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Gardner-Webb Celebrates Disabilities Employment Awareness Month

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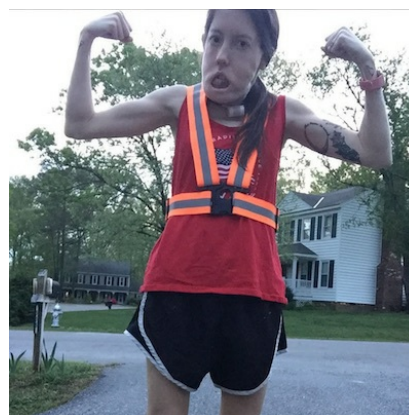
Panel Will Discuss Challenges of Disabilities in the Workplace

BOILING SPRINGS, N.C.—October is National Disabilities Employment Awareness Month. To understand the problems encountered by people with disabilities, the Gardner-Webb Office of Multicultural Affairs is hosting a panel discussion featuring GWU alumni and advocates for people with disabilities.

Co-sponsored by the GWU Noel Center for Disability Resources and the Center for Personal and Professional Development, “Without Limits: The Challenges of Disabilities in the Workplace Panel Discussion” will be held on Oct. 16, from 7 to 8 p.m. in Stewart Hall of Tucker Student Center. The program is open to the public, and Dimensions credit will be offered to students.

Panel members include:

- Hannah Setzer, a 2011 GWU alumna, who was born with a rare medical condition called Cystic Hygroma of the head and neck. She has lived with a feeding tube and tracheostomy tube since she was a few days old. She writes a blog called, Feeding Tube Fitness. She earned a degree in American Sign Language with a minor in interpreting and is also employed as a disability rights advocate in Virginia.
- LaQuanda Clark, a 2006 GWU alumna, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in English language and literature. Clark works as the lead independent living specialist at Able South Carolina (Able SC). The nonprofit provides an array of independent living services to people of all ages with all types of disabilities.



Hannah Setzer, a GWU alumna, was born with a rare medical condition, called Cystic Hygroma of the head and neck. She encourages people with disabilities to be physically active.

- Donna Filer, a 1981 GWU alumna, who earned a bachelor's in business administration with a concentration in management information systems. She works as database administrator at Gardner-Webb. She has two birth defects and was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis at age 35. In 2019, she received the Staff Member of the Award for her dedication to customer service.

A representative from Gaston County (N.C.) Vocational Rehabilitation will also attend, and the moderator will be GWU student, Adam Brown. Jackie Leach, director of Diversity and Intercultural Affairs, has prepared questions on such topics as faith and living with a disability, barriers to employment, and ways to advocate for people with disabilities. The audience will also have an opportunity to ask questions.

[Learn more about the Noel Center for Disability Resources.](#)

Auxiliary aids will be made available to persons with disabilities upon request 48 hours prior to the event. Please call 704.406.4264 or email servicerequests@gardner-webb.edu with your request.

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