional programs, services, and activities.



Matthew Savage, GMU Student and Advocate

Matthew is a student at George Mason University studying Public Administration, and a graduate of Northern Virginia Community College. He also works as a Land Use Aid for Fairfax County Government. He has been involved with the National Center for Learning Disabilities since 2023 as a member of the Young Adult Leadership Council (YALC).



Moderated by Katy Launius, Ph.D., Strategy Officer for Student Success, -

-Katy leads Lumina's community college success strategy across advising redesign, modern learning, and systemic institutional redesign. She also shapes national efforts to help community colleges identify and communicate contributions to civic life, economic development, and community well-being.

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3:50 PM — Closing Remarks



Dr. Jacqueline Rodriguez, CEO, National Center for Learning Disabilities

Jackie leads NCLD's efforts to advance research, policy, and advocacy that improve outcomes for individuals with learning disabilities. A former special educator, professor, and national education policy leader, Jackie's work focuses on equity, educator preparation, disability rights, and access to high-quality education.

4:00 PM — Reception