

Jamie Burke

*Disability Studies in Education Conference-Syracuse University College of Law*

*Saturday, May 2, 2009*

*Panel Presentation*

Hello everyone. I'm Jamie Burke, and I am confident in my initiation of communication, so let me tell you about myself. I am 22 years old and a junior who is just finishing my semester. I am in the College of Human Ecology, majoring in Health and Wellness and my minor is in Native American Studies. I have noticed that in the study of the Native American history, there seems to be a calling for justice of the life-worth of making all communities of people, whether they are Nations of the Haudenosaunee Iroquois, or Mohawk, or communities of people who may struggle with communication, motor dysfunction, or sensory regulation, valued. It must be where systems of people engage in everyday communication and courtesy and visions of fair and equal. It is paramount.

I see many times, the lowering of expectation when I struggle. Please know for me and others, it is profoundly vital to not give the opportunity to move quietly through the door where I know some have their toe pressed against it. For if you allow us to go through it, it must be a full and complete entrance. Allowing us only to gaze into that perfect space is unjust and useless. My heart comprehends the sadness within the memories of tender years when visual language was information only stored. To be able to speak the actual energetic movement of it, holds my joy of life in all its powerful emotions. This undoubtedly would be my hope for all people in revolution of how we see curious new political changes, but sometimes keep the points of old

process. I would enhance the idea that having to take time to listen to someone with communication differences may teach the journey of patient worth and joy of connection that is as good as gold.

I am vital in understanding that those of you sitting here may successfully move the mountains that voice the idea that it is truly not necessary to move them, but to be able to only go around them. Curiously, this evidence of possibility is really evident through my fellow friends, Sue, Tracy and Larry.

Finally, my work of formulating my joy of this journey, wants to include so many others who should have the opportunity to be at a college or a university where worlds of odd literature and explanations of staying safe in sex and dating and soul revelations of an Ojibwa professor regarding the truth of destruction of the Native American tribes is boldly open to all.

I am interested in approaching this attitude presenting itself as we communicate with people engaging in the developing of a changing base of society. It has been vital in my voice to control the fears of speaking in my classes. The idea of how people place intelligence for the users of typed communication is puzzling. Many of my opportunities are controlled by professors who can be open to the beauty of a new experience. There are some who communicate with me like a person who cannot quite communicate with typical speaking method and very much demonstrate their lack of comfortableness. More than a few of them have been wonderfully accepting of all the processes. College for me here at Syracuse University is an experience of being able to demonstrate my ability, even with the baffling issues of autism.

I want to say this to you all, perhaps society must remember the potent Old Golden Rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. I feel as we reveal ourselves to you, that your knowledge will become our power. Thank you.