Lived Experience Of Disability: Moving Beyond Diagnosis In Our Professions

The 2021 Grunewald-Blitz Workshop brings together three unique speakers who will address disability from a lived experience as well as through the lens of disability studies. In the morning session, Judith Heumann will share her experiences in the disability rights movement and how her journey in activism paved the way for important changes nationally and internationally. Toni Saia, PhD, will address disability studies perspectives and societal perspectives of disability, including models of disability, language, ableism, and advocacy. Specific examples and strategies will be highlighted to help participants implement a person-centered approach that recognizes the depth of the disability experience.

In the afternoon, Kathy Mahosky, EdD, CCC-SLP, will delve deeper into the ways speech-language pathologists can effectively change the way they evaluate and treat those with communication differences using a disability studies perspective. She will discuss ways to enhance choice and decision making that enhances client agency and self-advocacy.

Judith Heumann is an International Disability Rights activist. Author (with Kristen Joiner), Being Heumann: An Unrepentant Memoir of a Disability Rights Activist. Featured in Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution, a 2020 American award-winning documentary film directed by James LeBrecht and Nicole Newnham and produced by the Obama's Higher Ground Productions. Senior Fellow at the Ford Foundation (2017-2019); wrote Road Map for Inclusion: Changing the Face of Disability in Media. Served in the Obama and Clinton Administrations.

Dr. Toni Saia is an Assistant Professor at San Diego State University within the Department of Administration, Rehabilitation, and Postsecondary Education. She is a disabled woman with a deep commitment to social justice, inclusion, and equity for all. Her professional work history has involved advocating for progressive understanding of disability within the applied fields. In 2019, she graduated from the University of Arizona with her Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision.

Dr. Katherine Mahosky has a doctorate in Education with a specialization in Curriculum and Instruction. She is an ASHA certified speech-language pathologist since 1983 and holds licensure in speech-language pathology in Arizona. Katherine recently retired from the Institute for Human Development where she directed an Interdisciplinary Developmental Clinic and the Undergraduate Minor in Disability Studies. Her teaching included an introductory course in disability studies and a seminar in disability at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

There will be a separate workshop fee for those who are not receiving ASHA CEUs and choose to attend only Judith Heumann's and Toni Saia's sessions. Please contact Kim Sasser with any questions at ksasser@arizona.edu.