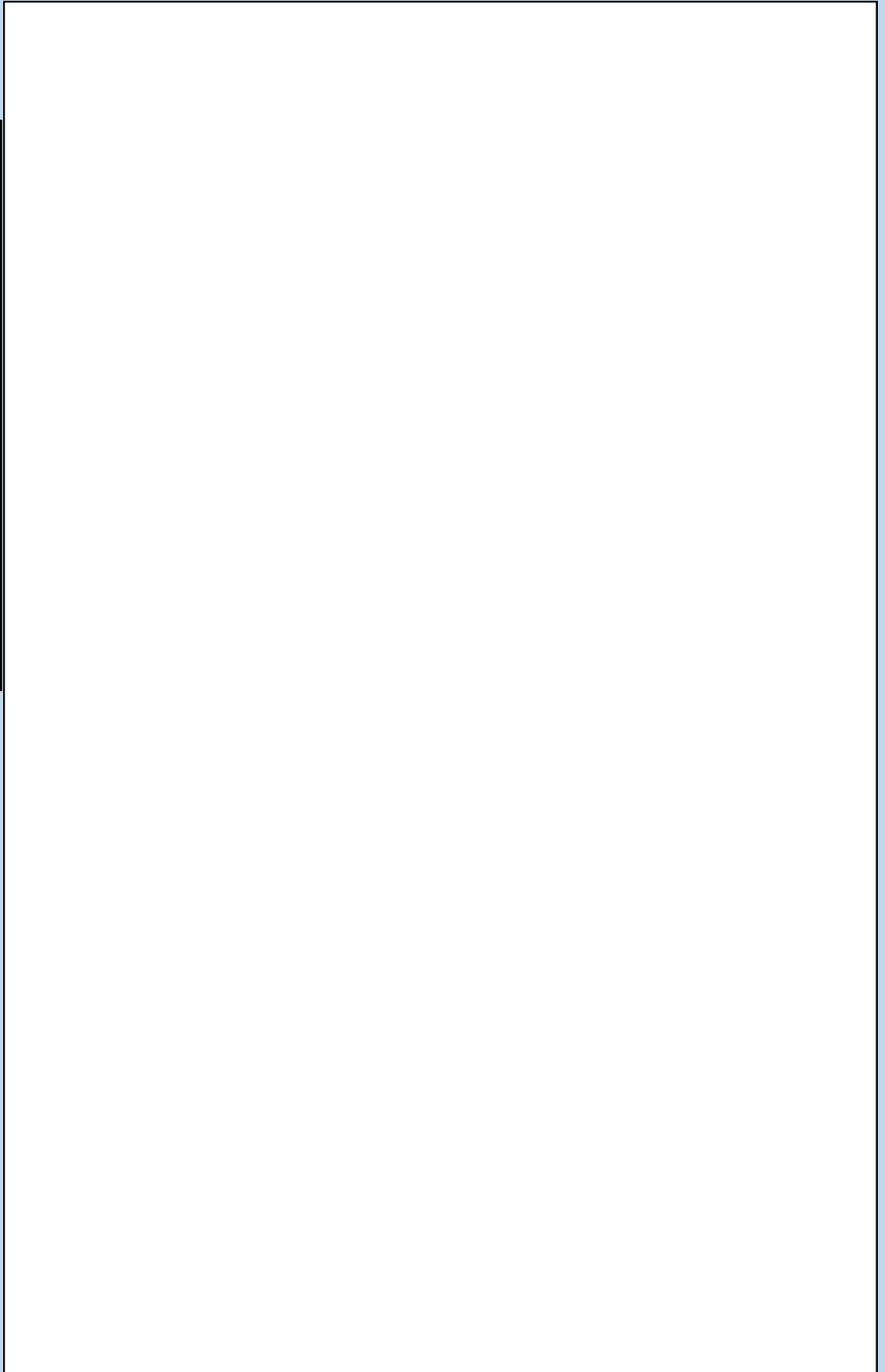
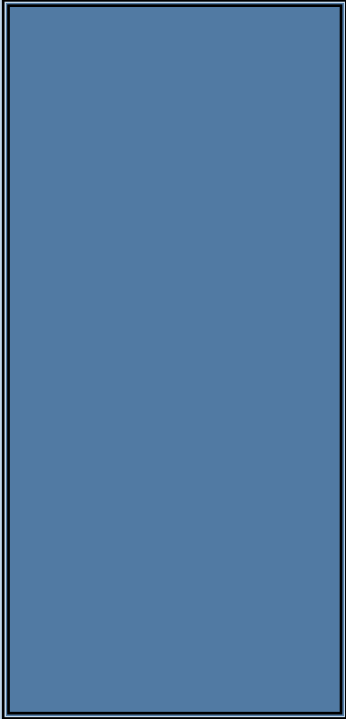


The DASS Insider

A newsletter for SMU Faculty



Appropriate Referrals to DASS

Sometimes professors, TAs, and staff members see a student struggling personally and/or academically, but they aren't sure how to address the student. One great thing about SMU is that you, and our students, have a lot of support!

So, the first thing to remember is that you're not alone - you don't have to figure out exactly what's going on with a struggling student or ask the student awkward questions like, "Do you have a disability?" Instead, point out what you've observed. A good way to put this is, "I've noticed that you're struggling more than other students in this class. Is there something I can do to help?"

Depending on what the student answers, you may

be able to resolve the issue yourself. In other cases, you should make an appropriate referral.

If a student shares that they suspect that they have a disability, that referral will be to us at DASS. Don't discount this. A majority of the students registered with DASS have ADHD, LD,

DASS can then make appropriate referrals to the health center, including counseling services, to the Office of Student Life, or to an outside professional.

If a struggling student discloses that they are registered with DASS, but they don't show you a current Letter of Accommodation from our office, refer them to us immediately. You are under no further obligation to make academic modifications unless you see the Letter of Accommodation and discuss its content with the student.

If a student has shown you their Letter of Accommodation, and they are still struggling, refer them to us, immediately. We can then assess the efficacy of the student's accommodations and other DASS services, as well.

Diversity in Academe

As part of their recent special report, *Diversity in Academe: Disability on Campus*, The Chronicle of Higher Education highlighted the careers of four faculty members with disabilities.

The entire article can be found [HERE](#).

