

MATTHEW CORKUM, PhD

Seeing the ABILITY in disAbility



Seeing The Ability in disABILITY

As much as the benefits of increasing diversity and inclusion are being felt in workplaces, schools, and other institutions, we still struggle with relating to those who are different. People are often:

- Fearful of doing or saying the wrong thing.
- Influenced by environmental or cultural norms.
- Making assumptions about the capabilities of those who are different.
- Experiencing prejudices that they may not even be aware of.

Discrimination against people with disabilities is often linked to “Ableism” which is the tendency to regard people with a disability as incomplete, diminished, or damaged, and to measure the quality of life with a disability against a nondisabled standard.

Sadly, as a result they are often ostracized, devalued in the workplace, sports, and the community in general. Consequently the world misses out on the benefits, contribution, skills talents and abilities people with disabilities provide. Everyone can benefit from knowing how to be inclusive of those with disabilities.

Walk a Mile in My Shaky Shoes (30 - 60 minutes)

Building bridges of understanding starts with being better informed. Hear a unique, first-hand, perspective on disabilities. Become aware of the challenges and potential of those living with disabilities and discover the difference you can easily make in the life of another.

You will:

- Hear classic misunderstandings and myths about people with disabilities.
- Explore how to, when, and when not to, make accommodations to support the best performance of people with disabilities.
- Learn what to say if people make fun of, or bully, someone with a disability.
- Know how to be truly inclusive of those who are different in any situation.

**Leave knowing how to help others
contribute, connect, and shine!**

Those who benefit from Matthew's messages include:

Everyone who works with the public, educators, policy-makers, public officials, architects, medical professionals, care-givers, those with disabilities and their families.



"Matty uses his affable personality, and stories of personal experience to demonstrate there is nothing to be feared from people with disabilities; rather, it is through being inclusive we can discover the multitude of gifts and talents those with disabilities undoubtedly have to offer."

-Laura Osadetz, Teacher, Calgary, AB.

Having experienced bullying and discrimination his whole life has made Matthew Corkum passionate about ensuring that people with disabilities feel as worthwhile and wanted as everyone else! He is a stand for helping everyone focus on the ABILITY in disABILITY.

Matthew has not let his Cerebral Palsy limit his love of living an active life of contribution. Whether getting his PhD, advocating in his advisory role on the City of Calgary's Accessibility Committee, speaking professionally, or simply enjoying his favorite pastime of biking on three continents and counting, he is all-in!

As an atmospheric scientist Matthew works as a head meteorologist in Calgary, Alberta. His humor, helpful insights, and contagious enthusiasm give audiences practical ways to eliminate the stigma, judgement, and misunderstandings that happen when dealing with people that are different. In his off time if he is not developing diversity and inclusion programs, or working out with his trainer, you can find him competing in 'fat bike' and endurance road races.

Other presentations in the "Seeing the Ability in disABILITY" series:

- What the Medical System Doesn't Know That's Impacting Quality of Care
- What Business Owners Don't Know That's Hurting Your Bottom Line and Your Success
- What the Education System Doesn't Know That's Keeping Kids Back, Bullied, and Behind
- What Parents Don't Know That's Keeping Their Kids Held Back, Harassed, and Hidden
- Weather: Is It Cloudy or Clear?

Just a few places Matt has presented at :

