



JUSTIN DART JR. **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY CENTER**

GROWTH, ACCESSIBILITY & INCLUSION

AGENDA

- Dart Center - Vision & Team**
- Accommodations & Support**
- Facilities & Growth**
- Assistive Technology**
- Access Coordinators**
- Testing and Universal Design**
- Communication Access**



The Dart Center

Our mission is to equalize students who have disabilities with learning, discovery, and engagement by fostering self-advocacy, inclusion, and success.

- The Dart Center is one of the 6 departments that comprise the Division of Student Affairs' Health and Wellbeing Portfolio
- **Vision:** We aim to provide acclaimed customer service to our students that results in a valuable impact on their education experience
- **Values:** We strive to be the home for students with disabilities on campus and bring disability educational awareness for access to ensure equity in educational opportunities for students with disabilities



The Dart Center

Advocate

for inclusive opportunities
for everything the
University has to offer

Educate

the University to create
policies that support and
promote meaningful change

Empower

students, staff, and faculty with
knowledge to help create an
academic environment of
inclusion and acceptance

Create

opportunities for students on
campus to get engaged/connected
and provide access to express
concerns



NEW STAFF

Our Staff



Justin Dart, Jr.
Student Accessibility Center
Division of Student Affairs

What does Disability mean?

- Definition by the Americans with Disabilities Act or ADA is a person with a disability who has a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activity.
- Disability can be either visible or invisible
- Disabilities can be something a person is born with or acquired at any point in life.
- There are many types of disabilities beyond mobility disabilities which include; mental health disabilities, chronic illnesses, intellectual disabilities, and hearing and vision



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Disability is Global

- Over 1 billion people have disabilities or about 15% of the global population currently experience disability, and the number is increasing due in part to population ageing and an increase in the prevalence of noncommunicable diseases.
- 26% of adults in the United States have some type of disability.
- Disability results from the interaction between people and their environment.
- People with disability have less access to education, work opportunities and more likely to live in poverty.
- Disability is experienced different depending on culture.

WHO22



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Accommodations and Support

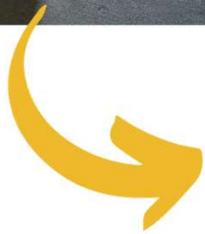
- Extended testing time
- Sign Language interpreters
- Note-taking
- Distraction reduced testing environment
- Alternative formats
- E-text and audiobooks
- CART (Communication Access Real-Time)
- Priority Seating
- Service animal notification
- Housing accommodations
- Study abroad access
- Assistive Technology training



Building Improvements



Building Improvements





When you walk into the Dart Center we want you to feel welcomed. Our center is open for people of all abilities. The colors and shapes in our murals represent the diversity of our student populations. The yellow line connects all of us through our differences.

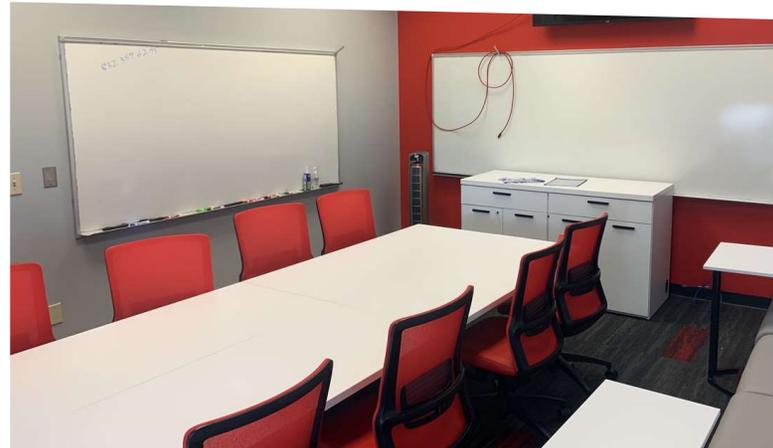
Art Work Designed by: Gerald Sastra

UH Justin Dart, Jr.
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New Facilities



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Lobby

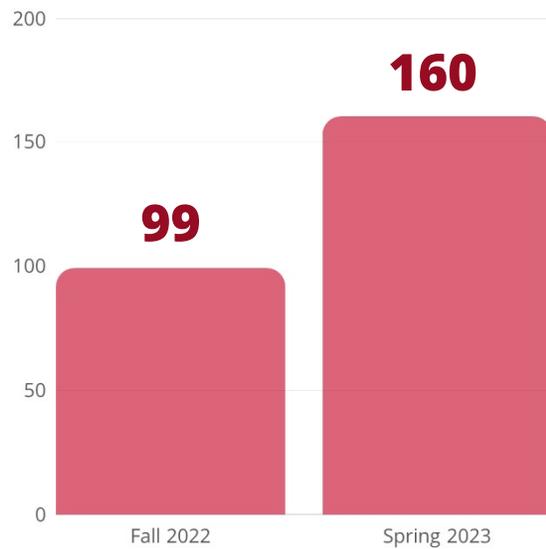
Multipurpose Room

AT Lab

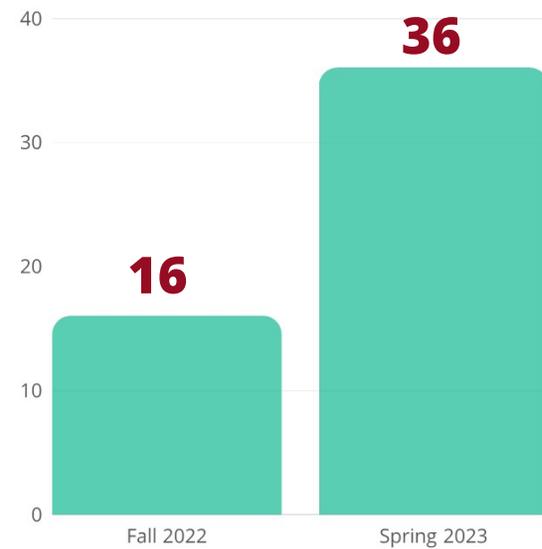
Conference Room

Facility Usage

Multipurpose Room



AT Lab



Assistive Technology



Closed Circuit Television

Optical character recognition software called magnilink which provides magnification of text and objects for individuals with low-vision



Braille Embosser

Prints braille using a software called Duxbury
Prints graphics to provide a tactile view



Refreshable Braille Display

Provides access to information on a computer screen by electronically raising and lowering different combinations of pins in braille cells



Thermal printing

Used to provide 3D printed materials, tactile graphs, for individuals with low vision and blindness

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ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY LAB

Assistive Technology

The Dart Center provides JAWS, ZoomText, and Fusion for free as a download on ACCESS UH.

In the first year 264 students, staff, and faculty have taken advantage of this software.

Suva Gomes became an internationally certified JAWS instructor in December.



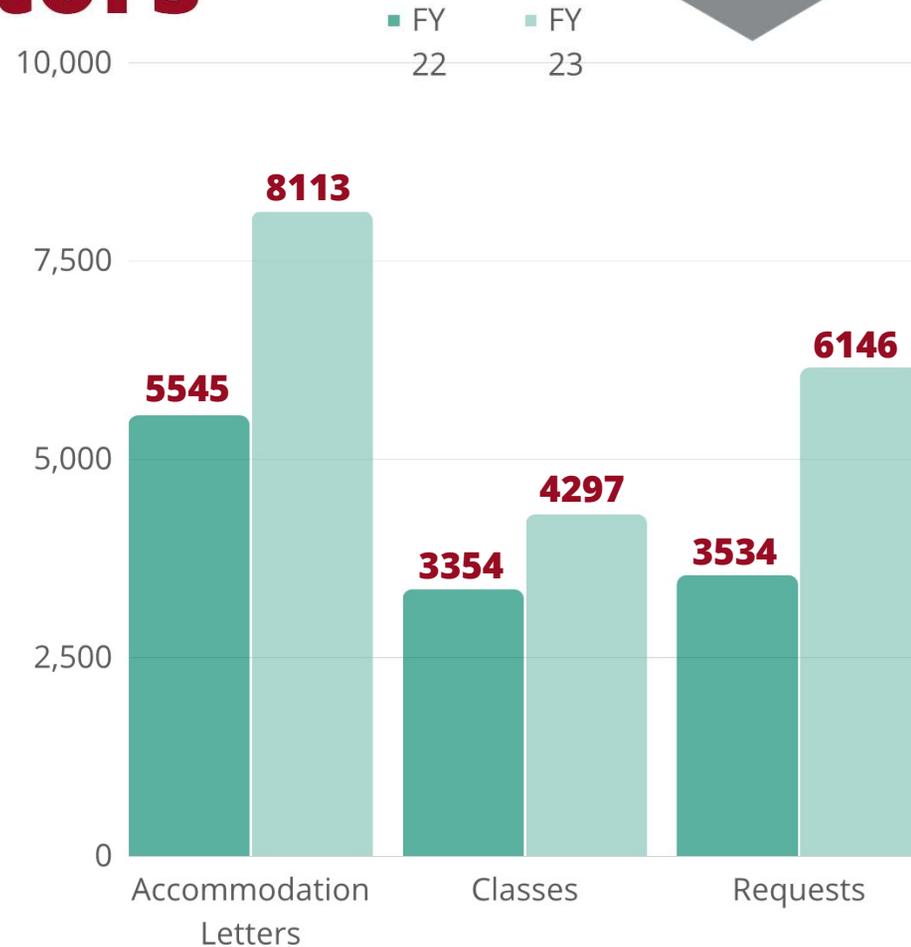
264

***Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 is the baseline year for data collection**

Access Coordinators

Establish partnerships with students, assess documentation, prescribe appropriate accommodations, and assist faculty with implementation

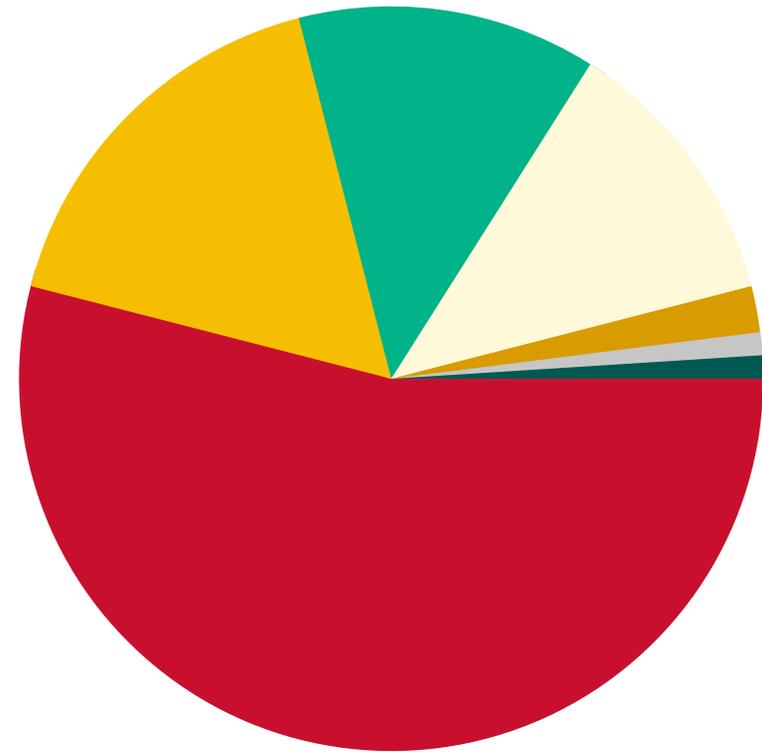
- Assess student documentation for appropriate accommodations
- Partner with UH Faculty
- Part of the UH System Accommodations Response Team (SART)
 - UH Main
 - UH Downtown
 - UH Clear Lake
 - UH Victoria
- Provide consistent & equitable access across the UH system



*Fall 2021 - Spring 2022 is the baseline year for data collection

Who We Serve

- Mental Health 54%
- General Disability 17%
- Other Health Issue 13%
- Specific Learning Disability 12%
- Deaf / Hard of Hearing 2%
- Blind / Low Vision 1%
- Temporary Disability 1%



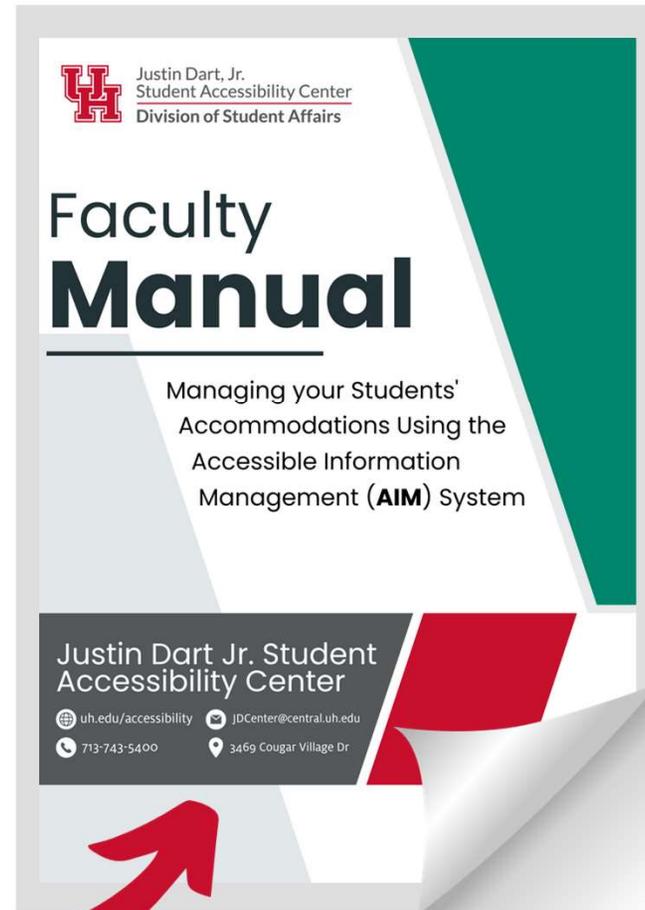
AIM

Access Information Management System

- Electronic case management
 - Testing agreements
 - Faculty Portal
 - Student centered
 - Real-time data
- Faculty and student portal buttons have been added to AccessUH



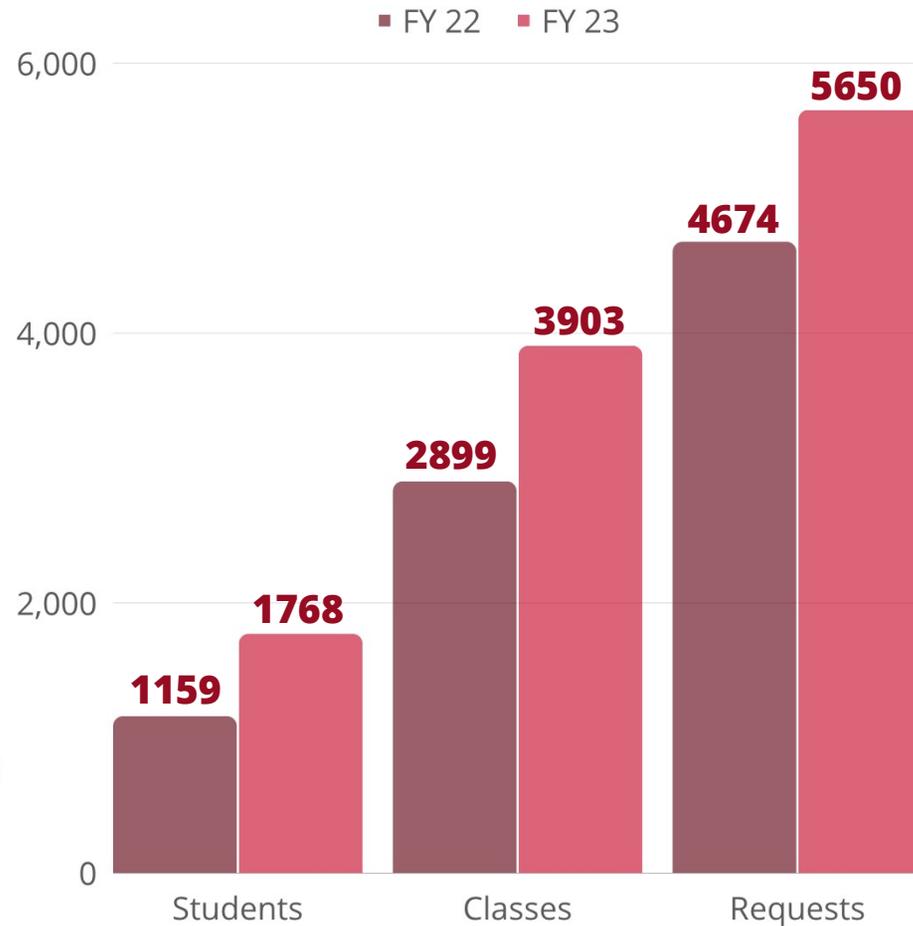
AIM Faculty Guide
added to the Faculty
Resource Center on
our website



Testing

Scheduling, administering, proctoring, and distributing exams for students who need a distraction reduced environment or extended testing time.

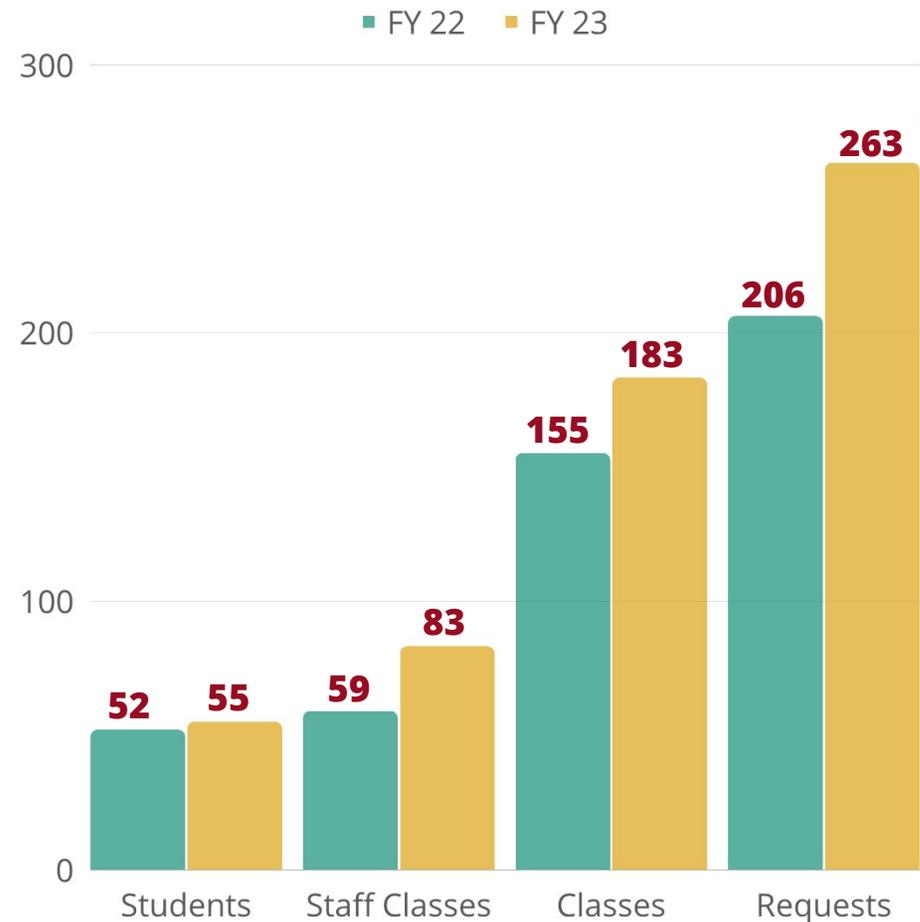
- Online testing agreements
- Computer or paper-based exams
- Completed exams returned via email or Professor pick-up
- Two testing rooms
- Six private testing rooms
 - Assistive technology available in all private testing rooms



Communication Access

American Sign Language Interpreters and Captionists provide Deaf and Hard of Hearing students with communication access across the University.

- Partnerships for interpreting/captioning services with over 10 UH Departments
- Active participation in professional organizations and continuing education
- Interpreting/captioning services in over 10 UH Colleges
 - Undergraduate
 - Postbaccalaureate
 - Graduate
 - Professional School
 - PhD Programs



Social Media

- Instagram (Fall 2022 to Summer 2023)
 - 148.3% increase in people reached
 - 18% increase in profile visits
 - 155 new followers
- All social media posts have an image description added below to provide accessibility to all photos and graphics shared



Website Refresh



- Easier navigation
- Increased visibility for students
- Linked social media
- Increased site visits

Programming



The Dart Center held its first ever Breakfast and Brain Food for the campus community. Our team gave out an estimated 200 boxes of breakfast to campus partners.



The Dart Center hosted White Cane Safety Day on its return to the UH campus for the first time in over 10 years. Approximately 400 people attended the event.

Programming



The Dart Center partnered with Housing for the "It takes a village" booth to support mental health awareness to students across campus.



The Dart Center partnered with University Career Services and Texas Workforce commission to promote inclusion for students with disabilities in the employment space.

Programming

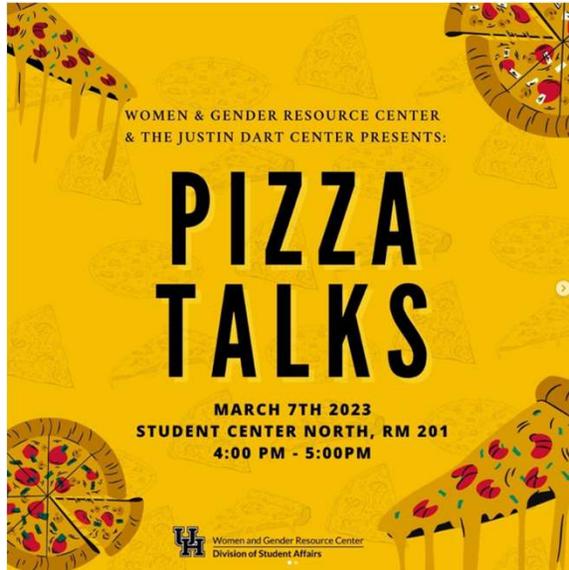


The Dart Center's Assistive Technology Specialist, Suva Gomes, presented a webinar in partnership with Living with Low Vision International.



The Dart Center partnership with the Health & Well-Being portfolio to provide resources and fun activities surrounding heart health.

Programming



The Dart Center partnered with the Women and Gender Research Center to discuss the importance of discussing “Consent for Everyone” and supporting students with disabilities.

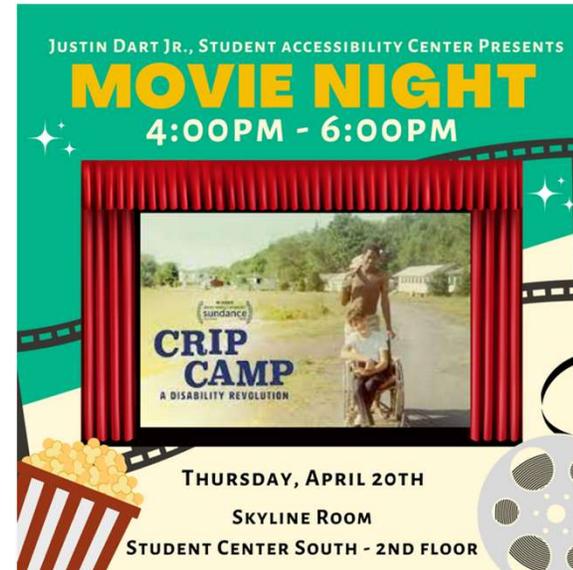


The Dart Center leadership team presented on Universal Design and Equity to help our campus community create spaces that support all identities on campus in the most holistic way possible

Programming

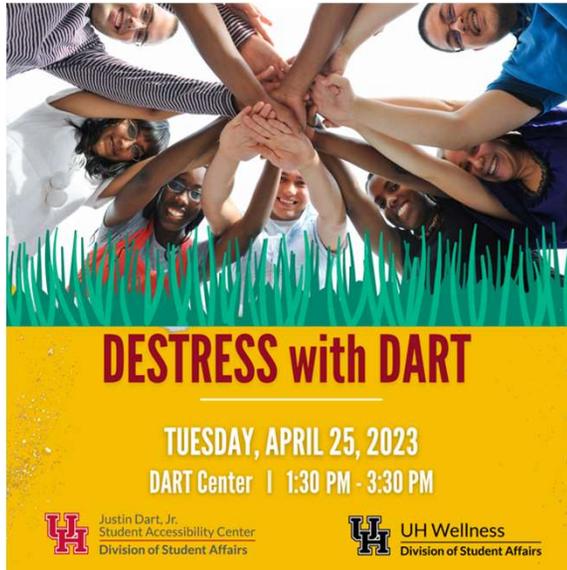


The Dart Center served as a co-captain for this year's March for Babies Event. This event helps support funding for research, programs, support and advocacy needed to improve mom and baby health.



Our first ever movie night!! Crip Camp is a documentary on the civil rights for people with disabilities and increases disability education and awareness.

Programming



The Dart Center partnered with UH Wellness to provide fun activities to support students' mental health leading up to finals.



The Dart Center sponsored the Best Buddies Friendship walk in May 2023. This event supports inclusion for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Programming

**17TH ANNUAL
HOUSTON WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY**

Tuesday, October 10, 2023
University of Houston
Student Services Center South
4455 University Drive, Houston, TX

CLICK HERE



SCAN ME

9:30 AM: Awareness March
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM: Program and Resource Fair

Awareness March, Mayoral Proclamation, White Cane Safety Day History, Resource Fair, Grand Prize Giveaway, Door Prizes, Guest Speakers, Musical Performances, and Lunch with Registration.



2023 White Cane Safety Day
Program and Resource Fair
A total of 600 attendees



2024 Dart Center/UH Adaptive Athletic
Wheelchair Basketball Tournament



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 UH Dart Center

Disability Etiquette



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- **Introduce yourself -**
 - Greet a person the same way as someone without. Offer to shake hands or alternative such as fist bump or friendly nod.
- **Speak directly to the person -**
 - Some people may use an interpreter (still talk and face the person directly) not the attendant or person assisting them.
- **Use common sense –**
 - Treat adults as adults. Same formality as anyone else.
- **Avoid intrusive questions**
 - Don't ask about disability unless its brought up by the person. Especially during job interviews.
- **Focus on skills and abilities not disability –** Work to see what the person can add to the team just as anyone. What is your passion strengths, what would you like to be apart of? (find a creative way to make it happen)
- **Do not be afraid to make a mistake –**
 - Be yourself. If you make a mistake apologize and ask if there is a better way to communicate or interact. Over concern can prevent being able to establish a working relationship with someone.

Justin Dart Jr. Student Accessibility Center

 @uhdartcenter

 UH Dart Center

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CONTACT US



THANK YOU

