

# Lessons FROM MY LIFE & THE HIDDEN CURRICULUM

## ABOUT ME:

- **DISABILITY RIGHTS ADVOCATE**
- Asperger Syndrome
- Segregated through 4th GR.

Ph.D student!

COULD PROGRAM COMPUTER as a TODDLER

## GROWING UP WITH AUTISM

STEPHEN HINKLE

### SCHOOL:

- **Pre-School:** MONTESSORI
- **1st Grade:** CONCUSSION!
- **2nd Grade:** Segregated LOVED MATH & SCIENCE
- **High School:**
  - Math Science School
  - Brother hurt in COMPERS School SHOOTING SO SCARED

### OBSTACLES:

- Terrible Handwriting
- Behaviors
- Reading difficulties - Metaphors, etc.
- **2nd & 4th GRADE:** STILL SEGREGATED but MAINSTREAMED in SCIENCE & MATH
- NOT good with EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING
- **3rd & 4th GRADE:** STILL SEGREGATED but MAINSTREAMED in SCIENCE & MATH
- wrote PROGRAMS that were RUN at CHILDREN'S MUSEUM... but I WASN'T INVITED
- **5th GRADE:** BEST YEAR OF MY LIFE!
- **6th GRADE:** TEACHERS didn't do INCLUSION so loved that I followed the JANITORS.

### SOCIAL SKILL

- SO IMPORTANT!
- Homecoming
  - Prom, Graduation
- RECREATION LEISURE BANTER JOKES RELATIONSHIPS INTIMACY
- TEACH HOW TO BE A FRIEND
- ACTIVITY SPECIFIC
- Non-generalized LEARNING
- Transition plan to ADULTHOOD
- SDSU - BA, Computer Science 2007
- Laid off → DEPRESSED

## SOCIAL CHALLENGES

- Didn't learn to dance until 12th Gr.
  - In LOTS of STUDIES
- 
- **DIAGNOSIS:** Aspergers at 8 yrs. old.
  - He will NEVER...
- LITTLE did they KNOW I would cross MANY things off the LIST

NEVER: PH.D

ISHF Camp

THERAPEUTIC riding

Helped with BALANCE

## ADVOCACY, NOT REFUSAL.

ADVICE? MAKE SURE KIDS have a chance, challenges don't pity. GIVE OPPORTUNITIES! Special is NOT A PLACE. GIVE SKILLS to build career path of their DREAMS! @NEW VISION

## PARENTS got DIVORCED

- CONFUSING
- Middle School in San Diego
- GOOD learning environment
- NOT SOCIAL SKILLS taught
- speech Therapy

ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

PRESENTER travels ALL OVER THE COUNTRY

MISSING SKILL SET

FULL Scholarship to CHAPMAN University for Ph.D!

## HIDDEN curriculum

- How to sing in a choir
- go to a DANCE
- BIRTHDAY parties
- Go play on the playground
- GET IN NATURAL setting!
- sports
- performing ARTS
- No kid should ever get an F in the hidden curriculum!
- FULL picture Book with MEMORIES

ETIQUETTE RULES are different for EACH situation

- LET GO?
- deficit-based thinking
  - Focus on mental careers
  - creating barriers
- KEEP?
- interaction
  - Quality life, diversity career fields
  - college/trades

Prepare for SOCIETY of LIFE... use strengths, talents & gifts to contribute!