

Bridges to Inclusion: Mission & Services

Disability Advisory Committee
Culver City
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Bridges to Inclusion

<http://www.bridgestoinclusion.org/>

A Bit About Us



Dr. Kimberly Austin

- B.S. Aquatic Biology, UC Santa Barbara
- M.S. Physiology & Behavioral Biology, San Francisco State University
- Ed.D. Higher Education Leadership, California Lutheran University



A Bit About Us



Dr. Sofia Vergara

- B.A. Political Science, minors in Spanish & Disability Studies. UC Berkeley
- M.A. Secondary Education. Loyola Marymount University
- Ed.D. Educational Leadership for Social Justice, Loyola Marymount University



Bridges to Inclusion



Mission:

- Creating pathways of empowerment for individuals with disabilities through education & self-advocacy
- Developing effective tools to raise awareness & promote inclusive practices

Our Services

- Create and facilitate customized disability awareness and inclusive practices trainings
- Guide individuals through employment preparation and social skills development



Trainings/Workshops for Organizations

- **Disability Awareness**
 - categories of disabilities
 - history of disability rights movement
 - use of language & disability etiquette
- **Inclusive Practices**
 - building cultural competency
 - developing an inclusive work environment
- **Workplace Accommodations**
 - physical space audits
 - overview & implementation of common accommodations



Collaborations



BRIDGES TO EMPLOYMENT
Innovative employment preparation for individuals with disabilities

Mission

Bridges to Employment is a person-centered holistic program to support individuals with developmental disabilities on their journey to explore, secure and maintain employment

Overview of Program

Bridges to Employment is composed of two significant components:

1. Employment preparation to empower participants to find, get, and keep employment
2. Social engagement opportunities



Structure of Program

6 month program includes:

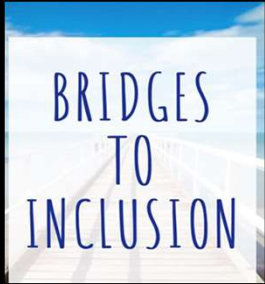
- Weekly in-person/virtual facilitated employment focused learning sessions
 - Identifying strengths, career exploration, resume building, interviewing skills, interpersonal communication
- Monthly ½ day Saturday social gatherings



Importance of Program

- Tools to enhance their capacity to be valuable employees
- Development of confidence in critical skills related to employment and overall self advocacy
- Access to curated job board during the program
- Fun opportunities for social interactions
- Support from their cohort peers and program facilitators throughout the program





Thank you!

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