



## 2026 QUARTER ONE UPDATE

As we reflect on the first quarter of 2026, we are seeing clear progress across several key priorities, including advancing our Universal Design Showcase Workplace and strengthening the Starkloff Career Academy.

### Strategic Initiatives

#### Update on the Universal Design Showcase Workplace

After a competitive process, we selected **CannonDesign** as **the lead architect** for the Universal Design Showcase Workplace. The SDI Leadership team was impressed by CannonDesign's strong understanding of disability-led design and their thoughtful approach. This milestone moves us into the next phase of the project, bringing us closer to creating a space that demonstrates what is possible when inclusion is built-in from the start.



#### Visioning Event with CannonDesign

On April 2, we hosted our first Visioning Event for the Universal Design Showcase Workplace in partnership with CannonDesign. Following a walkthrough of the site, **18 board members** and members of the executive leadership team participated in a guided visioning session, offering input and recommendations that will shape the design and user experience of the Workplace.

### Organizational Strength and Impact

#### Welcome, Natasha!

We're excited to introduce Natasha Baebler, our new **Associate Director of Career Services**.

With more than a decade of experience in career development and disability inclusion, Natasha will play a key role in advancing the Starkloff Career Academy. She brings experience in accessible program design along with her lived experience as a legally blind professional and seeing-eye dog handler.



# Organizational Strength and Impact

## New Year, New Board Members

We welcomed **six new members** to our Board of Directors in January 2026. Bringing experience across business, healthcare, design, and community development, they strengthen our ability to advance inclusive workplace practices and expand our impact.

Please join us in welcoming Tiffany Dill, Cole Hoffarth, Taylor McCabe, Eric Reyes, Casey Wisdom, and Jeffrey Zornes to the Board.

## Dreaming Big with Joseph!

We're excited to welcome Joseph Govreau as this summer's **Dream Big Career Exploration Camp teacher**. Using both his professional expertise and **lived experience** as a thriving disabled adult, Joseph will guide our middle and high school students through subjects such as disability pride and history, self-advocacy, and preparing for the transition into their next chapter.

## Mythbusters: UD Edition

On March 25, we held our first Universal Design webinar of the year: **“Funding Inclusion: Universal Design with the Budget in Mind.”** The event brought together more than 80 virtual attendees exploring how to incorporate Universal Design into current and upcoming building projects.

We welcomed Daniel Van Sant, Director of Disability Policy at **The Harkin Institute** along with Kevin Nordmeyer, FAIA, Principal, and Jason Kruse, AIA, Associate Principal at BNIM. Through real-world case studies, they challenged the misconception that Universal Design is too costly.

## Save the Date!

This year we are expanding the **Starkloff Disability Employment Summit** with an additional half-day of programming. The Summit will take place **October 7-8**.

We're excited to host the **Starkloff Disability Institute Universal Design Summit 8, November 18-20**, for the first time since our virtual UD Summit 7 in 2021.

Special thanks to **World Wide Technology** for serving as the Employment Summit host sponsor and to **Saint Louis University** for serving as the Universal Design host sponsor. Stay tuned for more details on both events!



# Community Connection

## Creativity and Camaraderie

We recently held our second Starkloff Network event, a Paint and Sip. On a Friday evening, members gathered to connect while painting a landscape of the St. Louis Arch.

The Starkloff Network is a community of disabled and nondisabled leaders under 40 who are committed to building a more inclusive St. Louis. Since launching in November 2025, the Network has created opportunities for people to connect, share ideas, and grow together. If you, or someone you know is interested in joining the Starkloff Network, [they can fill out an interest form here.](#)

## Do You Dig Inclusion?

From April 21-22, Starkloff Disability Institute will host a 24-hour giving campaign, Growing Together, with a goal of raising \$100,000 to cultivate career success and transform lives.

For many of our candidates, getting connected with Starkloff is a chance for a fresh start—a new opportunity to thrive economically, professionally, and socially. Through our employer education and disability-led trainings, we are planting seeds of systemic change by equipping companies with the knowledge and skills to build more inclusive, accessible, and welcoming workplaces. Want to grow with us? [Get involved by making a day-of contribution, telling your friends, and sharing on your socials!](#)



**Thank you for your continued partnership and support.**

Because of you, we are expanding access to career pathways, strengthening inclusive workplaces, and creating new opportunities for disabled people to thrive. To delve further into our life-changing work, please check out our recently released [2025 Annual Report](#).

