

TIMOTHEUS (T.J.) GORDON, JR.

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<https://linktr.ee/TimotheusGordonJr>

Research and Advocacy Interests

- Inclusion of People with Disabilities in Sexuality & Gender Identity Pride, Parenting, Nerd/Geek Culture, Higher Education, Financial Wellness, Entrepreneurship, Content Creation, and Arts/Entertainment/Media/Sports
- COVID-19 Awareness in BIPOC Disability Communities
- Mental Health and Police Violence in BIPOC Disability Communities
- Media Representation of People with Disabilities
- Arts, Sports, Writing, and Entertainment within Disability Community
- Disability Acceptance and Self-Advocacy in BIPOC Disability Communities
- Intersection on Disability and Race, including Blackness and Autism

EDUCATION

- MS** University of Illinois Chicago, Disability and Human Development August 2019
Thesis: "Evaluation of Training on Disability Acceptance
in Communities of Color"
Advisor: Dr. Akemi Nishida
- MFA** Savannah College of Art and Design Atlanta, Writing March 2014
Thesis: "Autism as a Superpower"
Advisor: Dr. Catherine Ramsdell
- BA** University of Minnesota - Twin Cities, English August 2010
Area of Concentration: Poetry
Minored in African and African American Studies &
Comparative U.S. Race and Ethnicity Studies

Certificates/Certifications

**National Disability Institute (NDI) and
Illinois Developmental Disabilities
Council** Fall 2024
Certified Financial Wellness Educator

Illinois Partners in Policy Making June 2024
Cohort #5, Certificate

Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Associate Certificate	May 2024
Marc Gold & Associates, Illinois Development Disabilities Council, and Association of Community Rehabilitation Educators National Certificate of Achievement in Employment Services, Basic Level with Emphasis in Customized Employment	May 2024
University of Illinois Chicago Certificate in the Foundations of College Instruction	May 2024
Great Lakes ADA Center Certificate of Completion of the ADA Trainer Leadership Network Train-The- Trainer Workshop	March 2024
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via University of Illinois Chicago Group 2. HSP, Social / Behavioral Research Investigators and Key Personnel. Stage 3 - Refresher Course	February 2024
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via Brandeis University Responsible Conduct of Research Stage 1 - Basic Course; Social & Behavioral Research, Stage 2 - Refresher Course	November 2022
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via University of Illinois Chicago IPS for Researchers, Stage 1 - Basic Course	September 2020
Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via University of Illinois Chicago	August 2016

Social and Behavioral Responsible Conduct
of Research Course 1, Stage 1 - Basic
Course

Illinois Institute on Technology
Master Certificate in Web Design and
Development

March 2016

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Crain's Chicago Business 2022 Notable Black Leaders and Executives	2022
AUCD Leadership Institute Fellowship	2022
Chicago Beyond Rapid Response Fund	2022
Crossroads Grant	2022 - Present
Disability Lead Institute Fellowship	2022
Dinah F.B. Cohen DREAM Fellowship	2021 - 2022
Morley – Williams Community Advocate of the Year	2021
Healing Illinois Grant	2020
National COVID-19 Resiliency Network Mini-Grant	2020
National Disability Mentorship Coalition Hall of Fame	2020
SARTAC Fellowship	2020 – 2021
College of Applied Health Sciences Achievement Award for Outstanding Person	2019
Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois Fellowship Program (DFI)	2017 - 2019
Van Doren Scholarship	2017
Page – El Scholarship	2017
Annie B. Hopkins Youth Award	2016
UCEDD Diversity Fellowship	2016 – 2018

Illinois LEND Fellowship

2016 – 2017

Ronald E. McNair Fellowship

2009

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Brandeis University- Waltham, MA

2023 - Present

Peer Researcher

- Utilize background of lived experience as a disabled person of color to interview participants of a research study observing “Nursing Home Transitions Towards a Community-Living/Home-Based Care Model”
- Have conducted 2 qualitative interviews and regularly assist in community-based data collection
- Proficient in data analysis, coding, and memoing tasks through Atlas.ti
- Associated Certifications: CITI Responsible Conduct of Research Certification & CITI Social and Behavioral Research Certification
- Moderated the “Fire Through Dry Grass Team” panel in January 2024
- Co-drafting and co-authoring upcoming paper related to the “Nursing Home Transitions Towards a Community-Living/Home-Based Care Model” research study

Institute on Disability and Human Development, Chicago, IL

2021 to Present

Visiting Research Associate II

- Helped secure Crossroads grant to fund Chicagoland DPOCC for FY 2023 to present
- Black/African American community outreach, DEI and accessibility consultant for several projects, such as BEST Project, Everybody Moves, We Walk 4 Health, and AgeOptions
- Assisting with developing curriculum for the virtual Future is Now course series for families, caregivers, and individuals with I/DD
- Develop and present webinars on intersectionality, COVID-19 in the disability community, and inclusion of people with disabilities in schools, workplace, and parenting, and sexual education
- Co-coordinate Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition events and campaigns
- Mentor and assist with supervising DHD 400 students who are doing service learning capstone projects
- Subcontracted by Brandeis University to interview BIPOC people of color with disabilities who transitioned from institutions to the community
- Co-lead two advocacy projects involving interviewing people with lived experiences: the Long COVID-19 project and Black Inclusive Wall Street project
- Co-facilitating, with self-advocate and media personality Jesus “Chuy” Campuzano, financial wellness webinars for people with disabilities, families, and disability-centered organizations in Illinois

Institute on Disability and Human Development, Chicago, IL 2019 to 2021
Research Assistant II

- Present and coordinate training sessions on autism and race, plus disability acceptance & activism on behalf of IDHD
- Assisted in securing Healing Illinois Grant and NCRN Mini Grant for COVID-19 and racial justice projects
- Developed plain-language materials on COVID-19 awareness, updates, resources, and vaccine hesitance
- Guest Lectured DHD courses on topics such as race and disability, and my advocacy in addressing police violence towards people with disabilities
- Created social media content and presentations to encourage people with disabilities to take the 2020 U.S. Census

Institute on Disability and Human Development, Chicago, IL 2016 to 2017
2018 to 2019

Graduate Research Assistant

- Gathered and organized data on Medicare demographics nationwide and in New York State
- Researched and organized articles on the intersections of race, gender, and care work
- Scanned book pages for class assignments
- Proofread IRB application

Illinois LEND, Chicago, IL 2016 to 2017
Fellow

- Project: “Identifying as an Autistic Person of Color”
 - Link: https://www.implementdiversity.tools/diversity_fellow_project_timotheus_gordon_jr

Ronald E. McNair Scholar Fellowship, Minneapolis, MN 2009
Fellow. Advisor: Alexis Pate

- Assisted in composing a catalog of contemporary African American authors, publishers, and literary journals for the Givens Foundation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

National Disability Institute 2024 to Present
Co-Presenter, via Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, the Institute on Disability and Human Development, and the National Disability Institute

- Co-present financial wellness webinars, with self-advocate Jesus “Chuy” Campuzano, to families, people with disabilities, and disability-centered organizations

The Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance 2024 to Present
Lead Facilitator of the LGBTQIA+ Neurodivergent Empowerment Group

- Facilitate and present topics on healthy relationships and sexuality and the intersection of LGBTQIA+ and neurodivergent identities to two to five

neurodivergent Illinoisans who also identify with being in the LGBTQIA+ community

- Completed the first cohort (August to December 2024)

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 2023 to Present
Co-Facilitator of Virtual Future is Now, Disability and Human Development

- Co-facilitate virtual and in-person train-the-trainer workshops in Illinois, New Jersey, and Ohio
- Co-facilitate all modules, mainly the self-advocate modules, of the Virtual Future is Now series for Illinois and Kansas families and individuals with I/DD

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL 2019 to Present
Guest Lecturer/Presenter, Disability and Human Development

- Present on my experience as an autistic self-advocate, artist, and disability activist in selected classes for various DHD and Co-Op Program courses, as well as disability and human development-related courses, including disability and art, at the School of the Art Institute Chicago and schools outside of UIC

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL March 2019
Presenter of “Training on Disability Acceptance”, Disability and Human Development

- Developed the curriculum, promoted the training via mailing lists and social media, and spoke to 50+ people about promoting disability acceptance and accessibility in communities of color

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL August 2017 to May 2018
Teaching Assistant, Disability and Human Development

- Created quiz questions based on weekly readings and films, promoted and assisted in Bodies of Work events (DHD 101)
- Graded written work and quizzes of between 10 – 20 students, met with students upon request, guest lectured on writing about my experience as an autistic black male for one class session (DHD 201)

BOOK, ARTICLE, CREATIVE WORK, AND JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS (INDIVIDUAL AND AS PART OF A COLLECTIVE)

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition. (2021, July 1). *“building intersectional disability communities through art+conversation” Post-Event interview series* [Video]. YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7wfImCAVKUPYNByEqtXCJ91HkJ0a3yf9>

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition. (2022, July 11). *COVID-19 information and resources* [Video]. YouTube.

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7wfImCAVKUNjUx30esgIf0VxaWJo_eYK

- Gordon Jr., T. (2022). *Creating an inclusive intramural, recreation, and club sports program on campus*. Partners for Youth with Disabilities. <https://learn.pyd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/04/Creating-an-Inclusive-Intramural-and-Club-Sports-Program-2.pdf>
- Gordon, Jr., T. (2017). Introduction to pharaoh 101. In L. X. Z. Brown, E. Ashkenazy, & M. G. Onaiwu (Eds.), *All the weight of our dreams* (p. (pages unknown)). Autism Women's Network.
- Gordon Jr., T. (2018). Book review: Bodyminds reimagined by sami schalk. *Ethnic Studies Review*, 41(1–2), 65–68. <https://doi.org/10.1525/esr.2018.411209>
- Gordon Jr, T. (2020, July 27). *#BlackAutisticJoy in ADA 30*. Disability Visibility Project. <https://disabilityvisibilityproject.com/2020/07/19/blackautisticjoy-in-ada-30>
- Gordon Jr., T. (2022, May 11). *Seeking and embracing all of who you are*. Organization for Autism Research. <https://researchautism.org/seeking-and-embracing-all-of-who-you-are>
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2023-2024, Winter). Blossoming into justice as a black autistic man. *Impact*, 36(3). Retrieved December 2, 2024, from <https://publications.ici.umn.edu/impact/36-3/blossoming-into-justice-as-a-black-autistic-man>
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2024, Spring/Summer). Open Letter: When Competition Leads to Addiction. *Impact*, 37(1). Retrieved December 2, 2024, from <https://publications.ici.umn.edu/impact/37-1/when-competition-leads-to-addiction>
- Gordon, T., Jr., Willour, B., and King, B. (2023-2024, Winter). Disabled I AM. *Impact*, 36(3). Retrieved December 2, 2024, from <https://publications.ici.umn.edu/impact/36-3/disabled-i-am>
- Gordon Jr., T. [Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition]. (2021, June 20). *Living the autistic life* [Video]. YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MTBEpiyQtvo&t=19s>
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2017, February 3). *Remembering stephon watts is essential to neurodiversity*. NOS Magazine. <http://nosmag.org/remembering-stephon-watts-essential-to-neurodiversity>
- Smith, M. J., Merle, J. L., Baker-Ericzén, M., Sherwood, K., Bornheimer, L. A., Ross, B., Harrington, M., Sharma, A., Brown, C., Gordon, T. (., Telfer, D., Reese, J., Hirst, J., Oulvey, E. A., Dignadice, V., Williams, E., Magaña, S., Hume, K., Sung, C., . . . Smith, J. D. (2024). A type 1 hybrid multi-site randomized controlled trial protocol for evaluating virtual interview training among autistic transition-age youth.

Contemporary Clinical Trials Communications, 42, 101384.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.conctc.2024.101384>

Kearl, B. and Gordon Jr., T. (2023 April 15). *Black Autistic Joy: or, Special Education Inside Out*. Paper presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association. Retrieved 2024 January 18 from the AERA Online Paper Repository.

The Harriet Tubman Collective. (2020). Disability solidarity: Completing the “vision for black lives” [E-book]. In A. Wong (Ed.), *Disability Visibility: First-Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century* (pp. 236–242). Vintage Books. Retrieved August 11, 2022, from <https://web.s.ebscohost.com/ehost/ebookviewer/ebook?sid=0beaba5c-da15-473d-ab8c-45ae2cc5f513%40redis&ppid=Page--134&vid=0&format=EK>

PRESENTATIONS, PANELS, AND MEDIA APPEARANCES

Panels

2024 Chronically-ill, Autistic, Neuro-eclectic, Disabled Organization for Reclamation (CANDOR) Virtual Conference, November 15, 2024

“Greek Life“(With David Spain), 2024 State of the Art/Student Leadership Conference, October 30, 2024

“ArtTism 2024 Panel Discussion: Autism in the Black Community” (with Bri Cain, David Mays, Ashley Coleman, Michelle Harrington, Alexis Warnick, and Reginald Morrissette), ArtTism 2024, September 29, 2024.

“Fire Through Dry Grass” Panel Discussion (as Moderator), Online, January, 17, 2024

“Code of the Freaks Film Screening at Midwest Film Festival”, Midwest Film Festival, June 7, 2022.

“THE SELF ADVOCACY MOVEMENT: A CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES” (with Calvin Cook and George Garcia), Online, February 15, 2022.

“Emotional Disturbance: How A Controversial IEP Designation Fails Black Boys” (with Kenya Martinez, Kim Kaiser, and Heather Clarke), Online, 2022.

“Making the Transition” (with Noah Ohashi, Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon Jr., Jae Jin Pak, Brittany King, Esmeralda Fernandez, Corbin Bowen, and Lino Carvajal), Chicagoland DPOCC, December 1, 2020.

“Code of the Freaks, Disability and the Post-ADA World” (with Alyson Patsavas and Carrie Sandahl), Online, August 27, 2020.

“#ADA30InColor Panel Discussion” (with Andraea LaVant, Reyma McCoy McDeid, Jen Deerinwater, Lia Seth, and Valerie Novack), Online, July 26, 2020.

“Code of the Freaks Screening at Kickstart Disability Arts and Culture Presents: Still, Life. A Digital Festival” (with Tsehaye Geralyn Hebert), Online, June 6, 2020.

“Taking the Privilege Out of Polyamory” (with Coriama Davis, Michaela Lovegood, Laura Madalinski, Polly Williams, Emma Fine, and Marta Collazo), Chicago Non-Monogamy Conference, 2018.

“Navigating and Resisting Compulsory Systems of Oppression” (with Nili Broyer, Hailee Gibbons, and Alyson Patsavas), University of Illinois Chicago, April 15, 2016.

“Police Brutality against Disabled People of Color: Reading of BLACK KRIPPLE DELIVERS POETRY & LYRICS” (with Leroy Moore), University of Illinois Chicago, April 7, 2016.

Paper and Project Presentations

“Future is NOW: Future Planning for Adults with ID/DD and their Families” (with Jae Jin Pak), 19th Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference November 7, 2024.

“Black Autistic Joy: or, Special Education Inside Out” (with Benjamin Kearl), 2023 AERA Annual Meeting, April 15, 2023.

“Building Inclusive, All-American, Campus Intramural Sports and Recreation Programs”, National Disability Mentoring Coalition Presentation, May 26, 2022.

“Autistic Identity in the African Diaspora”, Disability and Intersectionality Conference, October 13, 2018.

Keynote and Breakout Session Addresses

“Creating an Inclusive Post-Pandemic Future”, IM4Q Annual Statewide Training, July 26, 2022.

“The Intersection of Race and Disability”, ADA Audio Conference Series, February 15, 2022.

“Inclusive Self-Advocacy”, 2022 NACDD Conference, July 20, 2022.

“Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Post-Pandemic Future,” Disability Justice Week, November 2021.

“#HearOurVoices: Disabled People of Color & Allyship” (with Jae Jin Pak), 2021 Sibling Leadership Conference, June 19th, 2021.

“Disabled I AM” (with Candace Coleman, Speak Up! Speak Out 2020, November 20, 2020.

“SUSO Closing Ceremony...Or Is It?”, Speak Up! Speak Out! 2020, November 20, 2020.

“ADA Anniversary Update: 30 Years, Where Do We Go Now?” (with Jae Jin Pak, Emily Ladau, and Maria Town), ADA Audio Conference Series, July 14, 2020.

“Police Violence against Disabled People of Color” (as member of Advance Youth Leadership Power), 2017 Chicago Disability Studies Conference, April 7, 2017.

“College Bound and Beyond” (with Bill Gename), Chicagoland Autism Connection Spring Fling, April 18, 2015.

Workshops, Trainings, and Webinars

“2024 National Disability Employment Awareness Month Webinar Series” (with Jesus “Chuy” Campuzano), Online (via National Disability Institute, the Institute on Disability and Human Development, and Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition) October 23-27, 2024.

“Capacity to Consent” (with Susan Kahan, Barry Lowy, April Dear, and Sara Wright), Illinois Department of Human Services, May 4, 2022.

“Healthy Sexuality” (with Jae Jin Pak, Linda Sandman, and Teresa Parks), Illinois Department of Human Services, April 27, 2022.

“Fighting Ableism Together” (with Helen Rottier), Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, September 22, 2021.

“Meet the Coaches: Implementing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan” (with Jenean A. Castillo, Daniel Crimmins, Sally Gould-Taylor, Kimberly Mills, and Eduardo Ortiz). UCEDD Resource Center, June 30, 2021.

“The Big Push for CESSA Presentation”, Online Presentation, May 25, 2021.

“Anti-Racism Training for the Disability Community”, Online, February 24, 2021.

“Coping with Loss During COVID 19 and 2020 Societal Conflicts”, IDHD Webinar Series, October 21, 2020.

“Vote and be Counted!” (with Jae Jin Pak), IDHD Webinar Series, September 23, 2020.

“Create Your Own Emergency Resource Guide”, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, June 22, 2020.

“Let’s Learn About COVID 19 Resources for People with Disabilities”, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, May 26, 2020.

“Friday Fun Day: Stay and Play - All About Games Webinar” (with Krescene Beck), Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance, April 10, 2020.

“Sexual Wellness for People with Cognitive Disabilities as Sexual Violence Primary Prevention” (with Skye Kantola, Cierra Olivia Thomas-Williams, Jordan Haisley, Mary Ciccarelli, Pam Malin, and Cindy Bently), Indiana Disability Justice, April 3, 2020

“Supports For Autistic People From Marginalized Communities”, IDHD Webinar Series, January 22, 2020.

“Training on Disability Acceptance in Communities of Color”, University of Illinois Chicago, March 29, 2019.

Media Appearances (including Interviews)

“Disability Advocate on the Conversation Around Gus Walz and Neurodivergence”, Chicago Tonight, September 10, 2024

“Advocates Work to Make the Path Toward an Autism Diagnosis Easier”, Chicago Tonight, April 15, 2024.

“Impact, The Conversation: Episode 2: TJ Gordon and Jaime Cornejo”, Impact, The Conversation, March 15, 2024

“Disability advocates: City can do more about snow”, Chicago Tribune, January 24, 2024.

“Participants gather to celebrate the role of disabled Black people at Accessible Juneteenth: ‘We’re proud of our multiple identities’”, Chicago Tribune, June 18, 2023.

“Chicagoland DPOCC empowers people of color with disabilities” (with Will Jones and Jae Jin Pak), ABC 7 Chicago, July 21, 2022.

“Interview Spotlight Series- Autism Acceptance Month”, Great Lakes ADA Center, April 14, 2022.

“Vaccine Confidence Stories”, AUCD, March 22, 2022.

“Timotheus Gordon: Black Autistic Experiences in Our Community”, Autistic Career Pathways, February 27, 2022.

“Code of the Freaks Twitch Watch Party with host Dominick Evans”, Twitch, February 26, 2021.

“The Road to Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion in the AUCD Network” (with Jeiri Flores and Jacy Farkas), Implement Diversity (AUCD Network), October 20, 2021.

“Being Black & Autistic: Mental Health, Bias, and Alternatives to Police Intervention with Timotheus Gordon”, Two Sides of the Spectrum, 2021.

“ADAPT Presents: Community Emergency Services and Support Act” (with Jazmine Coates and Curtis Harris), CAN-TV (ADAPT Productions), 2021.

“Autistic Voices #DuringCOVID19 Session 3 - Moderate Paul Mckenzie & Nicole Zimbler” (with Max J. Green and Prince Israel), A2ndvoice Online, June 19, 2020.

Code of the Freaks, Kino Lorber. 2020. Credits Link:
<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt10411858>

“Disability and Mental Health” (with Chuy Campuzano), CAN-TV (Gay Liberation Network), December 13, 2019.

“Atypical and Yvonne Orji of Insecure: The Transcript” (with Aisha Harris and Sara Luterman), Slate Represent, August 13, 2017

“Tuesdays with Liz: Surveying Autistic People of Color” (with Liz Weintraub), AUCD Network, 2017.

“ADAPT – Effect of Proposed Gun Control Laws on People with Psychiatric Disabilities” (with Gary Arnold and Curtis Harris), CAN-TV (ADAPT Productions), 2016.

“1 campus, but 2 homecomings”, Chicago Tribune, November 3, 2008

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Society of Disability Studies, 2016 - Present

National Disability Mentorship Coalition, 2020 – Present

Iota Zeta Chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity International (as active member and alumni), 2008 - Present

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

BEST Community Advisory Committee

Committee Member, 2022 - Present

AUTmosphere Equity Network Community Advisory Board

Board Member, 2021 - Present

Speak Up! Speak Out!

Conference Co-Organizer, 2020 – Present

2018 Chicago Disability Studies Conference

Conference Planning Committee Member, 2018

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago

Youth and Racial Justice Advocate, Chicago, IL, April 2015 – December 2024

Economic Justice Advocate, Chicago, IL, November 2024 - Present

Cinema/Chicago (Chicago Film Festival)

Accessibility Advisory Committee Member, Chicago, IL. 2023 - Present

Chicago Disability Pride Parade

Planning Committee Member, Chicago, IL, 2020 – Present

The Trailblazers of the Chicagoland Autism Connection

Member and Advisor, Chicago, IL, 2020 - Present

Chicago Disability Activism Coalition

Member, Chicago, IL, August 2018 – 2022

Board Member, Chicago, IL, 2019 - 2021

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition

Co-Lead, Chicago, IL, August 2018 – Present

Illinois Department of Human Services

Developmental Disability Advisory Board Member, Springfield, IL 2020 – 2023

Sexual Education Workgroup Member, Springfield, IL, 2020 – Present

Community Emergency Services and Support Act (CESSA) Statewide Coalition

Member, Chicago, IL, 2021 – 2024

Statewide Independent Living Council

Board Member, Springfield, IL, July 2022 – Present

Changing Children's World Foundation

Parenting with All Abilities Facilitator, Geneva, IL, July 2022 – October 2023

Parent Advisor, Geneva, IL, July 2022 – December 2023

Disability Lead

Disability Lead Ambassador, Chicago, IL June 2022 – Present

Autism Society of Greater Chicago

Founding Board Member, 2023 - Present

Chicago Urban League (South Side Community Reparations Coalition/SSCRC)

Community Researcher and Planning Committee Member, Chicago, IL, October 2021 – June 2022

UIC Co-Op Program

Student Life Liaison, Chicago, IL, October 2022 – August 2024

Special Olympics Coach, Chicago, IL, September 2022 – August 2024

LANGUAGES

English: Native Language, Intermediate Plain-Language Translation

Spanish: Novice Speaker and Listener, Intermediate Reading

American Sign Language: Novice Speaker and Listener

COMPUTER SKILLS

Fluent in: Social media, Adobe Creative Suite, Google Suite, Microsoft Office, Social Media Content Creation

Have basic knowledge in: Qualtrics, Altas.ti

MISCELLANEOUS/ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Appeared in the documentary *Code of the Freaks* as an interviewee who gave insights on media representation of disability, Blackness, and autism in movies
- Fluent in social media content creation, public speaking, lecturing, blogging, technical writing and editing, creative writing, creating promotional fliers and brochures, and mentorship
- Trained in campus advocacy at Autistic Self-Advocacy Network’s Autism Campus Inclusion program (2015)
- Appeared with Chicagoland DPOCC co-founder Jae Jin Pak in ABC 7 Chicago’s profile on Chicagoland DPOCC (July 2022)
- Selected as a 2022 cohort member of the Social Justice Portal Project’s Maroon University

REFERENCES

Available upon request



TIMOTHEUS "T.J." GORDON JR., MFA, MS

Teaching Portfolio



ABOUT T.J.

Timotheus “T.J.” Gordon Jr., MFA, MS,
is a research associate at the Institute
on Disability and Human Development
at University of Illinois at Chicago.

Gordon uses his passion for self-advocacy, racial equity, disability culture, and autism acceptance to create webinars, training sessions, and publications on autism and race, inclusion in communities of color, exploration of sexuality in the disability community, coping with COVID-19 pandemic, mental health emergency services, and more.

He is also a co-founder of Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC), which is supported by the Institute on Disability and Human Development.

Chicagoland DPOCC is a group of disabled people of color in the Chicagoland area that promote disability pride, self-advocacy, and inclusion in communities of color throughout the Chicagoland area.

In addition to his self-advocacy work, Gordon has also written essays and reviews related to disability and race.

His writings and cultural insights appear in the *Disability Studies Review*, the “*All the Weight of Our Dreams: On Living Racialized Autism*” anthology, “*Code of the Freaks*” documentary, and *ADA 30 in Color*.

"Students are more motivated academically when they have a positive relationship with their teacher."

Jennifer Gonzalez
"5 Questions to Ask Yourself About Your Unmotivated Students"
<http://www.cultofpedagogy.com/student-motivation/>

TEACHING PHILOSOPHY

INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT OF TEACHING AND LECTURING METHODS

The purposes of my lectures and writing workshops are:

- To promote a nuanced, intersectional disability narrative that pushes back on ableist or more mainstream narratives,
- To share insights on my journey as a research-artist-activist in the disability community through storytelling and art
- To infuse all of what you do with accessibility in creating your disability and self-advocacy narrative, and an emphasis on letting people come as they are— plus an emphasis on connection and openness, and
- To plan for creative and inclusive careers that utilize the combination of your advocacy, dreams, access needs, interests

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

In my writing and blogging workshops, I create opportunities and spaces for people with disabilities (including self-advocates) and English/Creative Writing/Disability Studies/ThinkCollege students to express themselves and share their stories through writing poems, creative nonfiction, blogs, and treatments for movies and TV/streaming shows.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

As an artist with many disabilities, I find the power of art and writing to be freeing; I use my creative skills to broadcast my thoughts and feelings, and to contribute to a larger, vast narrative of being disabled (and in my case, with multiple intersectional identities like being BIPOC, non-monogamous, genderqueer cis-male, etc.).

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WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

I enjoy seeing my students not only master various creative writing mediums, but also use those mediums to tell their story in a way that is FOR them and ACCESSIBLE TO them.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

I don't subject my students to only one medium or one way of doing things. Writers usually come from many different backgrounds and have different viewpoints that they would like to address.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

As such, I seek to create an environment where students, especially those who are already self-advocates, can explore options in crafting their own disability narratives, get the tools needed to create their stories, and bring prior experiences to the table while also expose themselves to concepts and artists with disabilities that can help enhance their artform and advocacy.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

By the end of the workshops, students will produce a story where they can talk about their disability experience or tie their disability experience to daily life, things they enjoy, social topics, and more.

The story can be in the form of a poem, treatment for a movie or show, monologue, creative nonfiction piece (such as memoirs, essays), or a blog post.

There will be a few times where we can do check-ins on editing and progress on the final product.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

And the cool thing is that students can turn it in either in written form, audio file, or as a video.

I don't turn down ways that students can turn in assignments, for some may either feel more comfortable with a particular way to write down thoughts or need to use a particular mode of writing for accessibility purposes.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

While I do look for basic grammar structures, grammar will not be my priority when I assess your story. “Proper grammar” sounds ableist and elitist, and some of the best movies, songs, and written material I’ve enjoyed don't have “proper English”.

WRITING AND BLOGGING WORKSHOPS

I embrace students who are not afraid to incorporate their language, dialects, and personality into their pieces. I care more about your progress in developing your story, the authenticity of your piece (how personable is your piece), and if it fits or exceeds the expectations of the prompt that I give.

LECTURING STATEMENT

The main tenet of my lectures is to provide insight and shared lived experiences that students and audience members can take away and apply to their careers or life.

I do not assess how people use what they learned from my lectures; my goal is to share my story and expertise. It is up to you to decide how you can use lessons and tools from my lectures and speaking engagements.

LECTURING STATEMENT

The topics in any lecture or speaking engagement that I would be honored to cover are as follows:

LECTURING STATEMENT

- Intersections of race and disability, including Blackness, autism, and mental health
- Self-Advocacy, Disability Pride and Inclusion in Communities of Color
- Sexuality and Disability, including non-monogamy
- Disability Media Representation
- Inclusion in Sports, Arts, and Entertainment
- Inclusion in Full-Time Employment in Academia/Research
- Using Social Media And Art to Tell Stories in the Disability Community

LECTURING STATEMENT

While I spend a considerable amount of time telling my story, I prefer creating environments in which people can have a conversation with me or ask me any questions about what I talk about...or about me in general.

I would like for anyone to attend my lectures to leave with not only more information about myself or the topics I cover, but also feel connected with me through knowledge sharing.

LECTURING STATEMENT

Another way I like to connect with people is that I may use anecdotes or humor to connect people to the lecture topic.

LECTURING STATEMENT

I avoid as much jargon as I possibly can, and if I do use terms from the disability community or the fields I'm in, I would explain them first. I like to provide plain language materials in which many people can understand what I'm talking about, no matter who you are.

I am a firm believer in making the information accessible to as many people as possible.



SUMMARY OF TEACHING, LECTURING, AND SPEAKING EXPERIENCES

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

March 2019

Presenter of “Training on Disability Acceptance”, Disability and Human Development

Developed the curriculum, promoted the training via mailing lists and social media, and spoke to 50+ people about promoting disability acceptance and accessibility in communities of color

University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL

August 2017 to May 2018

Teaching Assistant, Disability and Human Development

Created quiz questions based on weekly readings and films, promoted and assisted in Bodies of Work events (DHD 101)

Graded written work and quizzes of between 10 – 20 students, met with students upon request, guest lectured on writing about my experience as an autistic black male for one class session (DHD 201)

CURRICULUM/GUIDE PLANNING EXPERIENCE

- Since 2020, I helped create multimedia, plain-language guides and 'social stories'/PSAs on the following:
 - Disability inclusion in campus recreation sports
 - COVID-19 vaccination information
 - Updates on 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic; that includes ways to protect yourself and others through 'social distancing', updates on returning to hybrid/in-person activities, and connecting with people virtually
 - 2020 Presidential Elections
 - Intersection of race and disability during the 2020 civil unrest

CURRICULUM/GUIDE PLANNING EXPERIENCE

- Currently, I am a part of the virtual Future is Now (vFIN) research team, with several colleagues from the Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC. In addition to co-facilitating the sessions with family members and people with disabilities, I have helped developed and modify the curriculum and course materials for vFIN.

GUEST LECTURE EXPERIENCE (UIC CLASSES)

Here are examples of UIC courses I have guest lectured or spoke, where I shared my experiences in disability advocacy and using media/art in self-advocacy, as well as the intersections of race and disability:

- DHD 101
- DHD 103
- DHD 201
- DHD 205/GWS 205: Disability, Race, Class, and Gender
- DHD 302: Disability Policy and Law
- DHD 303: Disability Activism
- DHD 581: Disability Policy
- DHD 592: Disability and Advocacy
- BLST/GWS 294: Care Community and Love
- HON 201
- Illinois LEND didactics

WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, AND WEBINARS

- “Capacity to Consent” (with Susan Kahan, Barry Lowy, April Dear, and Sara Wright), Illinois Department of Human Services, May 4, 2022.
- “Healthy Sexuality” (with Jae Jin Pak, Linda Sandman, and Teresa Parks), Illinois Department of Human Services, April 27, 2022.
- “Fighting Ableism Together” (with Helen Rottier), Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, September 22, 2021.
- “Meet the Coaches: Implementing the Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Action Plan” (with Jenean A. Castillo, Daniel Crimmins, Sally Gould-Taylor, Kimberly Mills, and Eduardo Ortiz). UCEDD Resource Center, June 30, 2021.
- “The Big Push for CESSA Presentation”, Online Presentation, May 25, 2021.

WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, AND WEBINARS

- “Anti-Racism Training for the Disability Community”, Online, February 24, 2021.
- “Coping with Loss During COVID 19 and 2020 Societal Conflicts”, IDHD Webinar Series, October 21, 2020.
- “Vote and be Counted!” (with Jae Jin Pak), IDHD Webinar Series, September 23, 2020.
- “Create Your Own Emergency Resource Guide”, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, June 22, 2020.

WORKSHOPS, TRAININGS, AND WEBINARS

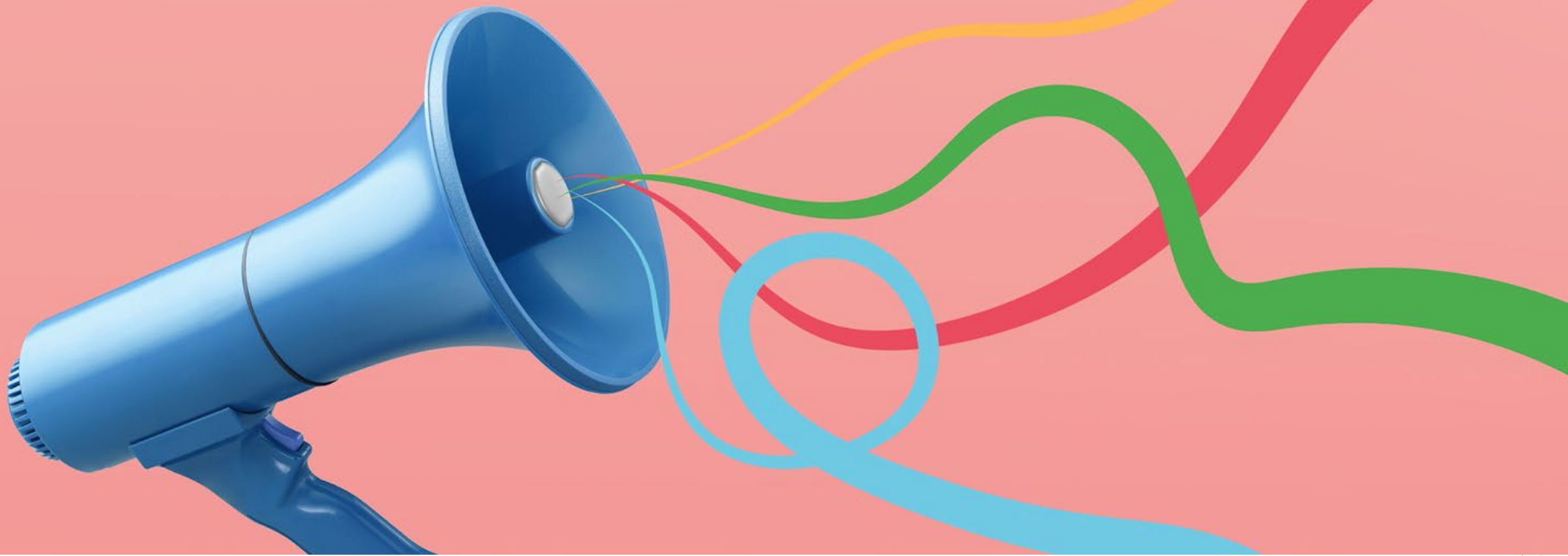
- “Let’s Learn About COVID 19 Resources for People with Disabilities”, Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance, May 26, 2020.
- “Friday Fun Day: Stay and Play - All About Games Webinar” (with Krescene Beck), Illinois Self Advocacy Alliance, April 10, 2020.
- “Supports For Autistic People From Marginalized Communities”, IDHD Webinar Series, January 22, 2020.
- “Training on Disability Acceptance in Communities of Color”, University of Illinois Chicago, March 29, 2019.

KEYNOTE AND BREAKOUT SESSION ADDRESSES

- “Creating an Inclusive Post-Pandemic Future”, IM4Q Annual Statewide Training, July 26, 2022.
- “The Intersection of Race and Disability”, ADA Audio Conference Series, February 15, 2022.
- “Inclusive Self-Advocacy”, 2022 NACDD Conference, July 20, 2022.
- “Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Post-Pandemic Future,” Disability Justice Week, November 2021.
- “#HearOurVoices: Disabled People of Color & Allyship” (with Jae Jin Pak), 2021 Sibling Leadership Conference, June 19th, 2021.
- “Disabled I AM” (with Candace Coleman, Speak Up! Speak Out 2020, November 20, 2020.

KEYNOTE AND BREAKOUT SESSION ADDRESSES

- “SUSO Closing Ceremony...Or Is It?”, Speak Up! Speak Out! 2020, November 20, 2020.
- “ADA Anniversary Update: 30 Years, Where Do We Go Now?” (with Jae Jin Pak, Emily Ladau, and Maria Town), ADA Audio Conference Series, July 14, 2020.
- “Police Violence against Disabled People of Color” (as member of Advance Youth Leadership Power), 2017 Chicago Disability Studies Conference, April 7, 2017.
- “College Bound and Beyond” (with Bill Gename), Chicagoland Autism Connection Spring Fling, April 18, 2015.



EXAMPLES OF TEACHING, LECTURING, AND SPEAKING EXPERIENCES

COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Contains plain-
language guides,
PSAs, and social
stories about COVID-
19

Visit:
https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7wflmCAVKUNjUx30esglfoVxaWJo_eYK&si=YVn6lxEc8jVW6efS

Social Story on COVID-19 Vaccine Concerns in Communities of Color

By Chicagoland DPOCC and Institute on Disability and Human
Development



Disability
Intersectionality
Summit
2018: "Autistic
Identity in the
African Diaspora"



TRAINING ON DISABILITY ACCEPTANCE IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR (MARCH 2018)

- Videos and Slide Deck

- Slide

- Deck: <https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.385516992300939&type=3>

- Part I: https://fb.watch/qO-Pz_mMXX

- Part II: <https://fb.watch/qO-Ksa0iMF>

Chicagoland People of Color Coalition
& UIC Institute on Disability & Human Development
presents



Training on Disability Acceptance in Communities of Color

Friday, March 29th, 2019 from 1-4pm
IDHD Auditorium (1st Floor)
1640 W Roosevelt Rd, Chicago, IL

Co-sponsored by UIC's Institute on Disability and Human Development and Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, this training encourages people in communities of color to promote disability acceptance in their occupations and businesses, as well as inclusion of disabled people in community endeavors.

There will be two portions of the training. The first half will consist of a presentation by Master of Science candidate and autistic self-advocate Timotheus "T.J." Gordon, Jr. on promoting disability acceptance and inclusion in marginalized communities. In the second half, a panel of disabled activists in communities of color in Chicago will speak on ways that people could include more disabled people of color in schools, places of worship, businesses, etc.

Beverages will be provided. CART and wheelchair accessible bathrooms will be available. Also, refrain from wearing any scented products in order to make the event accessible to all.

If you would like to request any additional accommodations for the event, e-mail Chicagoland DPOCC at chicagolanddpocc@gmail.com by no later than March 22nd.

Please RSVP at <http://tinyurl.com/datcc429>

**DISABILITY AND
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
COLLEGE OF
APPLIED HEALTH
SCIENCES**



SUSO 2020 Keynote: #DisabledIAM

by Candace Coleman
and TJ Gordon
(11/20/2020)

Meet T.J.

- Researcher-Activist (@ Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC)
 - Trainings and projects that promotes inclusion and disability pride in communities of color
- Autistic self-advocate, writer, and blogger
- Member of Advance Your Leadership Power (AYLP)



Image Description: Black picture frame that says "Disabled I AM": in the frame there is a smiling black man with medium complexion, moustache, and locs.


Coping with Loss During COVID 19 and 2020 Societal Conflicts (2021)



**Coping with Loss
During COVID-19
and Societal
Conflicts**


DEASHTY A
HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT
COLLEGE OF
APPLIED HEA
SCIENCES

Disability Justice Week 2021 - Creating an Inclusive and Equitable Post- Pandemic Future



About T.J.

- Research Associate at Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC
- Co-founder of Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition
- Writer
 - Blogger for *Black Autist*
 - #BlackAutisticJoy (ADA 30 in Color anthology)



So before

Supports For Autistic People From Marginalized Communities (2022)

T.J.'s Personal Connection to Autism and Marginalized Communities

- Will not get into the usual "qualifications"
 - There's a reason. *wink*
 - Work in the disability community, while important, doesn't necessarily mean that I'm close to the community
- Making the webinar is important because I AM affected by intersection of autism and marginalized communities

13

now yes

Course Video for Virtual Future is Now sessions: Circles of Support (2023)

Community Members

The screenshot displays a virtual meeting interface. On the left, a large semi-circular diagram titled "Circles of Support" is shown. The diagram consists of four concentric layers: an outermost orange layer labeled "Challenges with Slow Help", a green layer labeled "Community Leaders and VIPs", a blue layer labeled "Family and Friends", and an innermost red layer labeled "Closest Friends". A yellow sticky note is placed over the "Family and Friends" layer, and another yellow sticky note is placed over the "Closest Friends" layer. A white text box at the bottom of the diagram contains the text: "Important people, I like reaching out to my main doctors,". Below the diagram is a white toolbar with various icons for navigation and interaction. On the right side of the screen, a video feed shows a participant named "Timotheus [T.] Ger...". The video feed is partially obscured by a black bar. At the bottom right of the video feed, the timestamp "2023-07-17 17:47:45" is visible.



“IRON
SHARPENS
IRON,
AND
ONE MAN
SHARPENS
ANOTHER”

PROVERBS 27:17
(ESV)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

BA IN ENGLISH, CREATIVE WRITING-POETRY CONCENTRATION (UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA – TWIN CITIES)

- Obtained the degree in 2010
- I enjoyed learning from poets such as Michael Dennis Browne and Sun Yung Shin; I model their openness to allow writers to be comfortable in their authentic voices while responding to writing prompts.
- I practiced my storytelling by doing spoken word/poetry recitals as a part of the student art collective, [Voices Merging](#).



MFA IN WRITING (SAVANNAH COLLEGE OF ART AND DESIGN – ATLANTA)

- Obtained the degree in 2014
 - Thesis: [Using Autism as a Super Power](#)
- I transformed from strictly a poet to a non-fiction writer that can also do photography, social media work, graphic design, and technical writing.
- Those tools would help me later when I started to develop plain-language guidelines, stories, PSAs, and social media promotional material on disability rights and advocacy



CERTIFICATE IN THE FOUNDATIONS OF COLLEGE INSTRUCTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

- Through the program, I am learning how to create teaching briefs, curricula and syllabi, and teaching philosophy; I am particularly interested in universal/inclusive design in workshops and lecturing.
- I will complete the certificate in May 2024; I will also earn a Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching and Learning (CITRL) certificate where I can use it to apply to lecturing and curriculum development opportunities within the CITRL Network.



ILLINOIS PARTNERS IN POLICYMAKING CLASS 5, 2023-2024 (STORYTELLING)

- As a part of the Illinois Partners in Policymaking course, we learned how to create elevator pitches and personal stories that we can use to advocate for our causes
- Storytelling session taught by Grishma Shah
 - LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/grishma-shah>



 **Welcome to our Facebook page!**
Illinois Partners in Policymaking®

Partners in Policymaking® is a leadership training program designed for parents of school age children with developmental disabilities and adults with disabilities. The Partners program was created by the Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities more than 30 years ago, and has since been offered nationally and internationally.


In partnership with the Illinois Council On Developmental Disabilities.

This account is supported in part by grant number CFDA 93.630 from the U.S. Administration for Community Living, Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects with government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.

THANK YOU

To follow or support T.J.'s works, visit:

- [Linktr.ee/timotheusgordonjr](https://linktr.ee/timotheusgordonjr)
- [Linktr.ee/blackautist](https://linktr.ee/blackautist)

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