

## Human Relations Commission Forum

Sunday, January 31, 2016

3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Whitted Human Services Building  
300 W. Tryon Street in Hillsborough

# *dis*ABILITIES MATTER: A Focus on Disability Awareness



*Special Presentation by Alice Elliott*

Ms. Elliott is an Academy Award nominee and Area Head of Documentary Studies at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, and a media consultant for corporations and non-profits.

A 2012 Guggenheim Fellow award recipient, she is working on completing a trilogy of short films that, through compelling stories, change our perceptions of ability. Currently, Ms. Elliott is finishing a new training video for NY State's Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

She directed the PBS Award-winning documentary *Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy*, as part of the trilogy. In 2013, she received a National Endowment for the Arts Grant. Alice tweets regularly on topical disability news. She is developing an app for Washington, DC visitors on the history of disability rights, and looking at empathy and disability through virtual reality.



Each year, the HRC hosts a Human Relations Month Forum as a springboard into Human Relations Month in February.

The purpose of the forum is to highlight and discuss historical or current issues of civil rights and/or social justice. The year 2015 marks the 25th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

As such, this forum will focus on the achievements that emerged after the ADA, and the continuing barriers to equal access for persons with disabilities.

# Discussion Panelists

## Moderators

*Timothy Miles, Director of Triangle Disability Awareness Council*

*Pam Dickens, NC Council on Developmental Disabilities*

Leigh Fickling is the Director of the Disability Management System at Duke University. She coordinates accommodation services for all persons with disabilities for Duke University and the Duke University Health System. She is an expert on all aspects of Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended.



With more than 18 years of experience in Higher Education Administration, Leigh's area of expertise is disability law and the implementation of reasonable accommodations in the classroom and the workplace.

While serving in the Marine Corps, CJ Scarlett developed lupus and scleroderma, both auto-immune conditions that affects the joints and organs of the body. She nearly died from her condition in 2004, but recovered after following the advice of a Tibetan Buddhist lama who told her "Stop feeling sorry for yourself and start focusing on the happiness of other people."



CJ began performing daily acts of kindness toward others and within 18 months, her condition went into remission! Although she still experiences flares, she feels better than she has in decades.

Ms. Scarlet served on the board of the Lupus Foundation of NC for six years.

Kim Lan Grout is a writer, photographer, and disability advocate in Durham, NC. When she was 18-years-old, and after a lifetime battling a rare congenital vascular anomaly called Klippel-Trenaunay-Weber Syndrome, Kim Lan made what she calls the "easiest hard decision" of her life in electing to amputate her left leg above the knee.



It is with this love for life and love for her "broken" body that she brings her creative project, Redefining Disabled, into fruition in hopes of showing our community and young people like her four and two-year-old daughters that disabilities are not the end of one's life, but rather can be a catalyst for love, tolerance, patience, and determination.