IN(ability): Disability Does Not Mean Inability

Typically, the word “disability” is associated with varying degrees of stigma and negative connotation. These associations often contribute to assumptions and treatment that further marginalize individuals with disabilities. As we explore various disability topics, we will challenge assumptions, deconstruct societal perceptions, and focus on the ability inside the individual. In this session, the objectives are to:

- Deconstruct the social construction of disability, dispel common stereotypes and myths associated to individuals with disabilities, and reconstruct perceptions through engagement in dialogue

- Discuss the historical perspective and treatment of individuals with disabilities and the changing landscape with the ADA movement

- Present information about the prevalence and variation of different types of disabilities (i.e., psychological, chronic illness)

- Educate participants on the complexities of language and the power of words in regards to disabilities

- Cover disability etiquette and considerations when interacting with individuals with disabilities

- Help individuals develop knowledge and advocacy skills by promoting universal design, inclusion, equity, access, and understanding for people with disabilities

We all possess a shared responsibility to advocate and create change in systems that discount or marginalize individuals. In this disability awareness and advocacy workshop, we will use our voices to engage in difficult conversations that challenge these social constructions.