



Leading social change by revealing the big stories hidden in the human heart.

<http://welcomechange.org>

UCLA Program Honors First Graduating Class

Two years after its inception, UCLA's revolutionary *Pathway Program* has produced its first graduating class. The two-year post-secondary program gives students with intellectual disabilities an opportunity to develop independent living skills. At the same time, they experience college life and explore vocations through UCLA Extension.



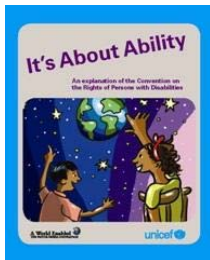
CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

To see NBC's coverage, please follow this link...

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/3032619#31995898>

It's About Ability

Written by Valerie Karr, in collaboration with UNICEF, *It's About Ability* is a participatory learning guide for youth based on the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.



Its main purpose is to empower children, with and without disabilities, to play their part in challenging discrimination and promoting the Convention's principles.

If you wish to download this publication, please visit...

http://www.unicef.org/publications/index_43893.html

Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy Wins Best Documentary at the Talking Pictures Film Festival!

Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy received a very warm reception at this year's Talking Pictures Film Festival in Evanston, Illinois. The film received the Best Documentary Award.



<http://www.talkingpicturesfestival.org/Announcements.html>

And don't forget, *Body & Soul: Diana & Kathy* is scheduled to air on PBS this fall during National Disability Awareness Month. Please be sure to check out either <http://itvs.org/shows> or <http://welcomechange.org> for more details.

Announcing ATIA's Assistive Technology Video Contest

Technology - The Great Equalizer. We hear that all the time! But it certainly holds true for persons with a disability who are looking for the same opportunities in life as everyone else. Here's a chance to show the world what is possible through assistive technology.

Create a Video Celebrating Ability Using Assistive Technology: The Assistive Technology Industry Association (ATIA) is celebrating its 10th anniversary in 2009. As part of the celebrations ATIA is hosting an AT video contest on the popular YouTube web site. ATIA invites you to create a short video that presents an inspiring story about how assistive technology has helped to change the life of an individual with a disability and helped to empower them to change their world. Let your creativity flow! Feel free to use music, humor, or other formats to help celebrate the products designed to remove barriers for persons with disabilities.

For more information and a link to the contest's guidelines, please visit...

<http://www.atia.org/i4a/pages/Index.cfm?pageID=3560>

Disability Advocate Harold Snider Passes Away at 61



Disability advocate Harold W. Snider, 61, who helped draft the Americans with Disabilities Act, died at his home on June 26th in Rockville, MD, after a heart attack.

Snider said his interest in advocacy began in childhood, when he was forced out of regular third-grade classes in Jacksonville, FL, because he was blind. His parents sued to keep him in, and he became the first blind student in the county to graduate from public school.

Snider was a former executive director of the National Council on Disability, and later worked with the National Federation of the Blind to develop a free audible newspaper and magazine service that claims more than 50,000 listeners.

