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Book Review:

“Delivering Inclusive and Impactful Instruction: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education” by Kevin L. Merry

Reviewed by Güven Şeker¹

Kevin L. Merry (2023). *Delivering Inclusive and Impactful Instruction: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education*. Cats Professional Publishing. September 2023. Paperback (ISBN: 9781943085040), EPUB (ISBN: 9781943085057).

In “Delivering Inclusive and Impactful Instruction: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education,” Kevin L. Merry presents a comprehensive exploration of Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles and their application in higher education settings. Merry's book offers a thorough examination of UDL's potential to revolutionize teaching practices and create more inclusive learning environments. Through a blend of theoretical insights, practical strategies, and illustrative examples, Merry equips educators with the tools they need to implement UDL effectively and foster student success.

Merry begins by providing a foundational understanding of UDL, elucidating its core principles and theoretical underpinnings. He explains how UDL aims to accommodate the diverse needs of learners by offering multiple means of engagement, representation, and action and expression. Merry emphasizes the importance of flexibility and customization in instructional design, highlighting how UDL promotes equity, access, and academic achievement for all students, regardless of their background or ability.

One of the book's strengths lies in its practical approach to implementing UDL in higher education contexts. Merry offers a wealth of strategies and techniques for designing inclusive courses that cater to diverse learner needs. He explores various instructional methods, assessment approaches, and technological tools that align with UDL principles, empowering educators to create engaging and accessible learning experiences. Through case studies and examples, Merry demonstrates how these strategies can be applied in real-world teaching scenarios, illustrating their effectiveness in promoting student engagement and success.

Merry underscores the transformative role of technology in supporting UDL implementation. He discusses the benefits of incorporating digital tools and resources into instructional design, highlighting their potential to enhance accessibility, facilitate personalized learning, and promote student empowerment. Merry offers practical guidance on selecting and integrating

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technology tools that align with UDL principles, emphasizing the importance of usability, flexibility, and compatibility. By leveraging technology effectively, educators can create dynamic and interactive learning environments that cater to diverse learner needs and foster academic achievement.

Beyond individual classrooms, Merry explores the broader implications of UDL for institutional change and systemic improvement. He discusses how UDL can serve as a catalyst for transforming educational practices and fostering a culture of inclusivity and equity within higher education institutions. Merry advocates for a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to UDL implementation, emphasizing the need for faculty, administrators, and support staff to work together to create a more inclusive learning environment. By embracing UDL as a guiding framework, institutions can prioritize accessibility, diversity, and student success across all aspects of campus life.

Throughout the book, Merry reflects on the impact and effectiveness of UDL in promoting student learning and engagement. He shares insights from research studies and evaluation efforts, highlighting the positive outcomes associated with UDL implementation, such as increased student satisfaction, retention, and academic achievement. Merry also acknowledges the challenges and barriers that educators may encounter when adopting UDL principles, such as resistance to change, resource constraints, and institutional inertia. However, he remains optimistic about the transformative potential of UDL and its capacity to empower educators and students alike.

“*Delivering Inclusive and Impactful Instruction: Universal Design for Learning in Higher Education*” by Kevin Merry is a comprehensive and insightful resource for educators seeking to create more inclusive and effective learning environments. Merry's practical guidance, supported by theoretical insights and empirical evidence, makes this book essential reading for anyone interested in advancing pedagogical practices and promoting student success in higher education. By embracing UDL principles and leveraging technology effectively, educators can create transformative learning experiences that empower all learners to reach their full potential.

