LeDerick Horne

- Poet, Speaker, Advocate, and Education Consultant
- BA in Mathematics from New Jersey City University
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- Co-host of the “Black and Dyslexic Podcast”
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LeDerick Horne

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Today’s Talk

Based on our book
“Empowering Students with Hidden Disabilities: A Path to Pride and Success”
Brookes Publishing Co.
Why We Decided to Work Together

• Met during OSEP Project Directors meeting
• Both working to improve the outcomes of all students with disabilities
Why We Decided to Work Together

• Both have disabilities – LD and ADHD

• “Nothing about us, without us.”

http://projectcitizenship.com/disability-social-movements/
The Roadtrip Nation documentary *Being You* features Pete Denman. It is a great resource for building disability awareness.
When Pete rolls into a room people look at him and start thinking about how to provide support for his physical disability.
“There is no wheelchair for dyslexia.”

– Pete Denman
“I do not have any problem with people getting a label, if along with that label they get pride, a cultural identity, a connection to a community and a history of this community of accomplishing amazing things.”

– Andy Imparato, Executive Director, Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD)
Who…

Although our book has a focus on Hidden Disabilities, today I will show how it can be used to improve the learning climate and outcomes for ALL students
“The stigma of having a disability is so strong that approximately 60% of students who had IEPs during high school indicated that they did not have a disability the year after they exited high school.”

– Newman, Wagner, Cameto, & Knokey, 2009
Growing up with a learning disability
Students with hidden disabilities, like me, have spent time in a resource room or special education classrooms. This leaves them with social and emotional scars.
Why I do this work

“Education is the civil rights issue of our time”
Key skills and experiences all students should receive:

- Self-Determination/Self-Advocacy
- Executive Function Skills
- Connecting to the Disability Community
- Resources
“A Conceptual Framework of Self-Advocacy for Students with Disabilities”

Self-Advocacy

“A Conceptual Framework of Self-Advocacy for Students with Disabilities”

Four Teachable Components
1. Knowledge of self
2. Knowledge of rights
3. Communication of one’s knowledge of self and rights
4. Leadership

Knowledge of Self

Awareness and Disability Acceptance

- Review files with student
- Give a deep understanding of the disability
- Use asset-based approach, not deficit-based
Knowledge of Self

Awareness and Disability Acceptance

“We used to blame the child’s environment or ability. Must it always come back to finding a reason why some children just can’t learn, as opposed to finding a way to help them learn? Teachers who understand the growth mindset do everything in their power to unlock that learning.” - Carol Dweck

The Self-Directed IEP

• Leadership Component of Self-Advocacy

• Zarrow Center for Learning Enrichment at The University of Oklahoma

https://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow/choicemaker-curriculum/self-directed-iep
When students with disabilities know how to plan and to be organized, they will be better students and have greater respect for others.
Connecting to the Disability Community
Daniel Radcliffe, star of Harry Potter, has dyspraxia.
Students need to know that there are many awesome people who have disabilities and are doing great things.
We need to connect students with hidden disabilities to mentors so they can have real positive reinforcement.
Mentoring in your schools

Other examples:

• Self-Advocacy / Transition Clubs

• Invite college students with disability to speak with your students

• Bringing high school student with IEPs to talk with elementary school students
Video Series

“Celebrating Black History and People with Disabilities”

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLGIosgEPTEzvwzFt6r-R1KK1cYWc4J4YE
Connections

“Celebrating Black History and People with Disabilities”

• Video series available online – Search YouTube, Facebook, Instagram & Twitter

• Six black people with disabilities like:
  Robin Coste Lewis - Poet
  Bradley Lomax – Black Panther
  Octavia E. Butler – Sci Fi Writer
It’s about connecting disability to identity. As students develop disability identity, they need empowering opportunities to come together and build community.
The Black and Dyslexic Podcast
- Intersectionality of race and disability and Mental Health
- On all major podcast platforms

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The Black and Dyslexic Podcast

On paper, Dyslexia looks like a wealthy white learning disability

Dr. Julie Washington - Ep. 4
Resources

Normal Isn’t Real: Succeeding with Learning Disabilities & ADHD

normalisntreal.com
Just For Fun

• Have we all heard about Brexit? Britain’s Exit from the EU

• What if people who have, or would have qualified for, IEPs left the world and we took everything we created???

This is SpEdxit
We are taking Laptops, Tesla, and TikTok!
All run of lithium-ion batteries

Invented by Prof. John B. Goodenough and his team in 1980 at Oxford University

2019 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

Had trouble in school due to dyslexia
We are taking Shark Tank!
Kevin O’Leary, Barbara Corcoran & Daymond John are very outspoken about their learning disabilities.

We are taking the legacy of Muhammad Ali
SpEdxit #3

- Ali was dyslexic - barely graduated from high school
- Him and his wife created the *Go the Distance* series to teach literacy skills
- He created the shortest poem ever written
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