

TIMOTHEUS (T.J.) GORDON, JR.

Phone: (872) 255-8881

timotheus.tj.gordonjr@gmail.com

<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
- Creating Social Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Disability Community
- 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 of 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

<p>Center for the Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Associate Certificate</p>	May 2024
<p>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</p>	May 2024
<p>University of Illinois Chicago Certificate in the Foundations of College Instruction</p>	May 2024
<p>Great Lakes ADA Center Certificate of Completion of the ADA Trainer Leadership Network Train-The- Trainer Workshop</p>	March 2024
<p>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</p>	February 2024
<p>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via Brandeis University Responsible Conduct of Research Stage 1 - Basic Course; Social & Behavioral Research, Stage 2 - Refresher Course</p>	November 2022
<p>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via University of Illinois Chicago IPS for Researchers, Stage 1 - Basic Course</p>	September 2020
<p>Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative (CITI Program) via University of Illinois Chicago</p>	August 2016

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

Illinois Institute of Technology
Master Certificate in Web Design and
Development

March 2016

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

UIC College of Applied Health Sciences Humanitarian Award	2025
Autism Allies Appreciation Coalition Self Advocate of the Year	2024
I Love Myself with CP and ADHD Liminary Advocate Award	2024
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 the 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”
- 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 an 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
- Via Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition, help provide technical assistance to self-advocates who want to host online events through Chicagoland DPOCC’s Zoom Account; provided technical support for Blaq Gurl Fya’s “What You Know About” series in 2025

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

UI Health/University of Illinois Chicago April 2025

Facilitator, Foundations of Interprofessional Collaborative Practice (FICP) program

- Facilitated breakout discussions on interprofessional collaborative practices in medical treatment and services to two cohorts of medical students

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

August 2024 to December 2024

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=PL7wflmCAVKUPYNByEqgXCJ91HkJ0a3yf9>
- Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition. (2022, July 11). *COVID-19 information and resources* [Video]. YouTube.
https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL7wflmCAVKUNjUx30esglfoVxaWJo_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>
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2025, May 21). *Disability supports as employment*. Nothing About Us Without Us (via Disability Community for Democracy, Inc.). Retrieved May 23, 2025, from https://open.substack.com/pub/disabilitycommunityfordemocracy/p/disability-supports-as-employment?r=t62v9&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web&showWelcomeOnShare=false
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2025). Black and autistic in Neo-Nationalist America. *Ought: The Journal of Autistic Culture*, 6(2), 6. <https://doi.org/10.9707/2833-1508.1215>
- Gordon, T., Jr. (2025). Into the Cincinnati. *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, 77. <https://adelaidemagazine.org/into-the-cincinnati>
- 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

Access Living Disability Reproductive Equity Panel (with Michelle Garcia and AK Noel), May 17, 2025

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 Morrisette), 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

“Virtual Future is Now: An online Future Planning Curriculum for Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and their families” (with Jae Jin Pak), Arc of Illinois Conference, April 23, 2025.

“Self-Advocates Make it Happen with an IL ABLE Account” (with Chuy Campuzano, Stephanie Kanter, and JJ Hanley), Arc of Illinois Conference, April 22, 2025.

“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

“Uniting the Autistic Community”, 2025 Autistic Pride Day NYC, June 14, 2025.

“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)

“Dis Life: Disability and Parenting” (with Brittany King), February 18, 2025

“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 - 2025

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

Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
Regional Mobility Council Member, April 2025 - Present

LANGUAGES

Spanish: basic speaking and reading

American Sign Language: basic speaking

COMPUTER SKILLS

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

Have basic knowledge in: Qualtrics, Atlas.ti, interview coding and memoing

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