



## Disability Pride Month



This month, SCRS-IL successfully hosted our second annual Youth Leadership Summit at Cal Poly Pomona, where our Youth Leadership Students' enthusiasm and active participation truly inspired us! SCRS-IL is dedicated to creating opportunities and empowering the disability community, and events like the summit showcase our important work. If you haven't done so yet, I encourage you to visit our Instagram page @SCRSILA, where we've been sharing exciting highlights and updates from the summit and the NCIL Conference in Washington, DC. You can stay connected and informed about upcoming events and the latest news by following us!

Disability Pride Month takes place in July and serves as an occasion to commemorate the history, accomplishments, experiences, and challenges faced by the disability community. Why July? It coincides with the anniversary of the **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**, a groundbreaking legislation that aimed to eliminate barriers and promote inclusivity in society.

Despite the progress made, barriers still persist, underscoring the importance of honoring all types of disabilities, the individuals who identify with them, and the diverse range of support they require to thrive.

As an outcome of the national disability rights and Independent Living Movements, **National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)** was founded to embody the values of disability culture and Independent Living philosophy. Since its creation in 1982, NCIL has carried out its mission by assisting CILs and SILCs

in building their capacity to promote social change, eliminate disability-based discrimination, and create opportunities for people with disabilities to participate in the legislative process to affect change.

After a three-year absence, due to COVID-19, SCRS-IL returned to Washington DC, for the NCIL Conference. Our main focus was on engaging with legislators and encouraging them to enhance the ADA and to bring more awareness to the stagnation of the ADA.

In truth, the ADA is misunderstood to be the "gold standard" of accessible design standards by large majorities of the general public, both domestically and globally. Viewing accessibility solely as a compliance obligation, rather than an opportunity for innovation, poses a missed chance for businesses and communities. Strengthening the ADA is crucial because it ensures that accessibility is not just viewed as a checkbox to meet legal requirements. Enhancing the ADA empowers businesses and communities to embrace accessibility as a catalyst for innovation and progress. These provisions will lead to improved infrastructural changes and accommodations, benefiting people with and without disabilities and creating a more inclusive society overall.

Do you want to learn more about advocating and legislating for the disability community?

Yes

No



**Join us in celebrating July's work anniversaries! Thank you for your contributions and dedication to SCRS-IL!**

**Gwendoline Dunkijacobsnolten**



**Congratulations to our July 2023 "Above and Beyond" Employee!**

- 22 years  
Hector Ochoa - 13 years  
Debbie Calva - 11 years  
Tonny Vuong - 9 years  
Kimberlyn Burnam - 1 year  
Sabrina Torres - 1 year  
Isabela Melendez - 1 year

**Liam Matthews**

**Interested in nominating an SCRS Employee for going above and beyond?**

Above & Beyond recipients can be nominated by SCRS-IL consumers, employees, management, volunteers, community partners, and stakeholders.

Click [here](#) to nominate the next employee of the month!

## Upcoming Events



### Los Angeles County - Parks & Recreation

Sign up for in-person and virtual classes to learn a new skill, take up a new hobby or stay healthy and active! Classes start May 30, 2023 and registration is on a rolling basis.

**All Ages | Sign up Required**

[Read More](#)

[Visit our Website](#)



## Inland Empire Disabilities EXPO

The Inland Empire Disabilities EXPO showcases services and products that enhance independent living for persons with disabilities. The event brings together exhibits on: Health, Housing, Advocacy, Transportation, Education, Recreation, Assistive Technology, Employment, Senior Services, Youth Services, and so much more!

**Free Event | All Ages | Registration Required | Sat. Aug 26 10:00 AM**

[Read More](#)



## Southern California's Disability Pride Parade & Festival

The official website for the Los Angeles Disability Pride Parade, Festival & Fair. Mobilizing and re-energizing the disability community. Sponsored by SCRS-IL

**Free Event | All Ages | Sun. October 9th 10:00 AM**

[Read More](#)



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