

June 4, 2002

Dana LaMon
P.O. Box 2117
Lancaster, CA 93539

Dear Dana:

Thank you for agreeing to make a presentation session to the students at our upcoming Youth Leadership Forum for Students with Disabilities (YLF). The event will be held July 28 -August 1, 2002, in Sacramento, California. Your presentation is scheduled for Monday, July 29, 2002, from 10:30- 12:00 noon at Desmond Residence Hall, California State University, Sacramento, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, message telephone is (916) 278-5428. Although your session will start at 10:30, we ask that you arrive one-half hour prior to allow time for a student delegate to interview you for your introduction. Your presentation is part of the session on "Understanding the Experience of Disability as a Culture". Your session will be as follows: 10:30-10:45 Dana La Mon, 10:45-11:30 Brenda Premo and Andrew Imperato (together). The presentation will be followed by a dance performance by Richard Werner and Joy Mincey Powell. If time permits, we will end the session with a question and answer session with all presenters. Dana, we ask that you focus on helping the students understand the similarities in the experiences of ethnic culture/communities and disability culture. Brenda and Andy will focus more specifically on the history of disability as a civil rights issue.

The California Governor's Committee for Employment of Disabled Persons has developed many innovative programs to promote the employment of people with disabilities. Our Youth Leadership Forum is the first such effort in California and the nation. The program was developed based on the successful model of the California Chicano-Latino Youth Leadership Project and the Hugh O'Brien Youth Project. High School juniors and seniors with disabilities attend from communities throughout California. The five-day event strengthens students' knowledge about politics and government, enhances their understandings of disability from a historical and a cultural perspective, explores career options, and provides numerous experiences focused on building self-esteem and developing leadership skills.

The forum will be held at California State University, Sacramento, and will also feature a day at the State Capitol. We are inviting your participation as a guest presenter because we feel you exemplify the kind of role model who will help us to motivate these students to greater personal achievement and community involvement. Our forum presenters are all people we feel are more successful because of their experiences as people with disabilities.

When making your presentation, we ask that you share as much of your personal life and disability experiences as you feel comfortable sharing. From our experience, we have found that students are very interested in learning how our role models live and reach their personal and professional goals.

Enclosed for your review is more detailed information about the Youth Leadership Forum. We are able to provide you with a \$500.00 stipend plus the cost for your travel. If you are using airline travel to Sacramento, please make your travel arrangements through our travel assistant, Carol Newman, at (916) 427-0376. If you need lodging, please let me know and I will arrange for it.

Please feel free to telephone me at (916) 654-1764 if you have additional questions. We look forward to seeing you and working with you.

Sincerely,

Catherine Kelly Baird
Executive Director

Enclosures

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