

**Lilian A. O'Connell**

**EDUCATION**

1991 – 1995                      **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**  
**Evanston, Illinois**  
**M.A. in Learning Disabilities**

Recipient of Presidential Fellowship. Completed Doctoral coursework and Doctoral qualifying exams in Communication Sciences Disorders/Learning Disabilities

1989 – 1991                      **BARAT COLLEGE**  
**Lake Forest, Illinois**  
**B.A. in Psychology/Education**  
**With Honors.**

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

August 2014 – Present              **McHENRY COUNTY COLLEGE**  
**Crystal Lake, Illinois**  
**Manager – Access and Disability Services**

Serve as Campus ADA Coordinator. Coordinate services for students with disabilities; develop and implement academic support programs for students; provide direct academic support to a wide variety of students. Manage, plan, and oversee the administration and budget of all programs and services for students with disabilities. Review and analyze medical, psychological, and educational documentation to determine reasonable accommodations. Hire and supervise adjunct faculty tutors, interpreters, transcriptionists, and note takers. Oversee acquisition of assistive technology on campus. Provide campus wide training regarding issues related to accessibility, Universal Design, and best practices. Conduct Academic Skills workshops. Coordinate academic support services for CTE students covered by the Perkins Grant. New initiatives include: awarded Autism Speaks Grant to develop Executive Functioning Tutoring Program; working with students with ASD and ID/DD and their transition coordinators to write letters of introduction for instructors to provide more individualized information about the students; increased coordination with local transition programs; changed the name of the department from “Special Needs” to “Access and Disability Services” Served on the Distance Learning Committee and the Training to Teach Online to ensure full accessibility and to promote the use of UDL in online programs. Also a member of the Behavioral Intervention Team and search committees.

March 2009 – August 2014    **EDGEWOOD COLLEGE**  
**Madison, Wisconsin**  
**Director of Accessibility and Disabilities Services**

Coordinated services for students with disabilities; developed and implemented academic support programs for students; provided direct academic support to a wide variety of students. Managed planned, and oversaw the administration and budget of all programs and services ensuring compliance with Federal ADA regulations. Reviewed and analyzed medical, psychological, and educational documentation to determine reasonable accommodations. Hired and supervised interpreters, and CART providers. Supervised Assistive Technology Specialist and graduate and undergraduate student interns. Oversaw the acquisition of assistive technology on campus. Provided campus wide training regarding issues related to accessibility, Universal Design, and best practices. Worked closely with the Cutting Edge Program – an inclusion program for students with ID/DD, to develop a blended model of service delivery for generally admitted students with ASD. Developed and taught in a Summer Pre-orientation Bridge Program, taught IC110 – Academic Success Class. Served on various committees, including Behavioral Intervention Team (Edgewood Cares), Online Education Advisory Committee, Veterans Services Committee, Advisory Board for the College Achievement Program, and numerous search committees. Represented Edgewood College at various college transition fairs for students with disabilities.

June 2005 – March 2009    **LOYOLA UNIVERSITY CHICAGO**  
**Chicago, Illinois**  
**Learning Specialist**

Helped develop curriculum, plan activities, and evaluate applicants for the LEAP program, an intensive supplemental learning program for conditionally admitted, at-risk students, which incorporated a summer bridge program, as well as Fall and Spring semester classes. Advised incoming freshmen during Discover Loyola sessions. Academic year responsibilities included providing learning assistance to students in both individual and small group sessions, academic advising, assessing learning difficulties, designing and implementing intervention strategies, and developing and participating in special outreach programs, as well as teaching fall and Spring LEAP critical thinking classes, classes for students on academic probation, and a Freshman seminar class.

August 1993 – May 2005      **BARAT COLLEGE**  
**Lake Forest, Illinois**  
**Assistant Director, LOP**

Provided comprehensive, individualized educational support and academic advising for a caseload of approximately 15 students enrolled in the Learning Opportunities Program (LOP), a comprehensive support program for students with learning disabilities. Individual sessions included work on study strategies, time management, problem solving/life skills, and all phases of the writing process, as well as remediation of skills in all academic areas. Developed goals, determined and arranged for reasonable accommodations. Met with prospective students and parents. Consulted with the Program Director regarding selected applicants. Administered diagnostic tests and wrote reports. Conducted in-service meetings for faculty and staff members, developed and co-taught freshmen experience classes and was a part-time instructor in Special Education.

#### COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

January 2011 – December 2013      Wisconsin Association of Higher Education and  
Disability (WI-AHEAD) - President

July 2012 – February 2013              Wisconsin Access Text Workgroup  
Representative for Private Colleges and Universities

May 2010 – November 2012              3 Gaits, Oregon WI  
Volunteer Equine Therapy Assistant

#### PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

- January 8, 2016 – Highland Community College, Freeport, IL, Understanding Mental Health Disorders and Associated Behaviors, Panelist for Faculty Training.
- February 12, 2015 – 2015 Leadership Greater McHenry County (LGMC) Education Day, MCC – Crystal Lake, IL, Panel on the Status of Special Education in McHenry County
- May 9, 2014 - Opening Horizons Conference, UW-Whitewater, Panel on alternatives to traditional post-secondary options

- November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Transition Academy: College and Career Ready, Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, "Going to College and Accessing Disability Services What You Need To Know"
- November 14, 2013 - Across the Lifespan Co-Conference (ATLCC), Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI, "It's about Inclusion - A Model of a Full Inclusion Program for Students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (I/DD)"
- November 14, 2013 - Across the Lifespan Co-Conference (ATLCC), Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, WI, "Think College Wisconsin: Expanding Higher Education Opportunities for Individuals with Disabilities"
- November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 - Across the Lifespan Co-Conference (ATLCC), Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, "Going to College and Accessing Disability Services What You Need To Know"
- July 25, 2013 – International Conference on Higher Education and Disability, Universitat Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, "A model of a Full Inclusion Program for Students with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities (IDD), and Efforts to Develop Similar Programs at Other Colleges and Universities in the USA."
- February 28, 2013 – An Educational Mindset: Higher Education and the Virtual Generation, Student Personnel Assoc. (SPA) Conference, UW-Madison, WI, "It's About Inclusion: The Cutting Edge Program at Edgewood College"
- December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 - Adult Learners with Disabilities: Education on the Cutting Edge! – by, Todd Schnick, Online broadcast. <http://www.sivadsolutions.com/2012/12/adult-learners-with-disabilities-education-on-the-cutting-edge/>
- November 2, 2012 – Shift\_Happens, WI-AHEAD Annual Conference, "Director's Cut" moderated panel discussion regarding the ever-evolving issue of documentation standards.
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- October 8, 2012 – Building Capacity in Postsecondary Education for Students with ASD/DD, Madison, WI, "Traditional and Non-Traditional Options in Wisconsin"
- October 2, 2012 - Directions Transition Fair, Arlington Heights, IL, "How to Choose the Right College"
- February 9, 2012 - Wisconsin Statewide Transition Conference, Wisconsin Dells. "Going to College 101."
- October 4, 2011 – Directions Transition Fair, Arlington Heights, IL, "How to Choose the Right College"

- June 21, 2011 - Youth Leadership Forum, Madison, WI, "Going to College: Accessing Disability Services What You Need To Know"
- March 18, 2011 – Illinois Association of College Admissions Counselors, Des Plaines, IL, "Going to College: What You Need to Know About Accessing Disability Services"
- February 17, 2011 – Wisconsin Statewide Transition Conference, Wisconsin Dells. "Going to College: Accessing Disability Services, What You Need To Know".
- June 29, 2010 – Youth Leadership Forum, Madison, WI, "Going to College: Accessing Disability Services What You Need To Know",
- January 25, 2005 – “I Think my Child May Have a Learning Disability”, a presentation for parents and professionals at Lake County Center for Independent Living
- Spring, 2003 – Lake Forest/Lake Bluff LDA Spring Luncheon, Panel Discussion about Transition Issues for High School Students with Learning Disabilities.
- November 6, 1999 – 50<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Dyslexia Association. “A Highly Coordinated Program for Postsecondary Students with Learning Disabilities”