2022 Summit on Disability and Inclusion
Building Spaces for Belonging
Friday, August 12, 2022 | 9:00am - 12:00pm

Schedule

Welcome
Dr. Reginald Chhen Stewart

About Thompson Policy Institute on Disability
Drs. Meghan Cosier and Audri Sandoval Gomez

Keynote Presentation
The Walk with Joaquin: Journey to Inclusion
Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.

Research Presentation
Map Your Future: Aligning Skills to Labor Market Needs
Dr. Amy-Jane Griffiths and Rachel Wiegand, Ed.S.

Intermission

TPI Initiatives
Building Belonging in Educational and Community Spaces
Drs. Meghan Cosier, Audri Sandoval Gomez, Charlotte Achieng Evensen, Kevin Nguyen-Stockbridge, and Jill Perez, M.A.

Transition Services Panel
Orange County Community Partners Support Alex in His Journey to Full-Time Employment
Alex Zavala and Orange County Service Providers

Excellence in Disability Advocacy Award
Presented to the Honorable Dave Cortese, California State Senate

Closing
Drs. Meghan Cosier and Audri Sandoval Gomez
Dr. Reginald Chhen Stewart - Vice President of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Chapman University

Diana Pastora Carson has been an educator for over 30 years, teaching both at the elementary school level and the university level. She is a consultant and trainer on diversity as it relates to disability and is the author of several articles and books, including Beyond Awareness: Bringing Disability into Diversity Work in K-12 Schools & Communities, as well as her children’s book, Ed Roberts: Champion of Disability Rights. She has compiled her disability awareness teachings in a digital course entitled “Beyond Awareness: Disability Awareness That Matters.” Her Beyond Awareness work has earned her statewide PTA recognitions in the areas of advocacy and outreach, as well as her school’s designation of Teacher of the Year. She has also been featured on several radio programs and television news stories and served two terms on the board of directors of Disability Rights California. She currently serves as a board member of Disability Voices United. Although Diana experiences disability herself, she credits her brother, Joaquin Carson, for her passion for inclusion, disability advocacy, and activism. Joaquin endured years of segregated schooling and subsequent institutionalization. Diana takes the most pride in knowing that after many years of fighting for his release, Joaquin now lives a life of inclusion and quality, in the community, as her next door neighbor.

Dr. Meghan Cosier - Director and Associate Professor, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability, Attallah College of Educational Studies

Dr. Audri Sandoval Gomez - Co-Director, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

Dr. Amy-Jane Griffiths - NCSP, Assistant Professor, Attallah College of Educational Studies, Chapman University

Rachel Wiegand - Doctoral Student, Attallah College of Educational Studies, Ed.S

Dr. Charlotte Achieng Evensen - CalEPIC Senior Transformation Specialist, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

Dr. Kevin Nguyen-Stockbridge - CalEPIC Project Manager, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

Jill Perez, M.A. - Program Specialist, SPAIS and APL, Thompson Policy Institute on Disability

Keynote Presenter
Diana Pastora Carson, M.Ed.
Disability Advocate, Educator, and Founder of Beyond Awareness

Excellence in Disability Advocacy Award
Dave Cortese,
California State Senator

Senator Dave Cortese represents District 15 which encompasses much of Santa Clara County in the heart of Silicon Valley. Along with his accomplished career as an attorney and business owner, the Senator previously served on the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, the San Jose City Council, and the East Side Union High School District Board.