



DEI ACTION TEAM EVENT

Division of Epidemiology & Community Health

FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2021

12:00 p.m. | 1:00 p.m.

Via Zoom - See email for Zoom information

Advancing Accessibility and Inclusion: Results from the field

Session 1 - Does the Campus Built Environment Affect Access for Students with Disabilities at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities?

Presented by Mahesh Mathew, Second-year Epidemiology Student

This presentation discusses a pilot study that Mahesh Mathew and Jessica Goswitz (a former UMN MPH student) conducted with Dr. Traci Toomey to study accessibility challenges from the built environment of the UMN Twin Cities campus during 2019-20. The study assessed whether the built environments of the campus (building entrances, classrooms, labs, restrooms, elevators, sidewalks, etc.) were compliant with the needs of UMN students with physical and sensory disabilities.

Session 2 - Qualitative Interviews of Caretakers of Adults with Disabilities to Assess Physical and Environmental Barriers

Presented by Katie Cristan, MPH

This year-long qualitative research study was conducted in 2019-20 by graduate student Katie Cristan (MPH '20), PI Dr. Traci Toomey, and Dr. Rachel Widome. The purpose was to assess perceived physical and environmental barriers in the neighborhood and built environment of the Twin Cities area. The researcher interviewed 10 professional caretakers of adults with mobility disabilities. Participants reported that physical and environmental barriers are a significant issue in the community, and that these barriers are associated with several other factors that affect an individual with a mobility disability.

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