

Destigmatize * Educate * Empower

Welcome!

It's fall, y'all, and what a busy semester it's been. To our new students, welcome. [Watch our welcome video.](#) To our continuing students, welcome back. Check out our third issue to see what's been happening and what's in store for DSPS. And good luck on finals!

Rita Zobayan,
Editor

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Disabilities in the 2020 Elections

In his victory speech, President-Elect Joe Biden stated, "We must make the promise of the country real for everybody — no matter their race, their ethnicity, their faith, their identity or their disability."

For those who know that Joe Biden has a stutter, the inclusion of disability may not come as a surprise. Biden has publicly acknowledged his stutter for years, mentioning it in speeches, interviews, and articles. Still, disability activists took to social media to point out the direct reference to disability in a presidential victory speech, which many say is a first. Activists also pointed out that Biden's campaign prioritized outreach to voters with disabilities, hosting regular forums and including speakers with disabilities at the Democratic National Convention. In contrast, incumbent president Donald Trump received widespread criticism for mocking Serge Kovaleski, a New York Times reporter who has arthrogryposis

(a congenital condition affecting the joints), during a 2015 campaign rally. His administration has also been criticized for calling for cuts to disability programs, including an attempt in 2019 to stop federal funding of the Special Olympics.

At the writing of this newsletter, there is no finalized data as to how many voters with disabilities took part in the 2020 election or whether they voted en masse for Biden or Trump. (Estimates indicate that 161 million total people voted.) However, according to [vote-ability.com](#), over 35 million eligible voters are people with disabilities. The 2018 mid-term elections saw 14.3 million citizens with disabilities voting. The articles states that "Voter turnout surged by 8.5 points in 2018 among citizens with disabilities relative to the 2014 midterm elections... The increased turnout among people with disabilities occurred across all disability types and demographic categories—gender, race/ethnicity, age group, and region. Employed people with disabilities were just as likely as employed people without disabilities to vote, suggesting that employment helps bring people with disabilities into mainstream political life." The upturn is a success, especially considering there are still barriers to voting, such as lack of accessible entries, ramps, etc.

Read more / Click on these links:

[disabilityscoop](#)

[VOTE-ABILITY](#)

[disabilityscoop](#)

respect
ability
FIGHTING STIGMAS ADVANCING OPPORTUNITIES

We Say “Goodbye” to Kathryn KC Camp!

After 20 years at GCC, technology specialist Kathryn KC Camp is retiring. DSPS wishes her all the best ...

David F: We live in the now but it's the moments in life we remember! We have worked in the same dept. almost twenty years, on the opposite sides of campus. I remember your warmth, care and sense of humor since day one! You joined Dr. Parks and I as a volunteer in our swimming class to meet students and stayed the semester. How we joked about the YWCA's almost non existing pool deck heaters. There were six and so old they were only two that worked, and the rest were for parts.

Our fundraising and artistic paths kept us in touch through the years too. We both volunteered side by side. Our annual Taco Fundraiser so we could take students on summer trips. The Grand Canyon and trips to Baja De Los Angeles, Mexico. Starting a Disabled Student Club together... I still laugh about one of the names they voted on... Remember...one name “Disabled On The Go” was one students' idea? That was before we pointed out D.O.G. was the short shirt ID.

We also loved art and one of us was an artist (YOU) and the other... Well, I tried. We enjoyed many pottery classes together.. Marietta and I went to your showings. Bought some of your work too! I could sling a bowl but you, well, I envied your abilities.

Most of all, I can still hear the words of encouragement you gave freely to your students. The ability to put them at ease and make them smile. It's the care and community you brought into the classroom that allowed so many to succeed! May you enjoy retirement with that same zest and love. You will be missed!

Diana C: It has been a pleasure getting to know you. Thank you for being kind and friendly. Enjoy your retirement. You will be missed.

Diana M: wish you long and healthy retirement. I hope you enjoy the time you will spend on your paintings and ceramics. You and your sense of humor will be missed greatly. Congratulations!

Ellen: KC's work in the HTC as a Technology Specialist is legendary as is her wonderful sense of humor, her artistry and commitment to the students of our department. We will all miss her quick wit, her wonderful laughter and the baked goods she brought to the DSPS Gateway to Success Adult Re-Entry meetings as a co-faculty advisor for this group. It is hard to say goodbye to such a wonderful DSPS “family member.” We wish her the very best in her retirement and know that she will be kept very busy with her newly adopted cats and her paintings.

Flora: Congratulations on your retirement. Now it's time to relax and enjoy the next chapter of your life!

Jesse: KC has always been so willing to talk with me and connect with Garfield students. She provided such a wealth of information and I've learned a lot from her. I will miss her warmth and willingness to help at any time. I know the students at GCC will miss her as well! I hope she enjoys whatever her next step may be!

Karmen: I will miss you. I will miss your calm manners, your kind smile, and your readiness to help.

Lee: A year or so before KC started working as a high tech specialist at GCC, she did her Occupational Therapy Internship. She was an intern in GCC's Adapted Aquatics program, working with my student. This was my introduction to her. When she was hired by GCC, I knew the school and the students had acquired a dedicated, talented professional. Her years of helping students and other colleagues have proven me out. I have also known KC as an artist. I own several of her ceramic creations and use them frequently. I also attended an art show in Pasadena where she showcased her beautiful paintings. KC's professional and personal talents are numerous. I wish her the best in her retirement. I will miss her, as will the students and her colleagues.

Mauricio: Congratulations, KC! Your retirement will leave a space in our hearts and in our break room fridge. I will miss your uncanny sense of humor.

Rita: Congratulations on your retirement, KC! I hope you enjoy your time with your new kitties and continue to create your incredible art. I'll miss our chats.

Stela: I can't believe I'm writing this note to you to say goodbye! I remember meeting you for the first time in the I.A.C. so many years ago. Your welcoming smile and great personality told me right away that we were going to be friends and we were! I will miss our brief chats about your cats, your daily commute to Glendale from Santa Monica and not too long ago, your frequent trips to Encinitas to be with your father. I remember admiring your unbelievable talent in both ceramics and art.

You are a very special lady and a very special friend. Best of luck to you my dear K.C. in whatever path you choose to take. Stay in touch and keep us up to date on how and where you are! With fondest wishes and many happy memories as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Tina: Kc, I'll keep it short and sweet: I will miss you very much. You should be proud of the positive impact you have had on the lives of our students and staff through your time at GCC. I wish you a happy, fulfilling, and healthy retirement!

Winter is Coming...

Services from ARC

by Ellen Oppenberg,
Learning Disability Specialist

It has been a very busy semester. The Accommodations Resource Center (ARC) staff has enjoyed interacting with numerous students during online tutoring, specialist accommodations phone meetings, study techniques meetings, online test proctoring, and alt media connections.

Soon finals will be upon us (12/9 - 12/16). For ARC, this means the potential for many students to need on-line test proctoring. It's also an opportunity for ARC to continue our great services for students. If you are eligible for extended time on tests/finals, please take these steps:

- 1) Email arc@glendale.edu **a week before finals begin**. This means that you should email us by 12/2. Let us know the class you need proctoring for, the instructor, and the date and time of the test.
- 2) If you are eligible and have not requested test accommodations yet this semester, **please do it now**. Email arc@glendale.edu, and let us know that you need a phone appointment with a specialist. Remember that services must be requested in a timely manner. Waiting until right before finals does not fit that criterion.

Winter Session

If you are enrolling in classes for the Winter session, please know that ARC will be offering these services: Tutoring (for Math and English classes) and Test Proctoring. To obtain these services, email arc@glendale.edu during the first week of the Winter session. Please specify what you need in the email and include your full name and ID number.

SOFTWARE SPOTLIGHT

NATURAL READER

by Scott Ziegler,
Alternate Media Tech Service Provider



Text-to-speech software is an incredibly useful tool for individuals who experience literacy challenges, a learning disability, vision loss, and those learning a new language. It facilitates the consumption of large amounts of digital literature, which as we all know, has become the norm in this age of online learning. Natural Reader is one of the best of the many text-to-speech options available, and can be used as stand-alone software, a web-based reader, mobile app, or Chrome extension.

The application supports .docx, .pdf, .txt, .rtf, .ppt, .pages, and .epub file formats. While paid versions of Natural Reader offer additional premium voices, OCR capability, and even the ability to create .mp3 audio files from text, the free online reader also works quite well.

To get started, go to www.naturalreaders.com and select the blue "Go to Online Reader" button. Once the online reader window is open, a supported file can simply be dragged and dropped right onto the web page. The toolbars at the top and left side of the screen can be used to play/pause, change voices, adjust the reading speed, add bookmarks, etc.

We encourage you to take a moment to try Natural Reader and see how text-to-speech technology can positively impact your digital reading, learning, and working experience.

Any questions? Please contact Scott at sziegler@glendale.edu.

Are you following our IG?

We hope so! If you are, then you know that you're up to date with what's happening with DSPS and more. Workshop and scholarship announcements, employment opportunities, accessible voting info, fundraisers, conferences, webinars, and deadlines are just some of the topics we've been posting.

Follow
us at
[dsps_gcc](https://www.instagram.com/dsps_gcc).



October was disAbility Awareness Month by Rita Zobayan, Counselor

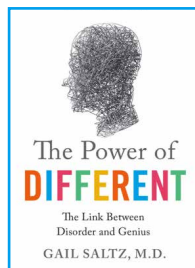
We kicked off October with our virtual **Student Welcome**. With presentations from all the DSPS departments, as well as Student Affairs, the Multicultural Engagement Center, Student Equity,

and EOPS, our students learned more about the GCC community. Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Schlossman; Dean of Student Services, Dr. Yamanishi; Dean of Student Affairs, Tzoler Oukayan; and Student Services Division Chair, Dr. Cortes greeted our students. We thank ASGCC for funding this event.

Next, we screened and discussed the award-winning documentary **Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution**, which is executive-produced by former President Barack Obama and former First Lady Michell Obama.

A **student panel** shared their experiences with GCC's staff, faculty, and administration. They discussed their family, cultural, and educational experiences with disability, as well as their thoughts on distance education. We thank those students for this informative and powerful session.

COMING IN DECEMBER: Our first virtual **Book Club** discussion is on Thursday, December 3, 12:30-1:30pm. We will discuss **The Power of Different: The Link between Disorder and Genius** by Dr. Gail Saltz. Please RSVP to me at rzobayan@glendale.edu, and I will send the Zoom link. Students inquire with your English teacher regarding extra credit. We have free copies of the book for you. Faculty: FLEX is available.



From the back book cover:

In *The Power of Different*, psychiatrist and bestselling author Gail Saltz shows how the very conditions that cause people to experience difficulty at school, in social situations, at home, or at work, are inextricably bound to creative, disciplinary, artistic, empathetic, and cognitive abilities. In this pioneering work, readers will find engaging scientific research and stories from historical geniuses and everyday individuals who are leaning into their brain differences to:

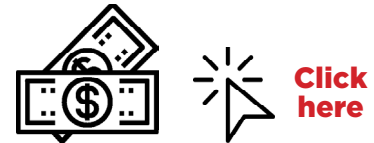
- *Identify areas of interest and expertise
- *Develop work arounds
- *Create the environments that best foster their talents
- *Forge rewarding interpersonal relationships

Enlightening and inspiring, *The Power of Different* proves that the unique wiring of every brain can be a source of strength and productivity, and contributes to the richness of our world.

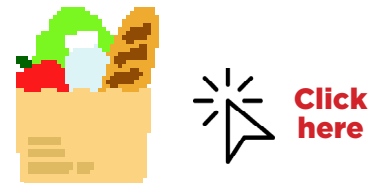
BASIC NEEDS RESOURCES

Students, if you need help with paying for basic needs such as food, housing, child care, medical costs, etc., please apply to the

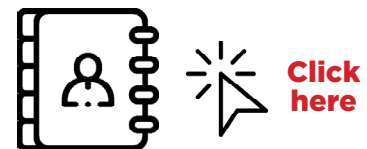
GCC Emergency Grant



The GCC Food Pantry is open for contact-less pick up by appointment.



DSPS Resource Guide



ABILITIES EXPO is Nov 20-22.

This free virtual conference features workshops, guest speakers, exhibitors, and more!



Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Turned 30!

In 2020, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Turned 30!

From ADA.gov: This year marks the 30th anniversary of President George H.W. Bush signing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into law. Throughout this 30th anniversary year, the Civil Rights Division is recognizing the many ways in which the ADA has transformed American society and enabled a generation of Americans with disabilities to thrive.

Watch that historic moment here:



To better understand what ADA is, watch this:



Two of our DSPS students share their thoughts on the ADA and what it means to them.

My name is Torrey.

The American Disabilities Act allows me to look for a job without feeling like my potential employer is going to single me out just on the basis of me having a disability. The ADA allows me to also have the free option of being able to take public transportation wherever or whenever I want to do so. The most important thing that the Act has done for me is make me feel I have equal rights as everyone else does. Just because I have a disability doesn't limit me to doing certain things or shouldn't make me feel as though I am a less of a human being as everyone else is.

The most important things I feel like people should realize about having a disability is that just because someone has a disability doesn't make them stupid or weird. **Having a disability makes you unique and special, but not stupid or weird.** The other thing I wish people realized is just because someone has a disability doesn't mean that they need help all the time. The last thing I wish people realized is that when you bully or make fun of someone who is disabled, that it hurts and it really makes you feel as though you are less of a human being and in turn makes you feel like an animal.

My name is Lori White

and I was born with a hereditary disease called Cystic Fibrosis. This is a progressive disease that primarily affects the lungs and pancreas. Back then, the age that you would lived to be was around eleven. Over the years I have always been at that median age prediction of death. I have now surpassed that median age by about ten years, and I hope to continually do that. Looking at me, you would have never known there was anything wrong with me until about five years ago when I was put on continuous oxygen.

Thanks to the ADA I was able to get on a government program for help with the very expensive medicines I take. One is acutely \$300,000 dollars a year. Yes, that is the correct amount of 0's. I was also able to retire on disability as well, and they helped me to get a handicap sign when I do have to go out.

The 30th Anniversary of the ADA

by Lee Miller Parks, Ph.D., Adapted Physical Education Instructor

As you read this article, our society deals with many issues. COVID, reviving a healthy economy, homelessness. . . I have been witness to the improvement or resolution of many serious issues. I remember the busing of students, integration of bathrooms and buses and sit-ins of the Civil Rights Movement. The Vietnam War. So many of my close high school friends had been drafted into the military and sent to Vietnam. (Many are listed on the Vietnam War Wall in Washington D.C.) I took part in the protests to end that war. And I was a part of the protests that exposed the inequities and necessities of people with disabilities.

I have been an Adapted Physical Education (APE) teacher since 1977. I was the first person to hold a Master's degree in "APE" in the state of New Mexico. My first APE job in the Albuquerque Public Schools was created by the school system in response to multiple lawsuits filed by parents of children who happened to have a disability.

It was the societal norm at that time to have State Hospitals that housed (I use the term loosely) the severely disabled. People were sent there and forgotten. School programs (if they existed at all) were segregated--able from disabled and segregated again "educable" from "uneducable."

As I taught and met with parents, I came to realize that the issue of rights for the disabled was swelling up to become another national, societal problem. The State Hospitals were exposed for their inhumanness and filth. Grass roots meetings were taking place. The return of so many wounded Vietnam veterans and their inhumane treatment added momentum to the effort. The news was starting to give coverage to the protest efforts. National alliances formed with other entities who had "suffered the same way." (You can see the infamous Willowbrook Institution exposé here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bpVEjzO6Dd0>)

What I am describing took YEARS to coalesce into the force that resulted in the Americans with Disability Act. Only through suffering discrimination, hard work, research, sleeplessness, conviction, discomfort, selflessness and pointing blame and shame on the Federal Government was this act signed into law. So many gave, so many have died since it was signed. You should never take this law for granted.

Learn More!

ADA: Disability Rights are Civil Rights!

You can [watch the famous Capitol Crawl](#), when in 1990 individuals with disabilities crawled up the steps of the Capitol building in Washington DC. Organized by American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit (ADAPT), the activists chanted, "Access now! ADA now!" Their aim was to convince Congress to push the legislation, which had stalled. From children to senior citizens, these individuals made the difficult climb. Four months later, President George HW Bush signed the legislation.

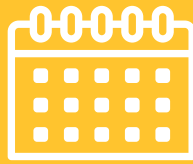
Read an interview with some of the participants:

<https://www.newmobility.com/2020/07/the-capitol-crawl/>



<https://vimeo.com/328233990>

Upcoming Events



Contact Us



IMPORTANT DATES for Winter & Spring:

Winter 21 term: January 4-February 11
Winter drop deadline for refund eligibility and no EW transcript notation: not available at the time of writing; check Admissions webpage
Spring 21 priority registration: Nov 16-Dec 4
Open registration is Dec 7-Feb 11
Spring 21 term: Feb 16-June 9

Stay tuned for info on these events in Spring 21!

- Disability Resources Virtual Fair
- Spring Book Club

Communication Fundamentals Workshops via

Zoom will continue in Winter and Spring. This group works on topics from making small talk to honing interview techniques. Guest presenters join the fun, too. **Email Rita at rzobayan@glendale.edu for more details/to sign up.**

Gateway to Success Adult Re-Entry Meetings

via Zoom will continue in the spring. Are you a non-traditional age returning student (ages 24 and up)? This group is for you. We support one another through meetings and discuss many different topics. **Email Ellen at elleno@glendale.edu for more information.**

Project PAIR UP (technology) via Zoom will

resume in the spring. This is a technology-based program that aims to help students discover which assistive technology programs and applications work best for them. The program is iPad-based, and consists of free iPad loans, technology/application seminars, and individual/group instruction. **Email David at dmidell@glendale.edu for details on loans/seminars/instruction.**

We're on Instagram!

Follow DSPS at [@dsps_gcc](https://www.instagram.com/dsps_gcc)



Center for Students with Disabilities (CSD)

Diana C., Flora, Karmen, Rita, Tina, Tracey
csd@glendale.edu, ext. 5905
MON to TH 7:30am to 4:30pm
FRI 7:30am to 3:30pm

Accommodations Resource Center (ARC)

(formerly the IAC and HTC)
David, Diana M., Elena, Ellen, Kathryn (KC), Laura, Mauricio, Rozik, and Stela
ARC@glendale.edu
MON to FRI 8:00am to 4:30pm

Alternate Media

Scott
sziegler@glendale.edu, ext. 3366
MON to TH 8:00am to 5:00pm
Alternating FRIs 8:00am to 4:00pm
Please email for Friday availability.

Adapted Physical Education

Dr. Parks: lparks@glendale.edu
Coach Laura: lauram@glendale.edu

Intepreting Services

Kim
kweissman@glendale.edu
MON to FRI 9:00am to 3:00pm

Garfield DSPS

Jesse
jessev@glendale.edu, ext. 5027
MON 8:00am to 5:30pm
WED 8:00am to 4:30pm
FRI 8:00am to 2:30pm

Have questions or ideas about the newsletter? Contact the editor, Rita, at rzobayan@glendale.edu.