

Core Values

Integrity

To have *integrity* means that we are honest with each other and in our mission, because of this, our vision, and our outcomes, will be rewarding. Speaking the truth, respecting and expecting the truth from others is the way we interact. Truthfulness is based on reality, not on a subjective or individual view of the world.

Respect

Respect of each individual, from their religious practices to their ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, cultural background or even to how they were raised to view disability issues is important to us. We believe everyone should feel comfortable to express themselves and their individuality; whether in our group setting or alone with their mentor. We can disagree on disability issues about if the views are oppressing without arguing in a disrespectful manner.

Disability Pride

Disability Pride represents a rejection of the notion that our difference from the non-disabled community is in any way not as good as or bad and is a statement of our self-acceptance, dignity and pride. It signifies that we are ready to unify as a people and are claiming our legitimate identity. It's a public expression of our belief that our bodies, minds, whole persons and identity are beautiful, and right for us and is a validation of our experience.

Shared Learning

One of the basics of this project is that we want you and your mentoree to discover solutions to problems together. You've been there, you can relate to how your mentoree is feeling but now you maybe and only maybe they will want you to have some suggestions on what to do now. This is where *shared learning* comes into play. We're going to cover a lot of good information that will help you help them, but when a problem occurs, you will need to reach for your resource book and go through the process together for a *shared learning* experience! You will both be nervous and there will be no expert but help will only be a phone call away!

Responsibility

To show *responsibility* for all our actions and our to complete our assignments designated to us is a value we hold high. It is important to our team to be reliable and follow through on all our commitments. We give careful consideration when to agreeing to "take on additional projects" before thinking about our existing workload because we are *responsible* and want to do a good

job. This includes not stretching ourselves “too thin” and getting burned out. We have a *responsibility* to take good care of ourselves, and to do well at our existing commitments.