25 YEARS AFTER THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA): Public Policy, Personal Attitudes, and Social Change

Friday, April 22, 2016
1:30 – 3 p.m.
Givens Conference Room (120 Elmer Andersen Library)
West Bank campus

Free and open to the public
Live streaming available via our website

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Historically, the progress of civil rights movements often ebbs and flows, sometimes making great strides, then regressing during periods of economic or cultural turbulence, changes in political leadership, and new legal interpretations, especially decisions by the Supreme Court. While passage of the ADA in 1990 provided a gateway to mainstream life for people with disabilities, many barriers, issues, and questions remain. Most important among these problems are the following: unemployment and underemployment; lack of accessible transportation; lack of access to appropriate and advanced technology; and insufficient access to health care. Additionally, concepts such as ‘employer responsibility’, ‘reasonable accommodation’ and ‘undue hardship’, lack scope and specificity, and therefore are continually reviewed through case law. Furthermore, changes in personal attitudes and cultural practices also present new challenges and interpretations of the original law. Through the various lenses of research, activism, law, and community culture, we will explore current issues and future possibilities for this important legislative achievement.

Panelists: Sue Abderholden, Executive Director National Alliance on Mental illness (NAMI);
Justin Page, Attorney, Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid, Minnesota Disability Law Center;
Sue Lindgren, Access Consultant, University of Minnesota Disability Resources Center;
Margot Imdieke-Cross, Access Specialist, Minnesota State Council on Disability.

Moderator: Linda Wolford, Associate to the Associate Director/Student Access Disability Resource Center, Office for Equity and Diversity.

Learn more at diversity.umn.edu/criticalconversations, or contact Anne Phibbs at phib0001@umn.edu or 612-625-9973.

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