

CENTER FOR DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

WE

ARE

OHSU



CELEBRATING NATIONAL
DISABILITY INDEPENDENCE DAY

July is Disability Pride Month. An opportunity to honor the history, achievements, experiences, and challenges faced by individuals with disabilities. Disability Pride Month was established in July because it marks the anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Annually on July 26, we celebrate National Disability Independence Day to commemorate the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the United States law prohibiting discriminations against those with disabilities. Thirty-three years ago on July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) assigned into law. The ADA provides protection from employment discrimination as well as better access to goods, services, and communications for people with disabilities.

WE ARE OHSU

OHSU is a diverse campus with members with different identities. Diversity is one of our core values, and we strive to create an environment of respect and inclusion. We acknowledge that diversity is not always seen, and we want to be intentional. The Center for Diversity and Inclusion started an initiative to highlight OHSU members in an interview series named We Are OHSU. This will go on all year long, where we can uplift and celebrate members of all communities, highlighting their impact on campus and their daily lives and showing everyone the wonderful communities we belong to.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the Ability ERG for helping curate thoughtful questions for National Disability Independence Day.

WE ARE OHSU COREY COLOMA

Corey is a Community Research Liaison in the School of Medicine. In his role, Corey interviews people about their disability services, sends out regular newsletters, maintains the website for the Oregon Office on Disability and Health (OODH), has worked on the Ready Now project and more. Corey has been at OHSU for over 5 years.

What do you like most about your job and working out as you like? What brings you joy?

I like understanding coworkers and the work that drives us all to do better.

What is the highlight of your career so far and what are the next steps for you?

Over the past five years, I have been working with the National Core Indicators project that gathers health information and a standard set of performance and outcome measures. We interview people about their disability services to help ODDS understand how they are doing providing these services and it helps us understand where the gaps are and improve services. It is my passion to be working to change the lives of every person in disability services in Oregon and I would like to continue that work and better OODH communication. I have thought about starting

my own provider agency or building a farm in the future.

How can we support people with disabilities in the workplace?

I think continuing to end ableism through education as well as sharing the personal experiences of individuals with disabilities.

What is your advice for people who want to become better allies and advocates for the disability community?

I would say talk with people that have a disability to hear how things are for them.

What does disability pride mean to you?

It means knowing who you are and accepting you as you.

Who is a hero in the disability rights movement

that you would like others to know about?

Every self-advocate that speaks publicly about their experiences and helps to educate everyone.



Anything you would like to add?

I want to thank you for this experience and the opportunity to share my thoughts on this. This is the 33rd anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) becoming law and many things still need to occur for people with disabilities. Things so people can work, save money, and get married without fear of losing support are some key topics. I also want to see functioning labels out of use.

