



13th Annual Disability Symposium
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 11, 2014

SYMPOSIUM SCHEDULE

7:45 **SYMPOSIUM OPENS; BREAKFAST AVAILABLE**

8:15 **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

8:30 – 9:45 **MORNING PLENARY**
Presenter: **Adam Taliaferro, Esq.**

Navigating Life's Challenges Through Belief in One's Self

Throughout our lives we face challenges. Adam Taliaferro's story speaks to the strength of the human spirit and how we all have the ability to overcome obstacles. It starts with belief in one's self. Adam will lead you on his journey explaining how his life changed in an instant the moment he was paralyzed from the neck down while playing football at The Pennsylvania State University. Although his dream of playing football was over, through the efforts and assistance of disability services, Adam was able to graduate from Penn State and later go on to graduate from The Rutgers School of Law. "The injury itself was horrible, but the life lessons I learned were priceless," says Adam, "and I know I would not be where I am today if it was not for the tremendous assistance I received from the offices of disability services along my journey. I was fortunate enough to be provided with the tools I needed to achieve my academic goals and beyond."

10:00– 11:30 **CONCURRENT MORNING SESSIONS**

11:30 **LUNCH**

12:15 – 1:45 **NOON PLENARY**
Presenter: **Angela Duckworth, Ph.D.**

True Grit

Angela Lee Duckworth is an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Duckworth will focus in particular on self-control (regulating attention, emotion, and behavior in the face of momentary temptation and distraction) and grit (perseverance and passion for long-term goals). She will discuss how these competencies (or lack thereof) play out in children and adults, their relationship to traditional measures of talent and achievement, their underlying psychological mechanisms, and learnable, teachable strategies that facilitate their expression for students (and teachers).

2:00 – 3:30 **CONCURRENT AFTERNOON SESSIONS**

3:30 – 4:45 **AFTERNOON SNACK AND CHAT**