

ADVOCACY

People First of Toledo Monthly Newsletter



College While Disabled

By Quinn Thomas

26% percent of Americans have a disability of some type. That's more than a quarter of the population. And yet, only 11% of undergrad college students told their school that they are disabled. The real number of disabled college students is suspected to be 2-3x higher than what's reported. People figured this out by realizing that about two-thirds of people who received accommodations in high school no longer received them once they entered college.

What does this mean? People are less likely to self-disclose in college. This also indicates that less disabled youth go to college at all when compared to our abled

UPCOMING EVENTS

ABILITY CENTER YOUTH BOWLING NIGHT

December 15, 5:00, Bowlero Lanes. 4398 Monroe Street, Toledo. For youth with disabilities ages 13-24.

SIBSHOPS

December 17, 10:00-1:00. Alternate Learning Center, 3939 Wrenwood, Toledo. For siblings aged 8-16.

PEOPLE FIRST & SALUTE HOLIDAY PARTY

December 20, 5:00-7:00. 1115 Larc Lane, Toledo, through door O. Bring a store bought dessert and a gift (\$20 limit)!

LCBDD WINTER POOL LEAGUE

Thursdays, 6:00-8:00. Miss Cue South, 1720 S Reynolds Road, Toledo. \$7 per meeting. The season begins on January 12.

SUPER SATURDAY DANCE

January 14, 7:00-9:00. Five Lakes Church gym, 4765 N McCord Road, Sylvania. For I/DD individuals and caregivers.

NIGHT TO SHINE

February 10. Terra State Community College, 2830 Napoleon Road, Fremont. Ages 14 and older.

peers. Both of these are factors.

Disabled people face more barriers to college. Nowadays there are programs out there designed to help overcome these barriers. But this is not always a perfect solution. Hunter Garrett is an artist who attended Western Kentucky University and used their Kelly Autism Program. He was a client of Opportunities for Ohioans with Disabilities, and requested benefit funds to cover the cost of the program. The Kelly Autism Program is great and Hunter wouldn't have been able to complete his degree without it-- but it is also \$5000 per semester, on top of regular tuition.



OOD denied Hunter his benefits because they don't fund programs like that. Hunter challenged this. His family reached out to Disability Rights Ohio, who took the case to court. They argued it was illegal and discriminatory for OOD to have a blanket policy to not fund programs like that, and that they had to make their decisions on an individual basis. Since the KAP would help Hunter, Hunter should be able to access it.

This case was never about the money for Hunter's family. It was about the accessibility for all, his mom said. After a long legal fight, Hunter was reimbursed all the money he spent out of pocket for the program. Hunter's family may have opened the doors for others to benefit from programs like this.

For more resources on college and career planning for individuals with disabilities, visit www.ccsOhio.org/resources/.

OUR NEXT MEETING

December 15 at the Ability Center-- 5605 Monroe Street, Sylvania. The meeting will run from 6:00-7:30 and the fee is \$5, or \$50 for twelve months. This is our town hall meeting. We'll discuss what our chapter of People First has accomplished this year and what we want to do in 2023.