

We are more alike than different: How Universal Design for Learning (UDL) can change the way we think about learner variability and help us design more engaging, efficient, and equitable systems.

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Abstract

This session will discuss the science behind learner variability and explore how we can use UDL to design flexible learning experiences to engage learners across the full continuum. We'll talk about the origin of UDL, how policy advances have helped it become more widely adopted and implemented, and what a future infused with the power (and peril) of Artificial Intelligence, paired with UDL, might look like. Overall, the goal is to demonstrate that we are all on a continuum of variability and thus, systems designed to include all students aren't just a 'nice to have', they're more engaging, efficient, and equitable.

Bios

Lindsay E. Jones is the Chief Executive Officer of CAST, where she works with innovative educators and researchers across the globe to design education systems that are learner-centred, flexible, accessible, and rooted in Universal Design for Learning. Lindsay leads strategy and implementation at CAST to ensure all of CAST's work removes barriers, fosters belonging, and creates equitable education opportunities for every learner.

Lindsay previously served as the President and CEO of the National Centre for Learning Disabilities (NCLD), a non-profit advocacy organization that promotes innovation, research, and youth voice to improve the lives of the 1 in 5 with learning disabilities and attention issues. She also served as the senior director for policy and advocacy at the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) where she led federal legislative advocacy and worked with dedicated educators from across the country. Lindsay began her career as an attorney, advising and representing schools and parents in special education matters. She was a partner with the law firm of Gust Rosenfeld in Phoenix, AZ, and is admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the State Bar of Arizona.