



## Weekly Memo

### Action Items

#### **Arts4All Florida July Celebration for 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

The ADA is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities and Arts4All Florida is celebrating its 30th Anniversary in a huge way. A 30-day calendar of art-filled events are scheduled to be premiered on the Arts4All Florida Facebook page, **July 1-30, 2020**, daily, at 11 a.m. ET, showcasing the incredible impact the ADA has made in the lives of teaching artists, professional artists and students with disabilities throughout the state of Florida. The public is invited to tune in day-to-day throughout the month of July to view outstanding performances, honest and informative interviews, and a bird's eye view into the interworking of Arts4All Florida as they have adapted to the "new normal" in educating through assistive technology. For more information and to view the press release, see the attached document.

- Filename: A4AFL-ADA30 Press Release

#### **Online Parent Workshops for Scholarship Programs**

Step Up For Students is partnering with Celebrate Youth to host a series of online parent workshops for families interested in our scholarship programs. Step Up For Students staff will answer questions live and assist with applications for the upcoming school year. Please share the following information with families so they may join us to learn more about these opportunities:

- Income-Based Scholarships Parent Workshop, **July 9, 2020**, at 12:30 p.m. ET; to register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4377101222387281164>.
- Gardiner Scholarship (children with special needs) Parent Workshop, **July 15, 2020**, at 12:30 p.m. ET; to register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/158904210045174284>.
- Hope Scholarship (children who have been bullied) Parent Workshop, **July 28, 2020**, at 12:30 p.m. ET; to register, go to <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/7417599418374187788>.

To learn more about Step Up For Students, go to <https://www.stepupforstudents.org/>. Celebrate Youth is a nonprofit organization that focuses on bringing school choice awareness to our community. To view the Celebrate Youth Facebook page, go to <https://www.facebook.com/celebratelyouthflorida>.

## Diana McLendon Excellence in Teaching Award

This award is being offered in memory of Diana McLendon, who lost her battle with leukemia in December 2019. Diana was the autism spectrum disorder (ASD) program specialist for the Florida Department of Education (FDOE) and the liaison to the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) centers, Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism, and Autism Navigator. Florida State University CARD is proud to set up this memorial award to honor our colleague Diana on behalf of all seven CARD centers around the state. We are presenting this award to honor Diana and her passion for students with ASD. Her family and colleagues want to continue

to honor Diana and live out her legacy. The application deadline is **October 16, 2020**. For more information and to apply, go to <https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/9b548095622b42a881f89a9e40ce7dff>.

## Informational Items

### Repeals of the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Program and Principal Program

The FDOE has issued the following memorandum regarding the repeals of the Florida Best and Brightest Teacher Program and Principal Program. The memorandum may be viewed at <https://info.fldoe.org/docushare/dsweb/Get/Document-8909/dps-2020-68.pdf>.



For more information, contact  
850-245-0475



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Arts4All Florida  
University of South Florida  
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**Arts4All Florida Plans July Celebration for 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ADA**

*-30 Days of ADA premiered daily on Facebook, 11am ET*

<https://www.facebook.com/Arts4AllFlorida>

*(Tampa, FL) July 1, 2020*

The Americans with Disabilities Act, (ADA) is the world's first comprehensive declaration of equality for people with disabilities and Arts4All Florida is celebrating its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in a huge way! A 30-day calendar of art-filled events are scheduled to be premiered on their Facebook page from July 1-30 daily, at 11am ET, showcasing the incredible impact the ADA has made in the lives of teaching artists, professional artists and students with disabilities throughout the state of Florida. The public is invited to tune in day-to-day throughout the month of July to view outstanding performances, honest and informative interviews and a bird's eye view into the interworkings of Arts4All Florida as they have adapted to the "new normal" in educating through assistive technology.

The ADA has ensured a path to American society's continued vitality, strength and vibrancy through the full realization of the contributions of all of its citizens. Arts4All Florida's vision "To create a world that is universally accessible" propels the nonprofit organization forward and has sustained its successful existence for 39 years. Headquartered at the University of South Florida in the College of Education, their mission is strong and guarantees to provide, support and champion arts education and cultural experiences for and by people with disabilities.

The ADA Anniversary is a time citizens can reflect positively on a law that has made a great impact on the lives of people with disabilities in our country. Retired Hillsborough County ADA Coordinator and current Arts4All Florida's Adult Artist Coordinator Sandy Sroka comments, "Having experienced life as a person with a disability prior to the ADA and now 30 years later, I have witnessed significant strides toward removing physical and attitudinal barriers toward integrating people with disabilities into the fabric of society. The arts have served as a catalyst to enhance that equality among us and to open a means of communication that can be appreciated by all. "

A complete list of daily events and activities can be found at <https://arts4allflorida.org/ADA-celebration.html>. Highlights include an informative interview with Tampa musician, Paul Gavin on July 5<sup>th</sup>, how a Parkinson's dance class brings new meaning to arts and fitness on July 11<sup>th</sup>, a Live Dance Training with Antoine Hunter of the Urban Jazz Company on July 23<sup>rd</sup>





and an ADA Anniversary Musical Collaboration with Arts4All Florida Young Performers on July 26<sup>th</sup>.

Please join Art4All Florida in celebrating the occasion, the enacted law and the progressive influence it has made in the arts for people of all abilities.

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