



Advocacy Skills and Youth Leadership

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Introduction

- Micah, 29 year old self-advocate
- Speak on behalf of self-advocates at conferences and meetings
- I will share my 2013 internship experience and skills I learned



Recent Leadership Opportunities

- 2013 Summer Internship experience at AIDD
 - Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Community Living
 - Made possible by American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD) summer internship program

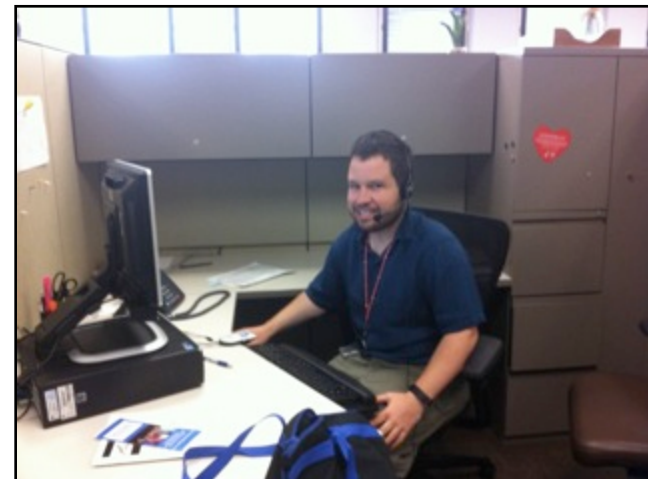


Leadership Skills I Developed

- At the AIDD Office

- Office Skills** (Used Dragon speech software, responded to emails, and made phone calls)

- Advocacy** (The AAPD 2013 summer intern class created a video discussing what the Americans with Disabilities Act means to them and what we can all do to make it better, Released at AAPD's annual Justice for All award ceremony on July 23, 2013, during the week of the 23rd anniversary of the ADA)



Leadership Skills I Developed

- Outside the office
 - **Research and Policy** (learning about CRPD, Supported Decision-making and Guardianship Reform, Workforce Investment Act (WIA) being able to talk about their importance)
 - **Public Speaking** (Presented to ACL staff about Inclusive Higher Education)
 - **Networking/Communication Skills** (ACL staff, attended many meetings led by other organizations such as NACDD and NCIL, Little People of America reception, Partnerships in Employment Federal Panel)
 - **Cultural Competency** (Participated in ACL workgroup on cultural competency, focusing on people-first language)



Why These Skills are Important

- Strong leaders can help create programs to help people with disabilities
- Advocacy can help people get what they want and need



Resources on Youth Leadership

- Plotting the Course for Success: An Individualized Mentoring Plan for Youth with Disabilities
- Learning to Lead: A Self Assessment for Youth
- A Guide to Legislative Advocacy for Youth with Disabilities

(National Consortium on Leadership and Disability for Youth)



Resources on Advocacy

- Advocacy Tip Sheet- Kids as Self Advocates (KASA)
- Speak Up- A Guide to Self Advocacy (The Arc of Washington)
- Other resources from:

