

# ACCESSIBILITY CASE COMPETITION

Ditching the Disability Dongle



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## Abstract

My goal was to introduce a diverse group of U-M students to the importance of inclusive design and equitable community engagement through an accessibility-themed case competition event.

The event invited participants to solve an accessibility case: pitch a plan to make self-driving cars more accessible, while avoiding the **disability dongle effect**.

## What is a Disability Dongle?

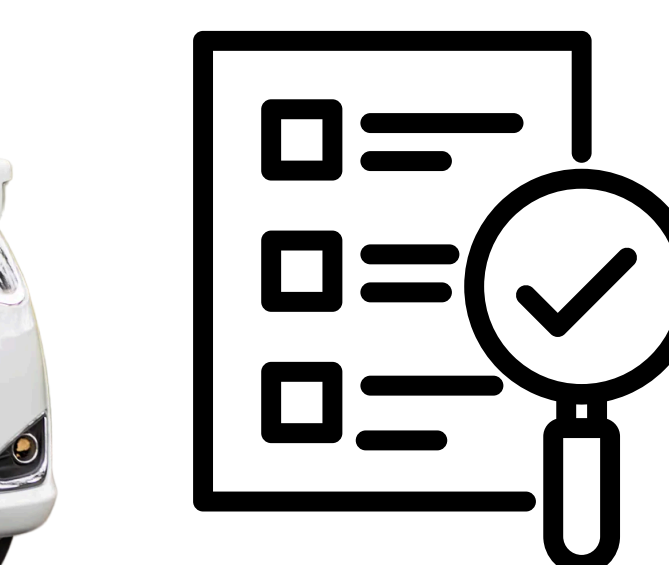
A flashy prototype built to solve an imagined problem for PWD.



But, it misses the mark!

## A peek into the case...

You are the PI of a new research study funded by Victors Vehicle Lab and a partner hospital hoping to launch autonomous shuttle services to improve healthcare access...



## Roadmap

### Ideation

- Initial idea of an event to teach students about the disability dongle effect

### Development

- Feedback in ALA 170
- Event accessibility
- Finalized plan and budget

### Outreach

- Outreach to 5+ disability-related student orgs
- Spoke with faculty and students with lived experience
- Partnered with CSG DEAC

### Launch

- April 5th, 4-7pm @ Pond Room
- Students worked in teams to solve an accessibility case
- Two "tracks" for inclusivity

1

2

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## RESULTS

3-hour case comp  
35 tickets sold  
25 participants  
2 expert judges

## Stakeholder Research

- Met with faculty leaders in the disability advocacy space (Ex. Dr. Okanlami - U-M ASF)
- Developed connections with student orgs (Ex. DJAM, DRIVE, DAC-HP, MedLaunch)
- Worked with PWD to finalize case prompt, received feedback from mentors and student collaborators

## Implementation

- Partnered with CSG DEAC to host event
- CART transcription and accessible slide deck
- Event advertising (Disability groups at U-M, U-M Neuroscience, U-M Engineering, U-M Kinesiology)
- Event logistics (Catering, Photography, Materials)
- Judging criteria (Inclusivity, Feasibility, Community Engagement, Creativity, Pitch Competency)

## Lessons Learned

- Rushed towards the end. Quick turnaround time for judging/deliberations, only 1-2 questions per team.
- Share prompts with students before the event and restructure work time on the day of event/introduce new details to case
- Outreach to students with lived experience earlier

## Next Steps

- Host an annual *Accessibility Case Competition*
- Currently developing continuity plan with DAC-HP
- Analyze event feedback from survey

Thank you to the BLI for making this event possible!