

Dyslexia Awareness Month Proclamation Acceptance, Chapel Hill, NC –Patricia Seres

Thank you for supporting Dyslexia Awareness month. Dyslexia is a very common Learning Difference, and for dyslexics, every day involves dyslexia awareness since too often it is not understood. In spite of 100 years of research behind it, with proven strategies for what works and what doesn't, dyslexia continues to be misunderstood, and underserved in our schools.

According to research by Yale University and other academic research institutions, dyslexia impacts 20% of the population. Statistically, that translates to 1 in 5 students in every classroom. Yet, since dyslexia is invisible to the untrained eye, many dyslexics are not identified in our schools, and the ones identified too often are not given the evidence-based instruction they need early and intense enough to thrive, or sometimes even survive school years. As a result, they struggle far below potential.

Dyslexic differences are associated with strengths in creative thinking and problem solving, but also very specific challenges in the areas of reading, spelling and writing. This is why dyslexia is often described as an unexpected reading difficulty in an otherwise bright and promising student. Many famous dyslexics throughout history (not to name drop but Disney, Steve Jobs, Spielberg, John Lennon, Einstein, Edison, Kiera Knightly, Whoopi Goldberg, three entrepreneurs on Shark Tank, among many others) attest to their intellectual, innovative and creative capacities, and evidence-based instruction is known to be effective to remediate the phonological weaknesses associated with dyslexia. The remediation is critical not only for these bright students to learn to read, spell and write, but also for their emotional well-being as individuals. Many famous dyslexics break down in tears as they describe traumatic school experiences that are so unnecessary.

According to Yale experts, dyslexia is the civil rights issue of this era, as we know what to do to address it, but it still is not being done in the majority of our schools. Far too many literacy programs do not address the auditory phonological processing deficits of dyslexia, though dyslexia represents roughly 50% of the literacy struggles in this country. Please support the facts of dyslexia, as far too many myths are circulated. Quality sources include Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity, University of Michigan's Dyslexia Help, and DyslexicAdvantage.org. Thank you.