



January 27, 2026

It was a privilege to welcome Dr. Thomas J. Tobin as the keynote speaker for the 2026 District Day of Learning, Moving from Accessibility to Access. Tom brought an exceptional combination of expertise, practicality, and authenticity that resonated deeply with faculty, staff, and academic leaders across our district.

Tom's keynote struck a balance of being both visionary and immediately actionable. His approach to accessibility and inclusive design—grounded in Universal Design for Learning and real-world faculty experience—helped participants see accessibility not as a compliance obligation, but as an opportunity to improve teaching, learning, and student success for everyone. As one participant noted in their evaluation, "Tom made accessibility feel achievable instead of overwhelming. I left knowing exactly what I could do next."

What set Tom apart was his ability to meet our community where they are. He acknowledged the real constraints faculty and institutions face, offered practical strategies that felt realistic, and framed accessibility work as meaningful, human-centered, and sustainable. Another attendee shared, "This was the most engaging and useful keynote I've attended in years—clear, motivating, and genuinely respectful of faculty realities."

The impact of Tom's keynote extended well beyond the event itself. Participants left with renewed confidence, shared language, and concrete ideas they were eager to implement in their courses and programs. Feedback consistently emphasized how empowering the session felt, with one participant writing, "I feel more confident supporting accessibility in my courses after this keynote than after any previous training." His contribution meaningfully advanced our district's ongoing commitment to inclusive excellence, access, and student-centered design.

I would enthusiastically recommend Tom Tobin as a keynote speaker for any institution or organization seeking a trusted, inspiring voice on accessibility, inclusive teaching, and higher education transformation. His work has a lasting impact, and his presence elevates both the conversation and the community.

Sincerely,

*Steven R. Crawford*

Dr. Steven R. Crawford

steven.crawford@domail.maricopa.edu

District Director, Maricopa Center for Learning and Innovation

Maricopa County Community College District