

UDL in 15 Minutes
With Anne Bishop and Chantill Lopez - Part 1
The Transcript

Loui

Hello and welcome to UDL in 15 minutes where educators discuss their experiences with UDL. I'm Loui Lord Nelson UDL, author and leader. Today I'm talking with Anne Bishop and Chantill Lopez, co-owners of The Embodied Business Institute. Today they are going to share how UDL and the science of the nervous system work together to support the self-regulation of teachers and students. Welcome to you both! I'm so glad you're here.

Chantill

Thanks for having us.

Anne

I'm so glad to be here, too.

Loui

Thank you both. I think listeners will be really interested in today's conversation because you're applying UDL outside of the classroom but also inside the classroom. But before we go to that part of the conversation can you both share your backgrounds and how they're relative to UDL and how you came to know UDL?

Anne

Absolutely. My voice here is Anne and I first came involved with UDL way back in 2010 and 2011 when I received my graduate degree in Mind, Brain, and Education at Harvard Graduate School for education. And during that time, Dr. David Rose was teaching a course and of course, his course was universal design for learning. And so that's when I was first exposed to it - as a student. And then I worked for an organization called CAST, the Center for Applied Special Technology. And that was a wonderful experience. A little bit more about me as I'm, I've actually never taught in a classic classroom model. I have always actually taught Pilates and I actually have taught in the classroom model. I did teach cadaver dissection at San Francisco State University to adult learners getting their degrees in nursing and such, but I've mainly really taught people movement throughout my life and I was very attracted to teaching people who is in pain and I and I happen to teach Pilates and I also have taught teacher training, taught people to become teacher trainers. So I've had probably a little bit more experience, obviously within adult education, and then also teaching more continuing education. But what I loved about blending UDL to movement as I immediately saw how specifically within the world of Pilates, this concept of universal design was something.

When I first realized I think the Creator Joseph Pilates actually was quite, almost doing some of those models intuitively. So that's where I first started, it was applying UDL into the studio, and then I began to share the work with teachers, and I met Chantill briefly, briefly, briefly back in 2002, and then after my time at graduate school, we met and we began The Embodied Business Institute, formally in 2016.

Loui

Awesome! Thank you. And you Chantill?

Chantill

Yeah, well, I was definitely exposed to the explicit concept of UDL through Anne. When she came back from Harvard, we had met, that was 2011, as I think she said, and I'm also matriculate from the world of movement education. I've been a movement educator for 25 years. My formal background is in writing. I was a journalist for some years before I moved into being a movement educator. When Anne came back, I remember from Harvard, I had started an educational company called Skillful Teaching. I had moved through my work of teaching movement ranging primarily from Pilates but into yoga and also other somatic methodologies. And I had started teaching functional anatomy because we were also hosting teacher training in the studio that I owned, and Anne and I lived in the same community. We met at a coffee shop and we started talking because she had also created a new educational company of her own called Body Brain Connect and I felt for all of the years I've been an educator compelled by teaching the whole person and in the movement world, we often hold at the top of our priority list teaching to the body in front of us. And I think, intuitively I just always knew that there was something more than just teaching the body and I wanted to really attend to the whole person but also the whole relationship between myself, within myself, within the other person, and between us. And so when Anne and I sat down, and we were talking about, you know, I had developed Skillful Teaching, I had developed a year long mentorship, I was deeply studying education from a variety of perspectives. I was just beginning to kind of dabble in what I didn't even know then was the nervous system's impact on behavior and change. And we were in beautiful collaboration in a kind of casual way for many years, for about five years. And then we started this project which is now The Embodied Business Institute. And as we went along, I just always was so appreciative and taken by the UDL concepts, and it wasn't even until later that I actually knew what that was or what that meant. But in reflection, I know that that's what Anne was talking about now and what she was sharing. And what I always tell people is, I have applied the framework in so many different ways not only to teaching my clients but to developing curriculum because I've been developing curriculum for about 15 years in a variety of ways. And I was really pleasantly surprised to see that I was already doing many of the things that UDL really is helping us foster. And then as I get to know it, I

could see the value in it, and I would apply it as a writer. I've written a lot and I've written a couple of books, and so, and I'm also a podcaster of many, many years. And so I was using the framework in all of these different ways, and I thought just what an incredible, beautiful framework. And I am also... I feel like a very intuitive teacher. I really value the relationship, but I also want to always, like know why things are happening and the science behind UDL and the science behind the nervous system work has always been completely enthralling to me. And it really just brings it all together. And so that's my experience and exposure to UDL. So thanks to Anne for that.

Loui

Lovely, thank you both. Thank you. So I want to start talking about The Embodied Business Institute. Your website, and for listeners their link is with the podcast on my website, but The Embodied Business Institute says, quote, "We help growth minded entrepreneurs, leaders, and educators dedicated to creating change for themselves and their clients leverage the latest research on brain based learning, motivation, motivation, science, and the nervous system to build more powerful and sustainable businesses based on transformation inside and out. So making money and meaning with ease is possible at every stage of the game." End quote. So you're bringing brain based learning, motivation science and information about the nervous system to your audience to help them establish or grow their business and UDL is in the middle of that. So I know that's huge. And I'm going to ask you to break that down. I don't know how you're gonna do it easily, but there... I've just lobbed it to you!. Yeah, there you go.

Anne

All right. Whoo! We can do this. So one of the things that Chantill and I began as a connection is our love of teaching. And you know, we chose careers that had a lot of meaning. We deeply love to work and to teach people movement and it really to teach people about their bodies, and whether that was more self-reflective or perception. It is something that we truly love. And you know, as we evolve through our careers, we get other interests and so one of the other interests that I had over many years has been, you know, how do you really educate at a high level and that's really where Universal Design for Learning comes in. And Chantill really has the expertise in our business of the nervous system. And we lean deeply on the science of the Polyvagal Theory by Steven Porges. And the other thing that we share in common is that we've always been very entrepreneurial. And we both have multiple businesses in many different ways. And we not only see how universal design for learning can support children or adults in a learning environment, but also how it can support you as an entrepreneur. We have used UDL concepts within our sales, within our marketing, within, of course, any of the curriculum that we design and sell, or any of the curriculum that we support other people in designing and creating. And so one of the things that we find that is so

powerful about bringing this all together is that it allows us not to sort of pigeonhole ourselves into doing one thing or the other if you're a highly creative person. And so we find a lot of these, these strengths come together.

Loui

Beautiful. So it allows you to stay really broad and like you said not pigeonhole yourself within any aspect of the business. Because I think as business owners, we all have what we're strong at doing and there are other areas where maybe we're not as strong, so it sounds like, and you can tell me if I'm right or wrong, but that you're that the application of UDL is not only helping you all design your aspects, the multiple aspects of the business, but it also helps you design what you're going to offer to others to help them think through design of their business and what they're doing. Did I get that right?

Anne

Absolutely.

Chantill

Yes. Yeah, and I would just add, too, I mean from my perspective. So we have created a system that reflects our business, and UDL is, is a major pillar, we have three pillars of our business, and really it falls into one primary pillar. And what I love about it is we're so deeply dedicated to transformation, both for ourselves and for the people who are offering education, but then to also translate and transfer that to the people we are touching and reaching. And to support our entrepreneurs and coaches and leaders you know, and educators in doing the same, UDL has become like a language that we just speak and we speak it through all of the aspects of our business. And I think that framework allows us to take things that can be incredibly complex and sometimes overwhelming, and say well, if you look at it through this lens, through this system, which of course Anne and I love, it's so nerdy and so science based and it's about the brain, is so meaningful and yet offers such a level of succinctness and clarity that people can, they have guidelines that they can follow. They don't have to make it up as they go. They don't have to be floating around in endless questions about how to do something. So at least from my perspective, the UDL is a massive anchor in everything that we do, both from the business perspective and the education perspective, because you know, our, the roots and heart of our business is teaching. Is education. And we want to, we want to make money doing it and we want to serve doing it and we want to help other people to do the same.

Loui

Fabulous. So Chantill, that's the perfect way for us to segue toward the end of this part one of the podcast because you really have talked about how UDL is the anchor, it's an

anchor for your business, and it also is an anchor for everything else you deliver. So what we'll do is we'll bring this one to a close. And then for folks who are listening, you know that this next podcast coming up, you're gonna get more of their "how". So for this podcast, Chantill and Anne, I want to say thank you so much and everyone just hang on, because you're gonna get to hear Part Two really soon. So for those listening to this podcast, you can find supplemental materials like an image montage with closed captioning, that montage with audio descriptions, a transcript, and an associated blog at my website, www.theUDLapproach.com/podcasts. And finally, if you have a story to share about UDL implementation for UDL in 15 minutes you can contact me through www.theUDLapproach.com. And thanks to everyone for your work in revolutionizing education through UDL, and making it our goal to develop expert learners.