

D.R.E.A.M.-U

MAGAZINE ISSUE 08 April 2025



“Disability is Strength” mural on display at the Oakland Airport. The mural is credited to artists D. Paul B., Chris Burch, Vanessa Bravo, and Saria Krdzmar.

ID: A group of disabled individuals, many in wheelchairs, power chairs, or using mobility aids, gathered in solidarity. They are smiling, speaking, and holding protest signs. Some of the signs read: “Curb Cuts NOT Fines,” “It Is Not Lies,” and “Buses for EVERYONE.” One figure is shown with a megaphone, while another holds a newspaper titled “Disabled and Proud.” A pink ribbon flows across the bottom, reading: “Disability is Strength – Desabilidad es Fuerza.” In the , a collage of scenes depicts key moments in disability rights history, such as protests, sit-ins, and the iconic 504 Sit-in in San Francisco. The background also includes symbolic imagery: the Golden Gate Bridge, civil rights marches, and a variety of international flags.



dreamcollegedisability.org

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Mission

Advance the interests of student rights, increased accessibility, social and policy change, support, and mentorship to disabled students and their allies in higher education institutions across the United States



DREAM - Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring



@dreamdisability



<https://tinyurl.com/fuchjwff>

Editor-in-Chief



Em Simone
Doffing
She/They

Em is

a queer and neurodivergent-psychologically disabled recent Master's graduate. They are certified as a proactive disability inclusion ambassador and mentor from the University of Kansas's Disability Inclusion Program. She currently manages the Disability Justice research lab at California State University in Long Beach. Their thesis is "Chronically Pained Webcomic Readers with Endometriosis Collectively Coping and Resisting Medical Ableism."

Their ongoing project centers disabled graduate students' (DGS) lived experiences in a Participatory Action Research (PAR) project. They are also a co-author on the book, "Disability Life Stories: Unfiltered Voices on School, Family, Career, and Finding Purpose." She is open to sharing information of her disabled lived experiences, research, and how to make both work and student environments inclusive.

A person with short, wavy brown hair and bright pink lipstick is smiling confidently at the camera while holding up a conference badge. The badge reads "2025 AERA Annual Meeting" and displays the name "Emily Oltman" along with "California State University - Long Beach" and the title "Researcher." The bottom of the image includes a caption that reads, "About to present my research at the world's largest education conference!"

Editor



*Chloe Marbell
Davidson*
She/Her/Ella

Chloe is

a neurodivergent-chronically ill Latina and disability advocate from Orange County, California. As a University of California, Irvine alumni, Chloe leads accessible social and recreational programs for the City of Irvine Disability Services. This summer, she is a 2024 intern for the American Association for People with Disabilities (AAPD) in Washington D.C.

Chloe has researched at the iSchool Inclusion Institute (i3) based at the University of Texas at Austin where her team's poster proposal on university patient health portals was presented at iConference 2023 in Barcelona, Spain. She aims to apply for graduate school to improve college access policy that ensures disabled high school students are included and supported as future scholars.

Image Description: Chloe poses in front of an aquarium tank and smiles directly at the camera. She's wearing a denim jacket, striped black-and-white shirt, black pants, and black-rimmed glasses.

SUBMISSION & ACCESSIBILITY COORDINATOR



Jessica
King
She/They

Jessica is

a first-generation, late-diagnosed neurodivergent and chronically ill student from CSU Long Beach, finishing her dual-major/dual-minor education in creative writing, comparative world literature, health humanities, and human development. Her next academic goal is to enroll in a graduate program focusing on education and social justice.

Shifting from pursuing English education to disability activism, Jessica presents at conferences and panels, volunteers in nonprofit organizations, and produces narrative projects about disability experiences. Dedicated to her mission, she strives to be an open-minded advocate of disabled communities through her sole proprietorship, Neuro-Sunflower Poet/ry, and forthcoming nonprofit organization, White Dove Disability Advocacy.

Image Description: Jessica smiles at the camera at a selfie-distance, standing at a lookout of small hills and the ocean at sunset. She's wearing a brown leather jacket, white blouse, and purple-rimmed glasses.

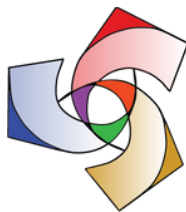
Activism Spotlight

Academic Autism Spectrum Partnership in Research and Education

www.aaspire.org



[Founded in 2006](#), AASPIRE conducts action research focused on improving the lives of [autistic adults](#). We use a [Community Based Participatory Research \(CBPR\)](#) approach where autistic and non-autistic scientists and community members work together in all phases of the research process.



Organization Spotlight

Neurodiversity Alliance



www.thendalliance.org/



Two graduates dressed in navy blue academic gowns stand on the steps of a building with tall white columns and wooden doors, their backs to the camera. Each is wearing a decorated graduation cap. The cap on the left reads “Killing the Patriarchy One Degree at a Time” in bold white and red letters with small decorative items. The cap on the right says “Proud to be” in white letters. Both individuals have one arm raised in a peace sign.

The Neurodiversity Alliance, or “The ND Alliance” for short, is a national nonprofit organization dedicated to building community, developing leadership skills, facilitating peer-to-peer support, and raising awareness for the 1 in 5 who learn differently.

Resource



SOCIAL ISSUES AND INTERVENTIONS

ABLEISM

The Causes and Consequences
of Disability Prejudice

Michelle R. Nario-Redmond



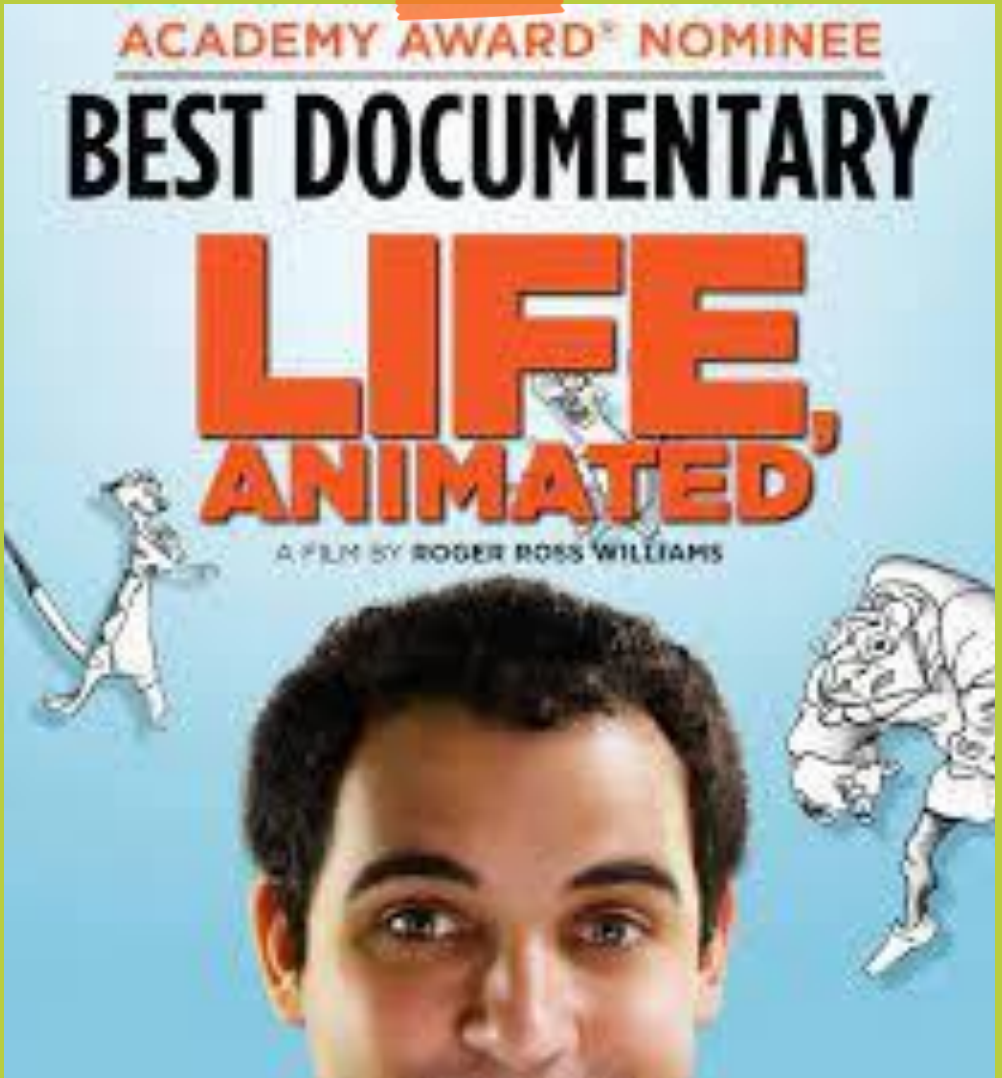
“It is the highly identified members of disadvantaged groups who want to talk most about power differences, and are most motivated to change group-based power inequalities (Saguy et al., 2008).”



Michelle R. Nario-Redmond

“I want a socially just society that respects and fosters the well-being of all its members.” - Dan Perlman, Editor

Resource



“

You have to live in the world

”

"It's Finding Peace in My Body":
Crip Theory to Understand
Authenticity for a Queer, Disabled
College Student



[Elisa Abes](#)




[Emily
Abrams](#)

“
Radical self-love calls for
the individual to love
themselves *because of* what
marks them as such.”



Chronic Pain Care Circle

**Registration ends
Tuesday, May 20, 2025
ASL | CART | virtual**



Register at San
Francisco Disability
Cultural Center's
website!

There is so much beauty and joy in disability – and there can also be so much pain. It's hard work to get through flares and manage the daily levels – it feels impossible in a culture that doesn't acknowledge our reality. The facilitator, LOTUS BOY, will guide the second Chronic Pain Care Circle. We'll focus on how we can access relief and care through our sense of touch. If possible, come ready to share your personal practices, tools, herbal or ancestral medicines for pain relief, comfort, and/or self-soothing. Or simply come as you are – this community holds space for all of it.



OPPORTUNITIES

Teighlor Mcgee Grassroots Mini Grants: AIA
(Affiliates In Action)

Application submissions open May 15, 2025 and stay open until July 31

Eligibility:

- 1. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older when they apply. If a group applies, they can have people under 18 in the group. But the project must be led by a member who is 18 years of age or older.*
- 2. Must be an ASAN Affiliate Group.*
- 3. Must be actively meeting.*
- 4. Must be self-advocate led.*
- 5. Open to international Affiliates.*

Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/mszphae>

Rest in Power Teighlor





OPPORTUNITIES

Teighlor Mcgee Grassroots Mini Grants: Step
(Self-advocates Transforming Equitable Policy)

Application submissions open May 15, 2025 and stay open until July 31

Eligibility:

- 1. All applicants must be 18 years of age or older when they apply. If a group applies, they can have people under 18 in the group. But the project must be led by a member who is 18 years of age or older.*
- 2. Must be a person with a developmental disability or a group with majority leadership with developmental disabilities.*
- 3. Must have pre-existing contacts and connections to communities of color.*
- 4. Proposal must plan to work with people of color with intellectual and developmental disabilities and address problems they disproportionately face.*
- 5. Does not need to be an affiliate of ASAN.*
- 6. International groups cannot apply to the STEP grant.*

Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/mszpnhae>



OPPORTUNITIES

Disabled Disrupters Policy Team Application

"We are the national youth-led movement dedicated to fighting for accessibility and disability justice for all through legislative advocacy and grassroots organizing. Our mission is to create an intersectional movement that has the people power to disrupt the status quo, and to advance a society based around disability equity and overall liberation.

We're currently looking for young, passionate student advocates for our policy team! As a part of this cohort, you will have the opportunity to learn about how to effectively craft and advocate for disability policy on the local, state, and federal levels, work with renowned policy leaders, and craft your own policy research proposal. Please email disabled.disrupters@gmail.com if you have any further questions."

**DISABILITY
POWER &
PRIDE**

Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/3krr4xd2>



OPPORTUNITIES

John Slatin AccessU Student Scholarship

This program is designed to empower all students passionate about digital accessibility. We offer scholarships available for both students with disabilities and without. Selected students will receive a full scholarship to the 2025 John Slatin AccessU conference, where they will gain unparalleled access to networking, learning opportunities, and industry insights.

Program Benefits

- *Full conference registration.*
- *Local travel and meal stipends if based in Austin.*
- *Professional headshots.*
- *Networking opportunities with industry leaders.*
- *A copy of the book *Demystifying Disability* by Emily Ladau.*
- *Access to a "meet and greet" session with TestParty's and Knowbility's team*

Learn More:

<https://tinyurl.com/2w5j243c>



OPPORTUNITIES

Society For Disability Studies' Board Member

Electing two graduate student representatives, five at-large board members, a new treasurer, and a president-elect. Graduate student representatives serve two-year terms and everyone else serves three-year terms.

<https://tinyurl.com/pj4z26n5>

No more than 4-5 hours per month to support SDS. That includes attending a board meeting every other month on the first Friday for 90 minutes. The standing committees—Nominations & Elections, Communications & Publications, and Events & Conferences—have monthly and annual goals that are clearly defined. Each committee is comprised of three board members that work autonomously and with the support of the executive board and administrative and website coordinators. Our shared goal is to make the labor we each provide to SDS sustainable and meaningful.