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Advocacy for one's self is at the core of the efforts that we give each day to support the development of programs for young adults with intellectual disability. Encouraging students to speak up and use their voice only serves to promote their independence and growth as individuals.

In our PIHEC office, Michael Weinberg a student worker who identifies as being enrolled in the Integrated Studies program at Millersville University recently participated in the newly created ThinkCollege affinity group for Self-Advocates which meets quarterly via the Zoom platform. I asked him to take notes and below is an edited summary of what he learned.

This session was about changing the way people perceive disabilities and the impact it has on people who are trying to live and work in society. Conversation centered on the 2020 election and how we can convince congress and senators to help people with disabilities be able to live and work independently. It's important to reach out to people we know by email, texting and tweeting to convince them to help vote for the right person and raise awareness for people with disabilities. The call was a great way for me to express my thoughts and share opinions with others. Networking and connecting with those that feel strongly about the same beliefs was important and we were encouraged to do this by the host, Liz Weintraub.

Liz Weintraub, is a Senior Advocacy Specialist at Association of University Centers on Disabilities, or AUCD. Here's the link to the affinity group: <https://thinkcollege.net/technical-assistance/affinity-groups/advocates>. Liz also has a youtube channel called "Tuesday's With Liz" found at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEHWL7i0kECV8GSORs56oK7SP7GXHorOB>

I strongly encourage you to share this resource with students in your program.

Ann Marie Licata, Ph.D., Director



On Tuesday, November 19, Dr. Thomas Neuville, PI for the TPSID grant and Jan Bechtel, Director of Integrated Studies, along with two students from Integrated Studies, represented the PIHEC and our state at a Disability Celebration in Washington, D.C. They had the privilege of meeting with Michael Gammel-McCormick (picture below), and several federal legislators in support of the Disability efforts that Senator Casey (picture left) is spearheading.



WHAT IS HAPPENING

- [2019 TASH Conference: Building Diverse and Inclusive Communities will be held on December 5-7, 2019 at the Sheraton Grand in Phoenix, AZ](#)
- [The ARC webinar "Importance of Post-secondary Education Programs for Students with Intellectual Disabilities" will be held on December 17, 2019](#)
- [EVERYDAY LIVES Conference will be held on January 7-9, 2020 at Hershey Lodge, PA](#)
- [Save the date: April 22-23, 2019 at Millersville University—A three in one event featuring international disability right activist Judy Heumann](#)
- [Save the date for the fifth annual Regional Post-Secondary Inclusive College Program Summit that will be held on May 28, 2020 at the College of NJ in Ewing, NJ.](#)

DID YOU KNOW?

The ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act is a bipartisan bill that would increase the age of eligibility to open an ABLÉ account from 26 to 46 years of age.

You can [contact your elected officials](#) and ask them to support the ABLÉ Age Adjustment Act, S. 651 in the Senate and H.R. 1814 in the House.

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