

Student Empowerment

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What is Empowerment?

- In the Chat, please provide your definition of Empowerment.

Empowerment

- **Empowerment- 1:** the act or action of empowering someone or something : the granting of the power, right, or authority to perform various acts or
- **2:** the state of being empowered to do something : the power, right, or authority to do something.

<https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/empowerment>

Virtual Question: Are Students Empowered In Today's Secondary and Post Secondary Environment?

- In the chat, please provide your opinion on this question. Briefly justify your answer.

How Does Our Educational System Create Barriers to Student Empowerment?

- This is not a rhetorical question. Drop your response in the chat (that's how the cool kids say it at UK).



Who Am I?





Who Am I?





A Brief History of Disability

Greek and Roman Eras

- Due to the belief of the unity of the body and soul, Greeks often had a negative attitude toward people with disabilities
- Like the Greeks, Romans would legally kill “puny or deformed” children
- Attitudes were also influenced by mythology, and social class



A Brief History of Disability

Middle Ages

- Disability was often seen as God's Punishment
- Mental illness was viewed as possession by evil
- Monks and Priests often treated individuals with disabilities and mental illness, rather than physicians, due to the believed religious nature of the illness



A Brief History of Disability: Disability in Early America

- Self-sufficiency was important, the Laws in the 13 Colonies excluded individuals who could not support themselves
- Disability viewed as “God’s Punishment”
- Treatment of mental illness based on socioeconomic status, and nature of the illness
- Eugenics
- “Refrigerator Moms”



Crucible Moments

- Willowbrook
- 1973 Rehabilitation Act
- 1977 Occupation of Department of Education - 25 Days – 150 Advocates
- 1998 – Gallaudet Revolt
- ADAPT and the Gang of Nineteen
- Americans with Disabilities Act – 1990 and 2008
- Olmstead vs L.C. Decision
- Individuals with Disabilities Education Act



Disability and Higher Education

- Started in late 1960s in response to Disability Rights Movement. Development of Specialized Campus Offices.
- Initially focused on physical disabilities
- 1980s and 1990s – Services Expanded to Attention Disabilities and Learning Disabilities





Disability and Higher Education

- Americans with Disabilities Act and 2008
- 2008 Amendments
- Expansion of Services to Students with Mental Health Diagnosis
- Compliance Model rather than Inclusive Model





Why Students With Disabilities Don't Use Accommodations

- Desire to be self sufficient
 - See accommodations as a back up
- Desire to avoid negative social reactions
- Insufficient knowledge of accommodations
- Negative experience with faculty and staff
- Fear of future ramifications
- Financial Access to Proper Assessment
- Power Differential



Ableism

- Ableism – Perceived form of discrimination or social prejudice against people with disabilities. In ableist societies, people with disabilities are viewed as less valuable, or even seen as expendable. Can impact persons with overt and hidden disabilities differently.
- Workplace
- Health Care
- Schools
- Media –
 - Villain
 - Inspiration Porn
 - Pity
 - Supercrip (Wikipedia)



Ableism and How It Rearns Its Ugly Head

- “How do we know that person really has a disability?”
- “That accommodation will be expensive. How many people will need that anyway?”
- “That person inspires me every day . They are so brave.”
- “You just need to work harder.”
- “Just snap out of it.”
- “You don’t look like you have a disability.”
- “It’s not fair to the other students/employees if that student gets extra time.”
- “Since they have a disability, I’ll make sure they get an A in the class.”
- “This person has strange behaviors. Are they dangerous?”
- “I broke my leg once and now I understand what it is like to have a disability.”



The Dignity of Failure

- In the chat, please comment on whether empowerment increases the likelihood of failure.
- What are the positive and negative aspects of failure?



Empowering Students

Compliance



Engagement



Empowerment

Once you add ownership to engagement,
the natural next step is **EMPOWERMENT!**



Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness

- What do persons with disabilities demand?
Equitable Access to—
 - Employment
 - Safe Housing
 - Transportation
 - Health Care
 - Choice/Autonomy





The Role of Service Providers in Student Empowerment

- In the chat, please provide one example of how you can create an environment of empowerment.



How Can Service Providers Help?

- Demand Equity, Not Compliance
- No Pity
- Unconscious Bias
- Include accommodation planning in all events
- Universal Design
- Role Play
- Language is important
- Help the individual find their voice. “Nothing about us without us.”
- Esteem vs. Efficacy

