



# THE BRIEN CENTER

Diversity • Equity • Inclusion • Belonging

Your courage, our care.

## NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2025

### DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES MONTH

March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. The annual campaign highlights how people with and without disabilities come together to form strong communities. The theme for 2025, *We're Here All Year*, emphasizes that community, accessibility, and opportunities for people with developmental disabilities should be recognized and championed every day. This month reminds us that individuals with developmental disabilities are valuable members of our communities and deserve full participation in all aspects of life, including education, employment, recreation, and civic engagement.

Established in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month highlights the importance of fostering a society where people with disabilities are empowered to contribute to their communities.



### INCLUSIVE LANGUAGE HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

**Hysterical:** Literally this means a person who is in the state of an uncontrolled, extreme emotional response, but for centuries it was used to disparage women. It derives from the Latin word for "womb" and was originally defined as "a neurotic condition peculiar to women and thought to be caused by a dysfunction of the uterus." Today, a person might experience negative consequences if using this word in reference to someone who identifies as a woman.

### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

In 1987, Congress passed Pub. L. 100-9 designating the month of March as Women's History Month. This year's theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." It is a time to recognize the historical achievements women have made to help advance the world. The work women have contributed to our society has improved our lives in technology, fashion, medicine, science, activism and more.

Some examples of women being innovative:

- Lucille Ball - the first woman to own a major studio.
- Madame Curie - the first woman to win the Nobel Prize.
- Sally Ride - the first woman to travel to space.
- Cleopatra - the last pharaoh of Egypt.



### DEIB AWARENESS SESSION

On **March 7th** Annie Schwartz (MS, RDN, LDN) registered dietitian and size inclusivity advocate and consultant dedicated to challenging weight bias and advancing body liberation will conduct a session entitled "Beyond Bias: Embracing Size Diversity and Championing Equity for All Bodies." Weight stigma and anti-fat bias affect every aspect of our lives, from mental and emotional well-being to physical and financial health. This session will explore the pervasive impact of these biases, discuss the importance of size inclusion and the benefits of a Health at Every Size® approach. You'll gain tools to support and advocate for individuals in marginalized bodies while learning tangible strategies to challenge weight stigma and anti-fat bias in your daily life. Registration link below.

[briencenter.ticketleap.com/deib-awareness-session---march-25/](http://briencenter.ticketleap.com/deib-awareness-session---march-25/)

Questions/Comments/Suggestions for the DEI Committee?  
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