



Expo 2020 Dubai - USA Pavilion, Al Forsan Zone

# DISABILITY SUMMIT

WORLD EVENTS DISABILITY COALITION

November 28, 2021 - December 3, 2021



Dubai Expo- USA Pavilion





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# **EXPO 2020 DUBAI UAE**

**November 28 - December 3, 2021**

## **Program Schedule**

**U.S. Pavilion Tentative Schedule and Event Planning with the  
World Events Disability Coalition**

### **November 30**

- **International Summit on Women with Disabilities**

### **December 2**

- **An Evening and Reception with John Register**

### **December 3**

- **World Events Disability Coalition Conference**
- **International Disability Alliance Hosted Dinner**

Thank you all for joining us!

Feel free to enjoy your time  
while we learn, share, collaborate, and explore  
a new future together!



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# International Summit on Women with Disabilities

**November 30, 2021**

**US Pavilion at Dubai Expo2020  
1:00-4:00 PM**

“Girls and women of all ages with any form of disability are generally among the more vulnerable and marginalized of society” (“Further actions and initiatives to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action“, General Assembly Resolution S23/3 of 10 June 2000, annex, paragraph 63).

The theme of this Summit is “Women with Disabilities Rights are Human Rights. The right to an education, to work, to have a family, to determine one’s identity, and the ability to reach their full potential are often ignored for women and girls with disabilities. This Summit will highlight women with disabilities who are leaders and champions for disability rights around the world. Women with disabilities from around the world will share their story of overcoming adversity and becoming self-determined champions for change as disability/people of determination advocates. Each presentation will feature the powerful story of each woman and the area of impact of their work. Women who all have a different disability and come from a different corner of the world, but who all have one common feature – determination.

Leading this Summit will be the sharing of a letter written by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in support of this event. In 1995 in Beijing, China, our Former First Lady Hillary Clinton shared a powerful presentation that illuminated the fact that “women’s rights are human rights.” At this Summit, Secretary Clinton is being asked to share a follow up presentation focused on “women with disabilities rights are human rights.” This will serve as a powerful platform for opening the Summit for all of the other women!



# International Summit on Women with Disabilities

**November 30, 2021**

<b>12:30PM – 12:55PM</b>	Registration	Check-in at the U.S. Pavilion for all registered participants
<b>1:00PM – 1:10PM</b>	Introduction	Hillary Clinton-U.S. Secretary of State under President Obama Letter and Opening Remarks by Nic Zapko, ASL Interpreter (in person)
<b>1:10PM – 1:30PM</b>	Theme: Political Participation and Policy	Anastasia Somoza, International Disability Rights Advocate (USA)
<b>1:35PM – 1:55PM</b>	Theme: Access to Emergency Information: Lessons from COVID	Nic Zapko, American Sign Language Interpreter, Sorenson Communications (USA))
<b>2:00PM – 2:20PM</b>	Theme: “Wearing Your Confidence and the Stigma around Mental Health	Habso Mohamed, SCSU Alumni, Muina International Education
<b>2:25PM – 2:45PM</b>	Theme: Empowerment and Accessibility for All	Fatma Al Jassim, Disability Empowerment Consultant (United Arab Emirates)
<b>2:50PM – 3:10PM</b>	Break	
<b>3:15PM – 3:35PM</b>	Theme: Health and Wellness	Kathryn Lyons, Director, Director at Accessibili-t Plus (Australia)
<b>3:40PM – 4:00PM</b>	Theme: Inclusive Sports	Sara Alsenani, Paralympics Olympics (UAE)
<b>4:05PM – 4:20PM</b>	Theme: The SCSU Center for International Disability Advocacy and Diplomacy: It’s Time!	Kathryn Johnson and Amy Hebert Knopf, St. Cloud State University Faculty (USA)
<b>4:20PM – 4:30PM</b>	Closing Remarks	President Robbyn Wacker, St. Cloud State University (USA)



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DISABILITY SUMMIT**

A banner for the Dubai Expo 2020 Disability Summit, featuring a night view of the Expo site with illuminated pavilions and a large central dome.

# **Disability Coalition Expo Networking and Story Telling**

**November 29 and December 1**

The Dubai Expo is filled with opportunities for networking, exploring, and visiting multiple country and specialty pavilions from around the world. All participants are invited to use these days for purposeful social media story telling of your experiences at Expo and in Dubai. We encourage all to connect to the world and maximize your platforms to share about accessibility and inclusion happening live during the Expo. We will be sharing opportunities for joining in community meetings, discussions, coffee breaks, and multiple networking opportunities to amplify the messages of accessibility and inclusion and build upon the #wethe15 global theme initiated at the Paralympics in Tokyo in 2021. We aspire to create a database that will be inclusive of stories from people with disabilities, disability advocates and community members visiting all pavilions at Dubai Expo.

# **Disability Coalition Networking Reception With John Register**

**December 2, 2021 5PM-8PM**

The Disability Coalition is hosting a Networking Reception in the U.S. Pavilion with a motivational presentation by John Register, US Paralympic Athlete and Motivational Speaker. Time will be made available for networking and connecting with dialogue and discussions focused on the SDGs and the UN Disability Strategy.

\*Registration will be required for all attending.

Following this Networking Reception, attendees will be able to take part in the UAE National Day celebrations throughout the evening at Dubai Expo highlighting the UAE 50 Year Jubilee.



# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

**December 3, 2021 – U.S. Pavilion**

**\*Registration will be required for in-person attendance**

Time	Event	Presenters
10:00AM – 10:25AM	Registration	Check-in
10:30AM – 10:40AM	Welcome and Kick-off	John Register, Paralympic Athlete and Motivational Speaker Emcee (USA)
10:45AM – 11:15AM	Opening Keynotes	Vladimir Cuk: International Disability Alliance (USA) Sara Minkara, Special Advisor to the US President on International Disability Rights Martin Essl - Zero Project Vision (Austria)
11:20AM – 11:30AM	Zero Project-Deaf Students Global Song *	Introduced by Xiaorong Zhou, SCSU Visiting Scholar (China)
11:35AM – 12:10PM	Keynotes: Disability Rights and Inclusion	Ms Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO. HRH Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein (Jordan) Congressman Hon. Tony Coelho (USA)
12:15PM – 12:25PM	Lunch Setup	Break



# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

## December 3, 2021 - Afternoon Schedule

Time	Event	Presenters
12:30PM – 1:25PM	Networking Lunch with Facilitated Roundtable Discussions	
1:30PM – 1:50PM	Healthcare and COVID	Andrés Gallegos (USA)
1:55PM – 2:10PM	Access Israel	Interview with John Register and Fred Maahs, Maahs Travels (USA)
2:15PM – 2:30PM	Intersection of Race and Disability	Dr. Theo Ressa (USA)
2:35PM – 3:25PM	Employment for Persons with Disabilities and Innovative Technology	Joseph Jones, Executive Director, Harkin Institute Senator Tom Harkin, (ret.) (USA) Daniel Van Sant, Disability Policy Director, Harkin Institute (USA) Jenny Lay Flurrie, Microsoft (USA)
3:30PM – 3:40PM	Break	
3:45PM – 4:20PM	Youth Forum NextGen Leadership	Moderator: Surkhel Yousafzai (Pakistan) Panel: Fatma Al Jassim, Ghalyah Al Hendi, Alayazia Al Hadhrami (UAE)
4:25PM – 5:25PM	Panel: Deaf Leadership and Advocacy	Moderator: Nic Zapko (USA) Panel: Sherri L. Rademacher (USA), Shawn Vriezen (USA), Asher Hussain (UAE), David Lee (Jamica), Ziv Cherti (Israel)



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# International Day of Persons with Disabilities

## Hosted Dinner & Closing Event

Time: 6:05PM – 8:00PM

### Closing Remarks

US Pavilion Commissioner Bob Clark

SCSU President Robbyn Wacker

Victor Pineda, World Enabled (USA)

Vladimir Cuk, International Disability Alliance (USA)

Kathryn Johnson and Amy Knopf (USA)



## Presenter Bios



**Gabriela Ramos**

Gabriela Ramos is the Assistant Director-General for the Social and Human Sciences of UNESCO, where she oversees the contributions of the institution to build inclusive and peaceful societies. Her agenda includes the achievement of social inclusion and gender equality, advancing youth development; promotion of values through sports; anti-racism and antidiscriminatory agenda and ethics of artificial intelligence. Her appointment at UNESCO allows her to continue supporting an agenda of inclusive growth, and the respect of human rights and human dignity.



**Commissioner Bob Clark**

Mr. Robert Clark is the United States Commissioner General at Expo 2020 Dubai. Commissioner General Clark leads the USA Pavilion and serves as the senior U.S. government representative to the Government of the UAE on issues related to Expo 2020 Dubai. He has also served on the White House Preservation Committee, board/trustee to the University of Chicago Medical Center, the Central Institute for the Deaf, Loyola University, and the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra. He has served as Director for the Chicago Architecture Biennial, Business Council of the Art Institute of Chicago and as a member of the Scientific Advisory Council for the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.



**Sara Minkara**

Sara Minkara is the Special Advisor on International Disability Rights for the Biden Administration, and is an internationally recognized champion for inclusion, leadership, individual empowerment and social enterprise. Dynamic and memorable, Sara speaks to diverse audiences around the world and facilitates transformative, interactive workshops that employ adaptive approaches to social and workplace challenges.



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The Honorable Tony Coelho

The Honorable Tony Coelho is a retired U.S. Congressman from California, a former House of Representatives Majority Whip, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee Chairman, and the principal author of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Diagnosed with epilepsy when he was 22 years old, Mr. Coelho has spent his entire adult life helping advance the lives of people with disabilities. While he calls this his “ministry”, those in the disability community call him their “voice” and “champion.” Mr. Coelho founded The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy, and Innovation at Loyola Marymount University.



Vladimir Cuk

Vladimir Cuk is the Executive Director of the International Disability Alliance (IDA). Vladimir is responsible for coordinating the IDA Secretariat and IDA advocacy towards the UN System. In particular, Vladimir is engaged in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in line with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Vladimir is a member of the Policy Board of the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as the Inter Agency Support Group to the CRPD. IDA was instrumental in establishing the Global Action on Disability (GLAD) Group - a disability inclusive donors coordination mechanism. Vladimir is based in the IDA New York Office.



Martin Essl

Martin Essl is the Founder of the Essl Foundation, which through the Zero Project is committed to a world with zero barriers. The Essl Foundation supports social innovation and social entrepreneurs, with a focus on persons with disabilities and employment. The Essl Foundation is also a member of the Sinnstifter, a joint initiative of currently twelve Austrian Foundations, that co-finance social innovations and of the Disability Thematic Network Group within the European Foundation Centre (EFC). Furthermore, Martin Essl supports Ashoka Austria and has co-initiated the Haus der Philanthropie, a co-working space for charitable foundations in Vienna.



Andrés J. Gallegos

Andrés J. Gallegos, Esq. is the Chairman of the National Council on Disability. He is a shareholder with the law firm of Robbins, Salomon and Patt, Ltd., in Chicago, Illinois, where he focuses his practice on disability rights and healthcare law. He is also a board member of ADA 25 Advancing Leadership Institute, a Chicago-based non-profit whose mission is to increase civic engagement by developing and building a diverse network of leaders with disabilities. He has written numerous articles for national and state professional healthcare and legal organizations on the application of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act to healthcare providers.



Alayazia Al Hadhrami

My name is Alayazia Al Hadrami, I am in 11th grade in ADNOC Schools, I am a creative person and I love helping people.



Senator Tom Harkin (Retired)

In 1974, Tom Harkin was elected to Congress from Iowa's Fifth Congressional District. In 1984, after serving 10 years in the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator Harkin challenged an incumbent senator and won. Iowans returned him to the Senate in 1990, 1996, 2002, and 2008. He retired in January 2015. As a young senator, Tom crafted legislation to protect the civil rights of millions of Americans with physical and mental disabilities. What emerged from that process would later become his signature legislative achievement — The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). To preserve the intent of the ADA after several court rulings weakened its standards, Senator Harkin introduced the ADA Amendments bill, it was signed into law in September 2008. For his ongoing and dedicated work to people with disabilities around the world, Senator Harkin was nominated twice for the Nobel Peace Prize.



Ghalyah Mohamed Al Hendi

My name is Ghalyah Mohamed Al Hendi. I am currently a 11th grader in ADNOC Schools, Abu Dhabi. I strive to become a prominent figure in the STEM field. Two of my objectives are to advocate for women's education and people with ID.



HRH Prince Mired Raad  
Zeid Al-Hussein

His Royal Highness Prince Mired Raad Zeid Al-Hussein is the Chairman of the National Committee for Demining & Rehabilitation and the President of the Hashemite Commission for Disabled Soldiers. He served as Vice-President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities from 2008-2013; and from November 2007-2008, he was the President of the 8th Meeting of States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention (APMBC). Prince Mired also serves as the 'Special Envoy' of the Mine Ban Convention for the universalization of the APMBC. HRH Prince Mired now serves as President of the Higher Council for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (HCD).



Fatma Al Jassim

Al Jassim is a UAE pioneer for being the founder of the first series of workshops that educate all layers of the community on the Art of Dealing with People of Determination on a voluntary basis. Al Jassim is the founder of the first holistically developed program in the field of disability empowerment called "NYUAD People of Determination Support Program" and "People of Determination Educational Support Training Program". Al Jassim is currently working voluntarily as a Disability Empowerment Consultant offering governments, private sector and individuals across the region and on an international scale to help advance the inclusion agenda.



**Dr. Kathryn Johnson**

Dr. Kathryn Johnson is a Professor in Special Education at St. Cloud State University. Since 2013, Johnson has been serving as the Director of the SCSU Chinese Language and Culture Programs that are inclusive and accessible for all. Johnson has a PhD in Comparative International Development Education focused on advancing the education and employment of people with disabilities within the global community. Her primary research is on advancing the rights of those who are deaf in China. Dr. Johnson is passionate about building sustainable partnerships with those who share a common vision of making the world a better place for all.



**Dr. Joseph Jones**

Dr. Joseph Jones serves as executive director for The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement. The Institute offers nonpartisan programming, experiences, research, and connectivity focused on four areas that defined the career of Senator Tom Harkin (Retired): people with disabilities, retirement security, wellness and nutrition, and labor and employment.



**Dr. Amy Knopf**

Dr. Amy H. Knopf is the Graduate Director of the Rehabilitation Counseling programs at St. Cloud State University in Minnesota. She is an advocate who is passionate about improving access and employment for people with disabilities. Dr. Knopf is also a George H. W. Bush Fellow with the Harkin Institute where she conducted research on Deaf education and employment between the U.S. and China. Dr. Knopf will be the Co-Director of the new Center for International Disability Advocacy and Diplomacy being launched at St. Cloud State University.



Jenny Lay Flurrie

Jenny Lay-Flurrie is Microsoft's Chief Accessibility Officer and has been Deaf since childhood. Jenny also acquired another disability during adulthood, which opened her eyes to disability and accessibility in the workplace. Colleagues say Le Fleur's leadership style blends relentless honesty, contagious energy and masterful communication. They describe her as unapologetic about who she is – or what must be fixed – charismatic, convincing, and empathetic. They say she is utterly grounded yet adept at challenging coworkers to rise to the moment.



Kathryn Lyons

Kathryn Lyons is a passionate entrepreneur, innovator, mentor, and global advocate with a mission to achieve universal inclusion for all. Her vision is to empower and enable people, beginning with better access for all. Kathryn has overcome major barriers through her rare chromosome disorder and gene defect, resulting in a complex disability that is progressive and degenerative in nature, which has left her wheelchair bound. As a Patron of Parent 2 Parent, Kathryn mentors people with disabilities, demonstrating that physical limitations don't limit your potential to achieve your dreams.



Fred J. Maahs, Jr

After obtaining his degrees in Business and Marketing, he spent more than 30 years as a corporate executive working for Fortune 100 companies while traveling the world and building his expertise and reputation as an internationally recognized keynote speaker, disability advocate, and accessibility travel and tourism expert. Fred founded Maahs Travels in 2021, and works across the globe to refine accessible travel, diversity and inclusion training, and define market potential and strategies to attract more people to global destinations. In addition, he is currently working with individuals throughout Central America and the Caribbean to plan and present at the 5th Continental CBR Congress of the Americas and the Caribbean in 2021 and 2022. He is also working with the #EndExclusion Coalition based at St. Cloud State University for World Expo Dubai 2020.



Sara Alsenani

Sara Alsenani is the first female Emirati athlete to win a medal at the Paralympic Games when she won bronze in the women's F33 shot put at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro.



Sherri L. Rademacher

Sherri L. Rademacher with her Master of Education at University of Minnesota is a professor and disability advocate. She began her career at the Center for Independent Living in Illinois. She then worked as a Deaf Services Coordinator and an Executive Director for the Tennessee Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Sherri has been deaf since the age of 18 months. Through strong leadership skills, deafness never stopped her to make an impact wherever she lands. She wishes to educate others to remove the stereotype of people with disabilities and allow people with disabilities to be parts of the solution contributing to their problems.



David-Lee Raymond

David-Lee Raymond, a Deaf Jamaican - American, passionately advocates improving education and communication access for all Deaf individuals. After working in Deaf education in Kingston, he moved to the US and earned his bachelor's degree in Communication. He began training interpreters, assisting to improve their sign language and interpreting competence. As a certified Deaf interpreter in the community and courts, he sees the need for Deaf individuals to have better access to information in sign language, improved education and expanded employment opportunities. His greatest joy is working with the Jamaican Deaf community: developing a Deaf leadership camp, working on advisory boards, and mentoring students and entrepreneurs.



John Register

John Register is a two-time Paralympian, Paralympic Games Silver Medalist, Persian Gulf War veteran, and TEDx Motivational Speaker. He embraced a “new normal” in becoming an amputee following an accident while training for the 1996 Olympic Games. Register discovered how to “amputate his fear of disability” and founded the U.S. Olympic Committee Military Sport Program in the early 2000s. Register teaches others through his “Hurdling Adversity” speeches and podcasts to “amputate their fear and embrace their new normal.” Register is a four-time All-American graduate of University of Arkansas.



Dr. Theodoto Ressa

Dr. Theodoto Ressa is a disabled assistant professor of disability & education in the College of Education at Wayne State University. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in special education and a doctorate in teacher education focusing on inclusive education. Dr. Ressa's background and experiences in Kenya and the U.S. fuel his research interest in higher education institutions and how values, philosophies, missions, visions, and practices impact the lives of persons with disabilities. His primary research interests lie in access, diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging in higher education. Dr. Ressa has extensively researched and published many scholarly articles.



Mark Ritchie

Mark Ritchie is the president of Global Minnesota. In his role as the leader of Minnesota USA Expo, Ritchie led the public-private partnership to host the 2023 World Fair Expo in Minnesota and is currently pursuing the 2027 bid. Mark brings strong expertise in international affairs and is a recognized advocate for Minnesota – we couldn't be more pleased to have him as Global Minnesota's next leader,” said Ertugrul Tuzcu, Global Minnesota board chair. As an effective cross-sector leader, his strategic acumen and drive will lead Global Minnesota into the next decade of the 21st century – and help raise Minnesota's profile in the world.





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Daniel Van Sant

Daniel Van Sant is the director of disability policy at The Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagements. He is a disability rights attorney who has practiced most extensively in the areas of inclusive education, gender-based violence, and inclusive international development. He draws on his personal and professional experience with disability in leading the disability policy work at The Harkin Institute.



Anastasia Somoza

Anastasia works to help lead the inclusion revolution as a human rights defender, speaker, and consultant. She spoke at the 2016 Democratic National Convention about her relationship with Hillary Clinton and Americans with disabilities. She has received both the Martha H. Ziegler Founders Award (2017) from the Federation for Children with Special Needs, and the Susan B. Anthony Award (2016) from the National Organization for Women. In March of 2017, she began working with the Center for American Progress to raise awareness about what is at stake for Americans with disabilities in the Trump era, with a focus on healthcare, Medicaid, and poverty alleviation.



Shawn Vriezen

Shawn Vriezen is a native Minnesotan, working primarily as a Certified Deaf Interpreter (CDI) who works full time in video remote settings and has been interpreting professionally since 2008. In addition to his CDI certification, Shawn is also certified as Qualified Mental Health Interpreter (QMHI) and is one of four CDIs with the distinction of holding both certificates in the United States. Shawn has immersed himself in a multitude of other disciplines from filming, acting, and volunteering with various entities. In his free time, he enjoys camping, rock climbing, canoeing, video games, reading and spending time with his pug, Diesel.



**Dr. Robbyn R. Wacker**

Robbyn Wacker is the 24th president of St. Cloud State University (SCSU). She is an experienced administrator and a tenured professor with a reputation for leadership of strategic initiatives and encouraging innovations towards advancing student enrollment, retention, and success. Her vision is to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion that includes engaging with the global disability communities. She was selected by the Harvard Graduate School of Education to attend its Management Development Program for leaders in higher education, and she has completed the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) Executive Leadership Academy.



**Habso Mohamud**

Habso Mohamud is founder and CEO of Muina International Education Services which focuses on helping refugee girls' study abroad in the US. She is the author of two books, "It Only Takes One Yes," and Unseen, Unheard, and Misunderstood. Habso received her Bachelors of Art in Travel and Tourism, and her Masters of Science in Education, Gender & International development from St. Cloud State University.



**Surkhel Yousafzai**

Surkhel Yousafzai is an Associate with His Highness Sheikh Mohammad's Dubai Business Associate Program and currently works at the Executive Council of Dubai. Mr. Yousafzai recently graduated with a bachelor's degree from St. Cloud State University in Political Science and International Relations along with a certification in Global Feminist Leadership. Mr. Yousafzai's past experience has focused on taking the lead to improving the strategies and practices of organizations, ensuring a more inclusive and diverse environment. With experience of working for the Senate and the Prime Minister's office in Pakistan and for the United Nations in New York, Mr. Yousafzai aspires to be a Policy Maker to create an inclusive environment through meaningful political endeavors.



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Nic Zapko

Nic Zapko is fueled by Folgers and a great passion for the Deaf community. Whether working with novice interpreters at StoryBlend (ASL Language immersion theatre workshop) or working as a program manager in a large corporate training department, leadership and a genuine love of people shine through. Nic's accomplishments include receiving the "Most Active and Visible Minnesota Artist with Disabilities" Award in 2009 and Training Magazine's "Emerging Training Leader" national award in 2015. Nic's current focus is distance learning opportunities for interpreters and interpreting for state-wide emergency briefings. Connecting with individuals through language and mutual understanding is at Nic's core.



Ziv Cheriti

Ziv Cheriti has been a Deaf teacher for over 20 years at Hattie Friedland (Ki'ach) School for the Deaf in Israel. He has a passion for teaching and advocating the rich diversity of Deaf, Hard of Hearing, and Deaf students with different disabilities. Ziv has gotten his bachelor's degree in Special Education and is currently earning his master's degree in Art Therapy with the goal of helping children with disabilities as an Art Therapist. He knows seven different languages and is well-travel around the globe, meeting new people, trying new cultural dishes, and learning new things about the Deaf communities.



Xiaorong Zhou

Xiaorong Zhou is a director of Turquoise International Education and a research scholar at St. Cloud State University. She holds a master's degree in rehabilitation and languages. Xiaorong specializes in collaborating, cultivating, and utilizing her broad global network for the purpose of research and development of Deaf culture-based programs for both Chinese and American Deaf academic communities. She also provided multicultural guidance regarding accessibility laws, cultural sensitivities, empowerment of Deaf identities, and facilitation of American Sign Language/Chinese Sign Language/Korean Sign language for international Deaf communities.



# Sorenson ASL Interpreters



**Nic Zapko** has more than 16 years of experience as a teacher, mentor and coach for sign language and

interpreting topics. Nic's love of storytelling, vast experience acting with multiple theaters, and skill in ASL led to work as a Deaf Interpreter and mentor as well. Most recently, you may have seen Nic interpreting for Minnesota's Governor Walz's Press Conferences, the Minnesota Dept of Health Daily COVID-19 Briefings, or Mark Zuckerberg's announcement of Facebook's rebrand as Meta. Nic was honored on March 9, 2021 as Governor Walz announced the State of Minnesota's Proclamation of "Nic Zapko Day."



**Karen Magoon**, the current Sorenson Interpreting Regional Manager for community

interpreting services in the Southern US and Canada has been an ASL/English interpreter for 25 years. Her interpreting body of work has included corporate, theatrical, medical, emergency management and government interpreting along with mentoring and training up and coming interpreters. Karen is a proud child of Deaf parents and seeks to continue a career always striving for better communication access for the Deaf community.



**Katie Maxwell** is the Corporate Interpreter Manager, responsible for coordinating all corporate-wide interpreting services

for Sorenson employees, managing the Corporate Interpreting Team, and serving as an interpreter for corporate meetings. Katie has been a sign language interpreter for 16 years, interpreting in settings such as post-secondary, corporate, VRS, and performing arts. Katie is also an adjunct faculty member of 12 years at Salt Lake Community College's Interpreter Training program, where she mentors and cultivates the next generation of interpreters.



**Amy Kalmus** has worked as an ASL/English Interpreter and Trainer in a variety of settings

specializing in medical, legal, corporate and mental health services for more than 30 years. She has more than 18 years of multi-level management and leadership experience working in the Telecommunication Relay Service industry. Amy's roles include working with St Cloud State University and the Confucius Institute, Sorenson Communications as well as the State of Texas Board for Evaluation of Interpreters (BEI).



# World Events Disability Coalition Members

## World Events Disability Coalition Executive Committee

<b>Suhail Amshan</b> , Emirates Airlines, UAE	<b>Fred Maahs</b> , Maahs Travels, USA
<b>Vladimar Cuk</b> , International Disability Alliance, USA	<b>Victor Pineda</b> , Pineda Foundation/World Enabled, USA
<b>Senator Tom Harkin</b> , The Harkin Institute, USA	<b>Mark Ritchie</b> , Global Minnesota, USA
<b>Joseph Jones</b> , The Harkin Institute, USA	<b>Jose Viera</b> , International Disability Alliance, Global
<b>Kathy Johnson</b> , St. Cloud State University, USA	<b>Sandra Willis</b> , WorldEnabled, UAE
<b>Amy Knopf</b> , St. Cloud State University, USA	

## World Events Disability Coalition Committee Members

<b>Shahzad Ahmad</b> , St. Cloud State University, USA	<b>Nick Larsen</b> , St. Cloud State University, USA
<b>Steve Anderson</b> , Hamline University, USA	<b>Jaime Lassner</b> , Friends of Access Israel, USA
<b>Luis Artieda</b> , World Enabled, USA	<b>Michal Rimon</b> , Access Israel, Israel
<b>Rani Benjamini</b> , Access Israel, Israel	<b>Jeremy Snyder</b> , TFA Group, USA
<b>Caroline Casey</b> , Valuable 500, Ireland	<b>Susan Sygall</b> , Mobility International, USA
<b>Serida Catalano</b> , World Enabled	<b>Yuval Wagner</b> , Access Israel, Israel
<b>Andrés Gallegos</b> , National Council on Disability, USA	<b>Mallory Weggemann</b> , Paralympic Athlete, USA
<b>Anna Königseder</b> , Zero Project, Austria	<b>Robin Tim Weis</b> , Zero Project, Austria
<b>Anastasia Somoza</b> , Disability Advocate, USA	<b>Xiaorong Zhou</b> , St. Cloud State University, China

\*Opportunities for joining the World Events Disability Coalition and more updated information on Dubai 2020 will be made available online beginning in early November of 2021 at [www.scsutrainig.com/ability](http://www.scsutrainig.com/ability).



# Dubai Declaration

We, the Signatories commit to following Principles for future World Expos:

## **01 Non-Discrimination**

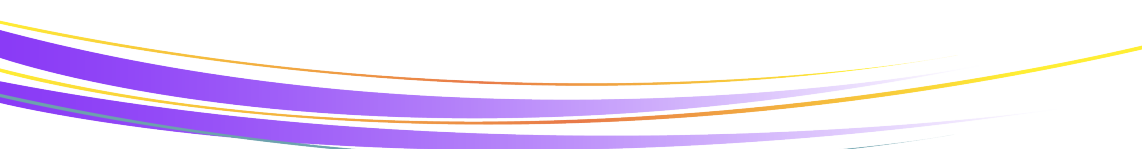
Give particular attention to Leave No One Behind and actively address and condemn all forms of discrimination and barriers faced by persons in vulnerable situations, particularly persons with disabilities and older persons, by progressively implementing principles of Accessibility, Universal Design and the World Health Organization's Age Friendly Cities initiative transversally through all World Expo strategies, policies and programs.

## **02 Accessibility**

Enable all persons visiting World Expos independent access and take appropriate measures that facilitate access, elimination of barriers and full participation of persons with disabilities and older persons, on an equal basis with others, to all aspects of the physical and digital environment in World Expo which includes (1) Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including pavilions, medical facilities and workplaces; and (2) Information, communications and other services, including electronic services and emergency services.

## **03 Participation**

Promote the Full and Effective Participation of all persons, particularly persons with disabilities and older persons, in World Expo strategies that engage appropriate stakeholders at all stages of planning including related local authorities, community members, planners and developers; and to the elimination of institutional, legal, physical, and digital barriers.





## Dubai Declaration

### **04 Inclusive Policies & Programs**

Actively and progressively Promote, Adopt and Comply with international, regional and national accessibility regulations and legal requirements- including the ISO 21542:2011 Building construction – Accessibility and usability of the built environment, International Organization on Standardization’s 71:2014 Guide on Accessibility , Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0, the ETSI EN 301549, and Section 504 and 508 of the Rehabilitation Act – through strengthening of strong inclusive management frameworks and accountable institutions in urban governance, focused on community- based planning.

### **05 Capacity Building**

Promote, Develop and Deploy capacity development initiatives that empower, recognize, respect and strengthen skills and abilities of all persons and civil society organizations- without discrimination of any kind- particularly of organizations of persons with disabilities and older persons, in shaping inclusive World Expo governance processes, engaging in dialogue, and actively promoting equity and protecting human rights in World Expo decision-making.

### **06 Data for Development**

Actively support the role and enhanced capacity of World Expo staff and relevant stakeholders, in developing, generating and disseminating reliable and timely disaggregated data by age, disability, and other relevant characteristics adopting the Washington Group Short Set of Questions; to systemically understand and address barriers to inclusion and accessibility in World Expo potentially faced by all persons, particularly persons with disabilities and older persons.



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A warm appreciation and thanks  
to the St. Cloud State University Staff and Students from the  
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REHABILITATION STUDIES  
ST. CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

- 
- ✧ Nick Larsen
  - ✧ Christina Douglas
  - ✧ Haoming Huang
  - ✧ Makayla Christen
  - ✧ Taylor Mulcahy
  - ✧ Katie Ramos
- 

*Thank you*



Thank you

“It's important to work collaboratively with people,  
to try to have big dreams,  
to recognize they may not happen overnight,  
and to be able to change.”

— Judy Heumann

