

No Barriers Festival 2009 at Shake-A-Leg Miami “Community, Leadership & Equality” Roundtable Call to Action

Introduction

On June 7, 2009, as a session of the 2009 No Barriers Festival at Shake-A-Leg Miami, participants convened for a roundtable, facilitated by Sport in Society, to raise awareness, challenge thinking, open dialogue and inspire action on topics related to the theme of “Community, Leadership & Equality.” The participants discussed and debated the following topics: Designing an Experience - Liberation; Wounded Warriors in Sport; Employment, Sport and Disability; Barriers for Youth in Sport and Play; and Growing the Community. The participants developed the following action statements to further the individual and collective movement of persons with and without disabilities in sport, recreation and physical activity.

Designing an Experience - Liberation

“Connect, Motivate, Inspire” as a motto and framework for breaking down barriers and finding liberation through sport and physical activity.

Empower individuals with disabilities to reach their potential in sport and all aspects of life.

Wounded Warriors in Sport

Introducing sport for wounded warriors facilitates access to new resources and helps to organize connections and collaborations.

It is important to avoid exclusion and divisions between those that are previously wounded and those that are recently wounded. It is essential to foster inclusion and acceptance for all participants.

Employment, Sport and Disability

Sport serves as a vehicle for people with disabilities to secure employment, allowing people with disabilities to integrate within the community, develop skills, and improve life overall.

Sport and physical activity is a catalyst for all people with and without disabilities.

Barriers for Youth in Sport and Play

Embracing the inclusion of youth with disabilities amongst peers with and without disabilities.

Understanding and promoting inclusion is essential for educators and programs serving youth with disabilities.

Inclusion starts with existing sport and recreation programs.

Mentorship by athletes with and without disabilities is essential for youth with disabilities.

Growing Community

Need to grow and cultivate a more cohesive movement that unites individuals and groups to work together.

Individuals with disabilities must have support and encouragement to develop their skills and knowledge to be able to interact and engage with diverse people, audiences and environments.

Infuse the system for bringing persons with disabilities to all aspects and all levels of sport and recreation.

Conclusion

The participants of the No Barriers Roundtable on “Community, Leadership & Equality” will continue to work together to promote and encourage these action statements. Through the No Barriers website (www.nobarriersusa.org) and the dedicated No Barriers USA Festival 2009 Roundtable Facebook page, the community will be able to work together to collaborate and mobilize on an ongoing basis. This call to action reflects the voices of an engaged and motivated group of leaders and educators who envision the future as an inclusive and equitable society. This call to action is intended to further enhance dialogue and action by all stakeholders at all levels and in all aspects of sport, recreation and physical activity.

About Sport in Society

Sport in Society at Northeastern University in Boston, Massachusetts works locally, nationally and globally to identify and address social problems in sport and in society. The Center conducts research, develops programs that offer solutions, and educates and advocates on the emerging issues. Sport in Society works to create a just world by eliminating discrimination, hate and violence, while creating lasting solutions, and promoting healthy development and social responsibility.

Roundtable Participants

Bill Barkley

Burak Bekcan, Diveheart

Kathy Celo, Disabled Sports USA

Nicole Deters Spader, No Barriers USA

Tanya Feddern-Bekcan, Medical Librarian

Cristy de la Guardia, Shake-A-Leg Miami

Harry Horgan, Shake-A-Leg Miami

Julie Jones, Engineered Travel, LLC

John Muir, Shake-A-Leg Miami

Deborah Page, US Canoe & Kayak

Kat Poster, Disabled Sports USA

Julia Ray, Disabled Sports USA

Mike Savicki, No Barriers USA

Willie Stanton, Diveheart

Stephen Sundarrao, RehabIdeas

Steve Tower, Sport in Society, Facilitator

Jon Trivento, RehabIdeas

Jan Whitaker, Disabled Sports USA

Eli Wolff, Sport in Society, Facilitator