# Cathy goes to the USA

*Cathy Easte*

*Coordinator, Disabilities Service*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

Griffith University acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we are meeting and pays respect to the Elders, past and present, and extends that respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Gold Coast 2018
XXI Commonwealth Games

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# Florida…



Delayed flight – 13 hours
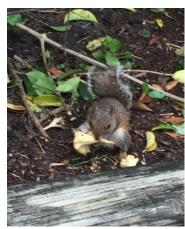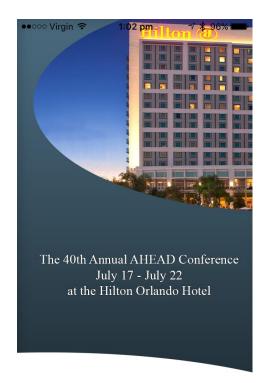
'Twas very warm

Tourist adventures to adjust to time zone

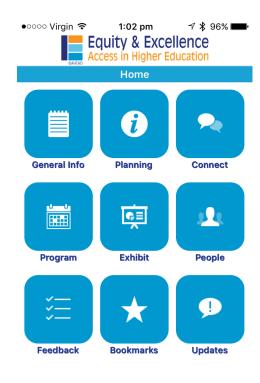Alligators and Squirrels cross roads

Not sure I can survive without coffee……

# 40th AHEAD Conference
**(Association on Higher Education and Disability)**

- Why – VC Award Dollars to spend

- Conference has its own App – AHEAD 2017

  - Accessible

  - Full program

  - All PowerPoints

  - Updates and feedback – live

  - Preparation – different experience

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- AHEAD 2017 – can still download

- 1000+ in attendance

- 100 Sessions over 5 days (2 days Pre-conference)

- Dinner & Dance Floor

- No food – no lunch, morning and afternoon teas

- And something they labelled 'coffee'

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Conference tags

- Pre-conference training sessions

- Display of Access – Interpreters / CART

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- ESAs are one of the biggest challenges – how to determine an appropriate ESA (Emotional Support Animal)
    - Like Bunnies – explosion of ESAs
    - Animals: Campus or a Zoo?
    - Best in Show..
- Moving Disabilities Service – out of Student Services / Welfare / Health centres
    - Rebranding and repositioning

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# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Many reasons behind rebranding  -
  - Access
  - Inclusion
  - Disability as an aspect of diversity not deficit
  - Increasing interaction with faculty
  - System change
  - Shifting attitudes
- Not just about logo and/or tagline
- What emotional reactions are created by your current branding?

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# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- The future is coming! Textbooks will be accessible!

    - They will work with JAWs

    - 2018 – and will have a accessibility standard brand

- Developing Accessibility checker…

- Badging accessibility levels of textbooks

- Working with Vision Australia, RNIB and other agencies

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Technology is assisting Disability support
    - Sensus Access – and auto formatting
    - Sonocent – notetaking
    - Many external captioning / CART services
- Notes no more – peer notetaking being phased out is not already extinct
- Sonocent has updates in pipeline (Sept / Oct this year) and working with HE in USA
- Teaching Assistive tech – regular drop in workshops – teach App use and software usage

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Portland Uni has online Assistive Technology Needs Assessment

- Link to Survey:

  https://portlandstate.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cMGF8InhzSm7gb3

-  They are happy to also share – students must complete prior to AT interview – so assistance more streamlined – and also statistics gathering

- Survey has allowed better targeting of supports as they complete at start degree, mid way and at end – so can measure improvements in technology and use of technology

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Captioning – many sessions on captioning

- If not doing this – should

- Research showing captioning enhances grades all students – not just Deaf and Hard of Hearing students
  - University of South Florida St. Petersburg
  - "A Comparison of student Use of Closed Captioning and Interactive Transcripts"
  - One course and 80 students – but enhanced GPA of non-disabled students also (average 10 percentage points – 60% to 70%)

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# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- 70% students studying online do not disclose disability

  Roberts, J., Crittenden, L., and Crittenden, J. (2011). Students with disabilities and online learning: A cross-institutional study of perceived satisfaction with accessibility compliance and service. *Internet and Higher Education, 14,* 242-250.

- A third to 50% do not register – after disclosure also

- Doing more now for all students – hence reference again to move out of Student Services to independent equity type unit attached to education and get more buy in from faculty

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Australia faring well…

- Stella Young's TED Talk featured in couple presentations. One showing the talk in full

- ADCET Resources were referenced in another!

- Vision Australia referred to a few times

- Ai Media an Exhibitor

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- Unconference Workshop – Saturday – Half Day
    - IT/AT; Online education
    - Animals on Campus & Flexibility in Attendance/Assignments
    - Best Practices in accommodation delivery
    - Leadership and Management
    - Documentation and Accommodation Decision-Making
    - Legal issues and trends
    - Campus Outreach and Faculty Development
    - Diversity & Social justice
    - Student development/Executive Skills
    - Access in Health Sciences

# Equity & Excellence
## Access in Higher Education

- SIGs – Special Interest groups – Meet evenings of Conference or Lunch
  - ADA Coordinators
  - Blindness/Visual Impairment
  - Community Colleges
  - Disability Studies
  - Graduate & Professional Students
  - Online & Distance Learning
  - REDD (Race and Ethnic Diversity and Disability
  - Athletes with Disabilities
  - Autism/Asperger's
  - Deaf/Hard of Hearing
  - LD/ADHD
  - LGBTQA
  - Private Colleges & Universities
  - Technology……

# Equity & Excellence
**Access in Higher Education**

- Poster Sessions timetables into program – when no sessions on – two hours for poster sessions and also exhibits. - lots traffic, lots posters – very impressed with poster sessions

- 2018 – Albuquerque, New Mexico in July

- Well worth attending  - networking is invaluable (coffee was missed! – Storms are incredible!)

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