



LIGHTS, CAMERA, *Advocacy*



Make Your Mark!

SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

September 16 & 17, 2026

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center | Ames, IA



IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

SET THE SCENE: SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

All general sessions, keynote presentations, and meals will be held in the Prairie Ballroom unless noted otherwise.

Wednesday, September 16

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.	Registration, Breakfast & Resource Fair
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Opening Keynote: Jackie Nau
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Resource Fair & Networking Break
11:00 – 11:50 a.m.	Advocacy in Action: Legislative Success, LIVE!
11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Media Impact Award
12:00 – 1:30 p.m.	Lunch & Networking: Policy Takes Center Stage
1:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Resource Fair & Networking Break
2:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions:
Garden Room	Drumming for Life
North Prairie Room	Make Your Job Work for You
Central Prairie Room	Lights, Camera, WORK!!!
South Prairie Room	Supported Decision-Making
3:00 – 3:15 p.m.	Resource Fair & Networking Break
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	Breakout Sessions:
Garden Room	Social Security
North Prairie Room	Lights, Camera, Impact
Central Prairie Room	IAble Jeopardy
South Prairie Room	Communication Without Barriers
4:15 – 4:30 p.m.	Resource Fair & Networking Break
4:30 – 5:00 p.m.	Free Time
5:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Dinner, Talent Showcase & Cody Clark Magic Garden Room

Thursday, September 17

7:15 – 8:15 a.m.	Breakfast, Registration & Resource Fair
8:15 – 9:00 a.m.	HHS Panel Discussion
9:00 – 10:00 a.m.	Closing Keynote: Cody Clark
10:00 – 10:30 a.m.	Resource Fair & Networking Break
10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Breakout Sessions
Garden Room	Advocacy in Action
North Prairie Room	Behind the Scenes
Central Prairie Room	College Without Walls
South Prairie Room	Service Animals & the ADA
11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Awards Luncheon & Celebration



ROLL THE FILM: GENERAL INFORMATION

Awards Luncheon & Celebration

Each year, the Make Your Mark! Conference recognizes outstanding advocates and leaders who have made a lasting impact in the disability community.



Mia Peterson Self-Advocacy Award

Mia Peterson was a self-advocate who dedicated her life to advancing the rights of people with disabilities. After her passing in 2021, this award was created to honor Iowans with

disabilities who carry on Mia’s legacy by speaking up, driving change, and inspiring others.



Rik Shannon Disability Champion Award

Rik Shannon dedicated over 20 years to improving the lives of Iowans with disabilities as the Iowa DD Council’s Public Policy Manager. After his passing in 2025, this award

was created to recognize individuals who go above and beyond to champion disability rights and inclusion.

This year’s awards will be presented during the Thursday Lunch Session in the Prairie Ballroom. Don’t miss the chance to celebrate and be inspired by the award winners!



Calming Room Sponsored by Easterseals Iowa

Located in the Meadow

Rooms, the Calming Room is a space for anyone who needs a break during the conference.

Prize Drawings

Every attendee has a chance to win! Visit each organization and collect a stamp, sticker, or initials in every box on the Prize Drawing card on page 19. Return your completed card to the registration table before lunch on Thursday. Winners will be announced during Thursday’s lunch. You must be present to win.

BEHIND THE SCENES: Volunteers

- Kristen Aller
- Jeremy Beavers
- Steve Beavers
- Julie Bergeson ★
- Edward Esbeck
- Eric Evans
- Laura Gibson
- Kris Graves ★
- Sharon Ruth Hensley
- Erika Hertel
- Hugh Kelly
- Tyrome Lauderville
- Andrea Maher
- Eric Mullins
- Caitlin Owens
- Caleb Primrose
- Daryn Richardson
- Jill Ries
- Charlene Wyatt- Sauer ★
- George Thompson ★
- Stella Thompson
- Benny Villegas
- Brady Werger ★
- Casey Wilkinson ★

★ These volunteers also served on the conference planning committee.

NOW SHOWING



Be Your AuthenTIC Self: Be Seen, Be Heard, Be You! | Jackie Nau

Prairie Ballroom | 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

What if the person you need to advocate for most is yourself? In this inspiring keynote, Jackie Nau shares her journey of self-discovery and self-advocacy, showing how embracing who you are can build confidence and create meaningful change. Attendees will leave encouraged to recognize their strengths, speak up for their needs, and celebrate what makes them unique.

SPEAKER SNAPSHOT

Jackie is the author of *Click, Tic, Jerk, and Hop* and a passionate disability advocate who has lived with Tourette Syndrome for more than 50 years. Through her writing and speaking, she encourages others to embrace their differences, find their voice, and know they are not alone. As a self-advocate and parent, Jackie shares a powerful message of acceptance, authenticity, and self-advocacy.



11:00 – 11:50 a.m.
Prairie Ballroom

Advocacy in Action: Legislative Success, LIVE!

Moderated by Dave Price

Join Iowa Representative Brett Barker, Iowa Senator Kara Warme, advocates from the National Federation of the Blind-Iowa, and the Iowa Council for the United Blind as they share how they worked together to pass a bill this year that will create meaningful change for Iowans.

11:50 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Prairie Ballroom

Media Impact Award

Join us as we recognize the Iowa Capital Dispatch for producing impactful reporting that amplifies the voices of Iowans with disabilities.

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
Prairie Ballroom

Lunch & Networking: Policy Takes Center Stage

Build connections, exchange ideas, and enjoy lunch with advocates, professionals, families, and friends from across Iowa.

Lunch Activity: Help shape the future by sharing your ideas for policy change in 2027.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.
Garden Room

Dinner, Talent Showcase & Cody Clark Magic

Enjoy dinner and an evening of entertainment starting with performances from fellow attendees. You might see music, poetry, dance, or other hidden talents take the stage—there’s sure to be a surprise or two!

The night wraps up with Cody Clark’s blend of magic, comedy, and storytelling as he entertains with *A Different Way of Thinking*.

Cody Clark Magic

Breakout Session Note:

Some breakout rooms may be crowded. If your session feels too full, you may switch to a different breakout session if space is available.

Garden Room

Drumming for Life

Presented by: Annie Mielke, Joe Parrish & Josiah Mielke
Experience the power of rhythm, connection, and self-expression. This interactive drum circle will focus on stress relief, confidence, relationships, and well-being.

North Prairie Room

Make Your Job Work for You! Accommodations and Setting Yourself Up for Success

Presented by: Kate Thompson & Rachel Bussan
Want to succeed at work but are not sure what support you need? Learn how to request workplace accommodations, have helpful conversations with employers, and advocate for yourself on the job.

Central Prairie Room

Lights, Camera, WORK!!!

Presented by: Judy Warth & Edward Esbeck
Learn how to explore work goals, ask for support, and choose next steps to get, learn, and keep a job.

South Prairie Room

Center Stage: Bringing Supported Decision-Making into the Spotlight

Presented by: Jennifer Donovan, Julie Gibbons, & Pilot Participants
Learn how Supported Decision-Making helps people stay in control of their life choices while getting the support they need. Hear from people using this approach in real life.



Garden Room

Social Security: Working While Disabled

Presented by: Kirsten Goodwin, Social Security Administration
Thinking about working while receiving disability benefits? Learn about work incentives, the Ticket to Work program, and how to report earnings to Social Security.

North Prairie Room

Lights, Camera, Impact: Using Storytelling to Advocate for Yourself and Your Community

Presented by: D'Tresean Burge & Wanda Johnson
Your story matters. Learn a simple framework for turning lived experience into a clear advocacy message you can use with providers, employers, and community leaders.

Central Prairie Room

IABLE Jeopardy: Putting Financial Empowerment in the Winning Category

Presented by: Jessica Graves-Butler
Learn about Iowa's ABLE savings plan through a fun game-show format. Discover how IABLE can support independence, choice, and financial stability.

South Prairie Room

Communication Without Barriers: How to Communicate with People Who Have Difficulty Communicating with Others

Presented by: Edward Esbeck and Advocacy Panel
Hear directly from self-advocates about communication challenges, tools that work, and ways to build stronger connections in the community.



- 7:15 – 8:15 a.m.

Breakfast, Registration & Resource Fair
Start the day with breakfast and connect with exhibitors.
- 8:15 – 9:00 a.m.

Iowa Health and Human Services Panel Discussion
Zach Rhein and Kera Oestreich from Iowa Health and Human Services will provide updates and share information on programs and priorities that affect Iowans with disabilities and their families.



Revealing the Secrets Behind Essential Skills | Cody Clark

Prairie Ballroom | 9:00–10:00 a.m.

Success doesn't come from luck. It comes from learning the skills that help us navigate life's challenges, build meaningful relationships, and believe in ourselves.

In this engaging keynote, magician and autistic self-advocate Cody Clark shares practical lessons in self-management, communication, and emotional resilience that help individuals thrive at work, at home, and in their communities. Through storytelling, humor, and a touch of magic, Cody demonstrates that life's most important skills can be learned, practiced, and strengthened over time.

Drawing from personal experiences and real-world examples, Cody encourages attendees to build confidence, embrace their strengths, and develop the skills needed to achieve their goals. Participants will leave inspired to recognize their potential and create their own path to success.



SPEAKER SNAPSHOT

Cody Clark is a professional magician, speaker, and autism self-advocate who uses the art of magic to educate, inspire, and challenge perceptions about disability. Drawing from his experiences as an autistic adult, Cody helps audiences better understand autism and the value of different perspectives. Through a unique blend of storytelling, humor, and interactive magic, he delivers powerful messages about self-acceptance, resilience, and success.

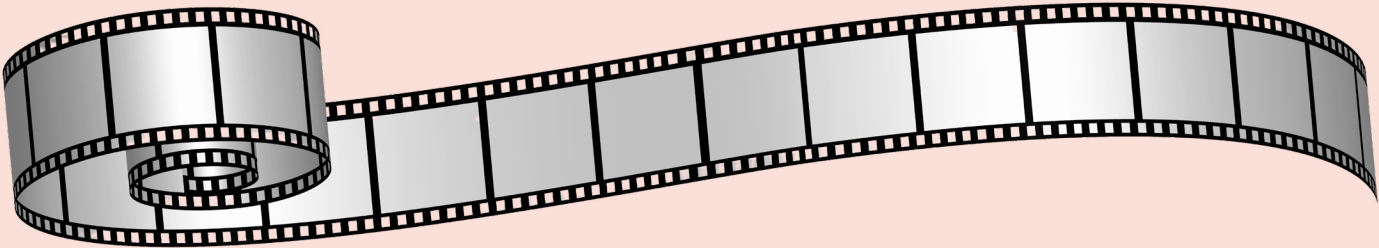
- Garden Room

Advocacy in Action for Individuals with Special Needs
Presented by: Dr. Andrea Loutsch
Move beyond checking a box and learn what true belonging looks like in schools, communities, and systems. Leave with practical ideas for creating meaningful inclusion.
- North Prairie Room

Behind the Scenes: Crafting Your Advocacy Story
Presented by: Lori Trujillo R. Roush, Sarah Baebler & Facilitators
A hands-on workshop where you will turn lived experience into a clear advocacy story. Leave with a message you can continue practicing and using.
- Central Prairie Room

College Without Walls
Presented by: Bill Loyd & a UI REACH Student
Explore postsecondary learning, career development, campus life, and independent living opportunities through UI REACH at the University of Iowa.
- South Prairie Room

Is Your Dog a Service Animal or a Pet?
Presented by: Catherine E. Johnson
Bring your service animal questions. Learn about the Americans with Disabilities Act, service animal definitions, handler rights, and responsibilities.



WALL OF FAME: SPEAKER BIOS

★ **Isabella Arenas Perez | Student and Self-Advocate**

Isabella Arenas Perez is a ninth-grade student and disability advocate from Ankeny. She uses a Tobii Dynavox eye gaze device for academics, communication, and leadership.
Fun Fact: Isabella loves writing poetry.

★ **Sarah Baebler | Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Iowa Department for the Blind**

Sarah Baebler is a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Iowa Department for the Blind. She helps transition-age youth across central Iowa prepare for education, employment, and independent living.
Fun Fact: Sarah has visited 41 states, and a ghost tour in New Orleans ended with a broken foot.

★ **D'Tresean Burge | Founder, Waiquhp Enmt LLC.**

D'Tresean Burge is a storyteller and community advocate who uses film and personal stories to amplify voices, build understanding, and support self-advocacy.
Fun Fact: D'Tresean once jumped off a diving board after seeing a younger child do it, despite not knowing how to swim.

★ **Rachel Bussan | Collection Services Specialist, West Des Moines Public Library**

Rachel Bussan is a library professional and disability advocate who promotes understanding of neurological differences, mental health, and autism. She is a contributing author of *Hear Me Speak: Understanding Autism Through Our Voices*.

★ **Reagan Crabtree | Advocacy Panelist**

Reagan Crabtree shares personal advocacy experiences to help others understand the power of lived experience and effective communication. Reagan has also shared that advocacy journey through news interviews.

★ **Jennifer Donovan | Public Guardian, State of Iowa**

Jennifer Donovan is Iowa's Public Guardian and oversees the Office of Public Guardian. An attorney with experience at Iowa Legal Aid, she works to support and protect Iowans who need public guardianship services.

★ **Edward Esbeck | Self-Advocacy Coordinator, Iowa's UCEDD**

Edward Esbeck is a Self-Advocacy Coordinator with Iowa's UCEDD and Core Faculty in Iowa's LEND Program. He uses lived experience to support accessible training, education, health care, and transition efforts.
Fun Fact: Edward loves to play Catan.

★ **Lindsay Fox | Economic Development Professional, City of Ankeny**

Lindsay Fox works in economic development for the City of Ankeny, supporting public art and community amenities. Inspired by life with a disabled veteran, she also fosters and trains service dogs and advocates for disability rights.

★ **Zac Fox | Veteran Liaison, Puppy Jake Foundation**

Zac Fox is an Army veteran and Veteran Liaison for Puppy Jake Foundation. He supports fellow veterans through service-dog work and is joined at the conference by his service dog, Kernel.

★ **Julie Gibbons | Chief Planning Officer, Polk County Behavioral Health and Disability Services**

Julie Gibbons is Chief Planning Officer for Polk County Behavioral Health and Disability Services. She works to strengthen systems of care, improve access to disability supports, and advance inclusion and community engagement.

★ **Kirsten Goodwin | Public Affairs Specialist, Social Security Administration**

Kirsten Goodwin is a Public Affairs Specialist with the Social Security Administration. Drawing on experience across Social Security programs, she works with congressional offices and community partners to help the public understand available programs and services.

★ **Jessica Graves-Butler | Consumer Programs Administrative Coordinator, IAble and State Treasurer's Office**

Jessica Graves-Butler is the Consumer Programs Administrative Coordinator for IAble and the State Treasurer's Office. She helps individuals, families, and community partners understand how ABLE accounts can support greater financial independence for people with disabilities.

WALL OF FAME: SPEAKER BIOS

★ **Catherine E. Johnson | Executive Director, Disability Rights Iowa**

Catherine E. Johnson is the Executive Director of Disability Rights Iowa. She will help lead an interactive session about service animals, including ADA definitions, handler rights and responsibilities, and where service animals may accompany their handlers.

★ **Wanda Johnson | Solution Specialist and Owner, At Your Service Corridor Community**

Wanda Johnson is a Solution Specialist and owner of At Your Service Corridor Community. Drawing on lived experience with invisible disabilities and traumatic brain injury, she helps people find resources, navigate systems, and work toward greater independence.
Fun Fact: Wanda and her mom once replaced an ignition switch over the phone and got the car running.

★ **Dr. Andrea Loutsch | Founder, Inclusive Connections, LLC**

Dr. Andrea Loutsch is an educator and founder of Inclusive Connections, LLC. She works with schools, educators, and families to create more inclusive learning environments and advocate for students with disabilities.
Fun Fact: Andrea's nephew, who has an intellectual disability and was never defined by a label, is her biggest reason for advocating.

WALL OF FAME: SPEAKER BIOS

 **Bill Loyd | Director, UI REACH, University of Iowa**
Bill Loyd directs UI REACH at the University of Iowa, a program focused on postsecondary learning, career preparation, independent living, and lifelong support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Fun Fact: UI REACH students have joined Iowa DD Council advocacy trips to Des Moines and Washington, D.C.

 **Annie Mielke | Executive Director, Adventures in Social Development**
Annie Mielke is Executive Director of Adventures in Social Development and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She uses education, drama, and real-world practice to help people build confidence and skills.
Fun Fact: Annie chose a behavioral career path to help her own children with autism navigate the world.

 **Josiah Mielke | Artist and Co-Facilitator**
Josiah Mielke is a Drake University graduate, pianist, and employee at Athene in West Des Moines. He embraces autism as part of what makes him unique.
Fun Fact: Josiah is a lightning-fast typist and can list the Disney canon in chronological order in under two minutes.

 **Kera Oestreich | Medicaid Deputy Director of Policy and Planning, Iowa Health and Human Services**
Kera Oestreich is Medicaid Deputy Director of Policy and Planning for Iowa Health and Human Services. She helps shape policy, planning, and programs that improve access to health care and supports for Iowans.
Fun Fact: Kera began her career working directly with children and adults with disabilities.

 **Joe Parrish | Lead Facilitator**
Joe Parrish has a background in human services and applied behavior analysis. He created Role-Play Theatre Analysis programs and leads Social Drumming sessions that use rhythm to build connection, relationships, and confidence.

 **Laura Perez | Parent Advocate and Paraprofessional**
Laura Perez is a parent advocate and paraprofessional with the Ankeny School District. She uses lessons from her family to support students in special education classrooms.
Fun Fact: Laura loves traveling and advocating for her family and the students she supports.

 **Caleb Primrose | Self-Advocate and Chair, Statewide Independent Living Council**
Caleb Primrose is an autistic self-advocate and Chair of the Statewide Independent Living Council. He brings experience in mental health advocacy, leadership, and community involvement.
Fun Fact: Caleb has had the chance to meet multiple presidents.

 **Zach Rhein | Director of the Aging and Disability Services Divisions, Iowa Health and Human Services**
Zach Rhein directs the Aging and Disability Services Divisions at Iowa Health and Human Services. He leads statewide programs and partnerships that support independence and well-being for older adults and people with disabilities.
Fun Fact: Zach has taught communication and writing at several colleges and universities.

 **Lori Trujillo R. Roush | State President, Iowa Council of the United Blind**
Lori Trujillo R. Roush is State President of the Iowa Council of the United Blind. She brings people together and supports accessibility, independence, and inclusion for blind and low-vision Iowans.
Fun Fact: Lori recently discovered the joys of coffee and cannot believe what she was missing.

 **Gloria Soto, J.D. | Staff Attorney, Disability Rights Iowa**
Gloria Soto is a Staff Attorney at Disability Rights Iowa. Her work includes special education, employment, disability discrimination, and Medicaid appeals.

 **Kate Thompson | Neurodiversity Consultant, Kate Thompson Consulting**
Kate Thompson is a neurodiversity advocate, speaker, and coach who helps workplaces better support neurodivergent people. She helps individuals recognize their strengths, navigate challenges, and succeed at work and in life.
Fun Fact: Kate enjoys performing stand-up comedy.

WALL OF FAME: SPEAKER BIOS

 **Judy Warth | Program Manager, Iowa's UCEDD**
Judy Warth is a Program Manager with Iowa's UCEDD. She supports employment, self-advocacy, transition to adulthood, leadership, and community inclusion so people with disabilities can build the lives they want.
Fun Fact: Judy teaches dogs.

 **Casey Wilkinson | Advocate, Leader and Public Health Professional**
Casey Wilkinson is an advocate and public health professional who brings lived experience to conversations about communication, community connection, and disability advocacy.
Fun Fact: Casey is a self-taught wildlife and nature photographer who uses photo displays to highlight the strengths of people with disabilities.



ROLL THE CREDITS: SPONSORS



IOWA COUNCIL OF THE UNITED BLIND

Spotlight Sponsor

Consumer-run organization promoting equality, opportunity, and independence for blind Iowans through advocacy, education, and peer support. Conference accessibility partner for Make Your Mark! who helped support a more inclusive experience for attendees.

IOWA'S UNIVERSITY CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES (UCEDD)

Leading Role Sponsor

Provides training, services, community programs, and information that support independence, inclusion, and opportunity for Iowans with disabilities.

MOLINA HEALTHCARE OF IOWA

Director Sponsor

Provides Medicaid health coverage, member resources, and support services for eligible Iowans.

IOWA TOTAL CARE

Talent Showcase Sponsor

Managed care organization providing health care coverage and support services for Iowa Medicaid members.

IOWA VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES

Producer Sponsor

Helps Iowans with disabilities prepare for, obtain, retain, and advance in employment.

WELLPOINT

Producer Sponsor

Provides Medicaid managed care services designed to support the physical, social, and emotional health of Iowa members.

IAble

Supporting Cast Sponsor

Helps eligible individuals with disabilities save for qualified expenses while maintaining important benefits such as SSI and Medicaid.

IOWA HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION

Supporting Cast Sponsor

Provides programs, services, and supports that help older Iowans and people with disabilities live independently and safely in their communities.

ROLL THE CREDITS: SPONSORS



IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

Supporting Cast Sponsor

Provides community-based supports that help people with disabilities achieve greater independence and reach their goals.

EASTERSEALS IOWA

Calming Room Sponsor

Provides assistive technology services, equipment access, training, and resources that help Iowans increase independence in daily life.

ACCESSIBILITY & LODGING SPONSORS: THE ARC OF IOWA

Advocates for people with disabilities and their families while building connections with communities, professionals, and allies across Iowa.

DELTA DENTAL OF IOWA

Supports programs and partnerships that improve oral health and overall health for Iowans.

DENTAQUEST

Improves access to oral health care through dental benefits, preventive care, and solutions designed to improve oral and overall health.

FAMILY ADVOCATE & NAVIGATOR OF SERVICES (F.A.N.S.)

Provides advocacy, navigation, and support that help individuals and families connect with resources and community services.

IOWA APSE

Advances employment equity for people with disabilities through training, advocacy, and integrated employment supports.

RELAY IOWA

Provides telecommunications relay services that help people who are deaf, hard of hearing, deafblind, or have speech disabilities communicate by telephone.



ROLL THE CREDITS: EXHIBITORS

ALLIES IN ADVOCACY

Advocacy & Self-Advocacy
Collective of advocates promoting independence and self-determination for disabled Iowans.

ASK RESOURCE CENTERS

Family Support & Advocacy
Provides advocacy, training, resources, and family support for Iowans with disabilities and the people who support them.

AXIS THERAPY CENTERS

Therapy & Family Support
Provides ABA, speech, occupational, and feeding therapy, along with social skills groups and family support.

BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF IOWA

Brain Injury Support
Supports Iowans affected by brain injury through advocacy, education, prevention, resource facilitation, and support groups.

BRIDGES 2 ADVOCACY

Special Education Advocacy
Provides education, resources, workshops, and community support for families navigating special education and disability systems.

CAMP ALBRECHT ACRES

Accessible Recreation
Provides a safe, accessible, and enjoyable summer camp experience with adapted recreation for people with disabilities.

CARING HEARTS OF WEST CENTRAL IOWA

Disability Services
Provides care, services, and family support that promote independence, dignity, and respect for people with disabilities.

DISABILITY RIGHTS IOWA

Legal Rights & Advocacy
Protects the rights of Iowans with disabilities through legal advocacy, education, individual representation, and benefits planning.

EDGY MEGS

Art, Gifts & Home Decor
Family-owned Iowa shop offering antiques, home decor, locally sourced goods, handcrafted items, gifts, and original artwork.

EPILEPSY FOUNDATION IOWA

Epilepsy Support
Provides advocacy, education, seizure first aid training, support groups, and statewide resources for people affected by epilepsy.

INFONET

Advocacy Information
Provides tools, resources, and opportunities for advocates with disabilities to share stories, follow policy issues, and take action.

IOWA COMMUNITY HUB

Health & Community Resources
Connects individuals and families with health programs, community resources, social care services, and other supports.

IOWA DEPARTMENT FOR THE BLIND

Blindness Services
Supports blind Iowans through vocational rehabilitation, independent living, library services, and programs for youth and families.

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Transportation
Supports and promotes a safe, comprehensive transit system that connects Iowans with opportunities and community life.

IOWA DISABILITY ACCESS POINTS

Service Navigation
Helps people with disabilities, families, and caregivers find services through information, referrals, planning, and follow-up.

IOWA SECRETARY OF STATE

Voting & Civic Engagement
Provides voter education, election information, and voter registration resources that help Iowans participate in elections.

IOWA STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

Independent Living Support
Promotes independence, choice, and community inclusion for Iowans with disabilities by supporting advocacy, leadership, and disability-led decision-making across the state.

LEARNING DISABILITIES ASSOCIATION OF IOWA

Learning Disability Support
Provides information, referrals, resources, support, and advocacy for people with learning disabilities and their families.

MOSAIC

Community-Based Services
Provides personalized home- and community-based services for adults with disabilities and mental health needs.

SAFEINHOME

Remote Support Technology
Combines assistive technology with trained support staff to help people live more independently at home and in the community.

SMARTBOX

Communication Technology
Creates communication devices and software that help people communicate using touch, switches, eye gaze, and other access methods.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Disability Benefits & Work
Provides information about SSI, SSDI, work incentives, and how employment may affect benefits and health coverage.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS IOWA

Sports & Inclusion
Provides year-round sports training and athletic competition for people with intellectual disabilities.

STRAW HAT FARMS

Plants, Produce & Flowers
Iowa farm offering flowers, bedding plants, hanging baskets, vegetable plants, seeds, produce, and herbs.

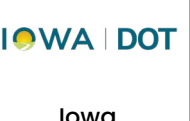
UI REACH

College & Career Transition
University of Iowa transition program supporting academics, career development, independent living, social growth, and campus life.

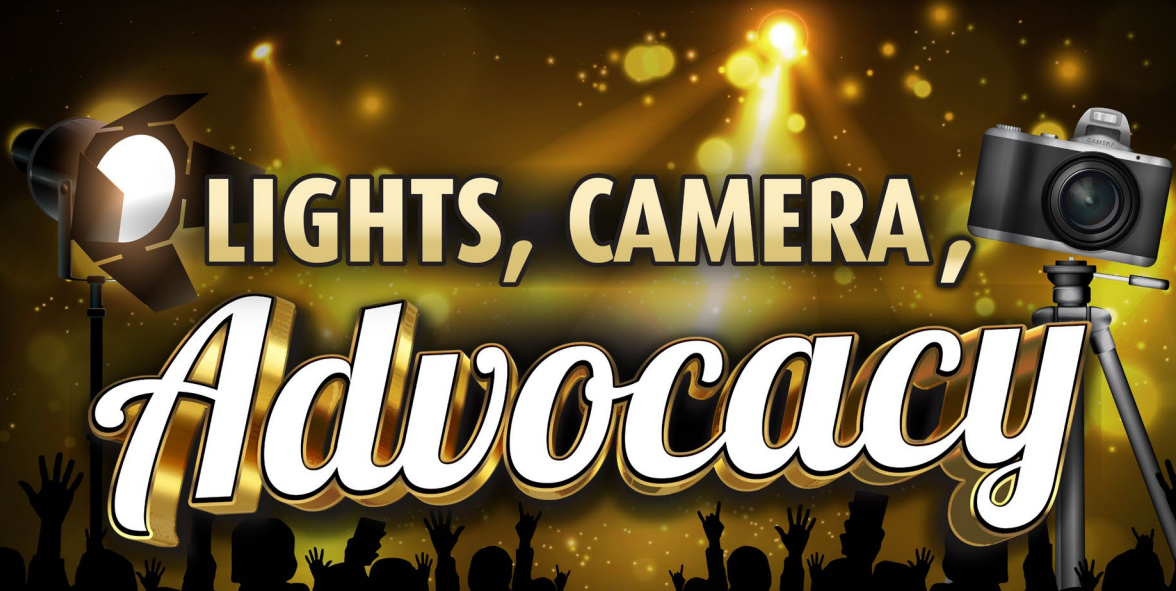
ROLL THE CREDITS: EXHIBITORS

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 Allies in Advocacy	 Iowa APSE	 Learning Disabilities Association of Iowa	 Iowa Disability Access Points	 F.A.N.S.	 Camp Albrecht Acres	 Iowa Total Care
 Straw Hat Farm	 Iowa Department for the Blind	 ASK Resource Center	 Delta Dental of Iowa	 Iowa Vocational Rehab	 SafeinHome	 infoNet
 Iowa Secretary of State	 IAble	 Molina Healthcare of Iowa	 Iowa Council of the United Blind	 Iowa's UCEDD	 Edgy Megs	 Wellpoint
 DentaQuest	 Smartbox	 Epilepsy Foundation Iowa	 Iowa Department of Transportation	 Special Olympics Iowa	 Axis Therapy Centers	 Mosaic
 Relay Iowa	 Easterseals Iowa	 The Arc of Iowa	 Brain Injury Association of Iowa	 Imagine the Possibilities	 UI REACH	 Iowa HHS: Aging & Disability Services
 Iowa Community HUB	 Caring Hearts of West Central Iowa	 Iowa SILC	 Social Security Administration	 Iowa DD Council	 Disability Rights Iowa	 Bridges 2 Advocacy

YOUR NAME:



LIGHTS, CAMERA, *Advocacy*



Make Your Mark!

SELF-ADVOCACY CONFERENCE

September 16 & 17, 2026

Gateway Hotel & Conference Center | Ames, IA

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

IOWA DD Council

Preparation, Participation, Power

700 2nd Avenue, Suite 101

Des Moines, Iowa 50309

Phone: 1-800-452-1963

iowaddcouncil.org