

Center for Student Accessibility

MANHATTANVILLE UNIVERSITY

From the desk of: Director Kate Shannon

Welcome to the first Center for Student Accessibility newsletter! With the semester well underway, I am excited to share a little more about our office and the work we do.

I am fortunate to work with the best team on campus. They care deeply about our students, bring great ideas to the table, and truly put their heart into all of the support we provide. As a team, we are lucky to work with so many amazing students. Getting to know them personally and seeing their growth is one of my favorite parts of my job.

At CSA, we are dedicated to removing barriers for students with disabilities and celebrating disability as a valuable part of Manhattanville's diversity. We hope this newsletter helps you learn more about our office and programming, the exciting events we are planning, and the amazing things our students are doing.

Thank you to everyone who works with us to support our students. I look forward to continuing our work together throughout the semester!



Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society

Celebrating a New Honor Society at Manhattanville University

The Center for Student Accessibility is proud to announce the establishment of Manhattanville University's Kappa Omicron Chapter of Delta Alpha Pi International Honor Society, recognizing and celebrating the academic achievements and leadership of students with disabilities. On October 1, Manhattanville welcomed its inaugural class of founding members during a special induction ceremony, marking an exciting new chapter in our commitment to inclusion, achievement, and student leadership.

Testing Center Reminder

Students with approved testing accommodations are reminded to sign up for accommodated exams at least 3-4 business days in advance. Advance notice allows the Testing Center to properly arrange your accommodations and testing space, while also giving professors ample time to submit their exams to the Testing Center. Please plan ahead—last-minute requests may not be able to be accommodated. Scan the QR code to schedule your exam.





Valiant Launch

The Valiant Launch: Learning & Social Success Program is a newly restructured program within the Center for Student Accessibility, bringing together the former Valiant Learning Support Program (VLSP) and Pathways and Connections (PAC) Program into one comprehensive model. Valiant Launch offers tiered levels of individualized academic, executive functioning, social, and career support to meet students' varying needs. Across all levels, the program focuses on helping students build independence, strengthen self-advocacy skills, take ownership of their college experience, and develop strategies for success both in college and beyond.



*Kate Shannon, Director
Samantha Healy, Assistant Director
Julie Pastore, Accommodations Coordinator
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Launch Learning and Social Success Program*

Welcome from:

Samantha Healy

As we launch into the fall semester, we want to take a moment to recognize the many disability awareness and celebration observances that are acknowledged throughout the year. These celebrations provide opportunities to honor the experiences, contributions, and achievements of individuals with disabilities while also promoting education, advocacy, and inclusion. Throughout the year, the Center for Student Accessibility (CSA) will share information and resources related to these observances. We hope these highlights encourage learning, foster meaningful conversations, and help strengthen our commitment to creating an accessible and inclusive campus community for all.

October is an especially busy month for disability awareness celebrations, including:

1. National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM) - Celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and promotes inclusive employment practices.
2. ADHD Awareness Month - Raises awareness and understanding of Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder.
3. Dyslexia Awareness Month - Promotes understanding of dyslexia and effective supports for individuals with reading differences.
4. Learning Disabilities Awareness Month - Focuses on increasing awareness of learning disabilities and advocating for educational access.
5. Sensory Processing Awareness Month - Highlights sensory processing differences and strategies for support and inclusion.
6. Invisible Disabilities Week (October 18-24, 2026) - Encourages understanding of disabilities that may not be immediately apparent and recognizes the diverse experiences of those living with them.

At CSA, we believe accessibility and belonging are essential to student success. We look forward to celebrating these observances with our campus community and sharing opportunities to learn, engage, and recognize the value of disability as an important aspect of diversity.