



## **FLORIDA DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL, INC.**

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### **Inclusion NOW: A Call to Action**

The time to end segregation of people with disabilities is NOW!

The struggle to end segregation has been waged for more than 40 years. While gains have been made to secure and protect the civil rights of people of some races and creeds, there is still a segment of our population for whom inclusion is often a foreign concept – people with disabilities.

*All* people have the same hopes and aspirations to live, learn, work, play and participate in life experiences and responsibilities as valued community members. Everyone benefits when the civil rights and innate potential of all individuals are recognized and supported in all aspects of community life.

Excluding or separating individuals with disabilities does not serve the public interest nor does it serve the person's best interest. Barriers which prevent or impair the realization of full inclusion for all individuals must be identified, addressed and overcome.

Fully inclusive communities ensure:

- All individuals have the full rights and responsibilities of citizenship.
- All students have maximum access to the general education expectations, curriculum and instruction within the regular school settings and programs.
- All individuals have access within their community to quality medical, dental and vision health care throughout their lives.
- All individuals have the opportunity to contribute to the economic viability of their community as workers and consumers of services and goods.
- All individuals have access to safe and affordable housing that includes both home ownership and rental opportunities.
- All individuals are welcome to enjoy, participate and contribute to the full range of social, cultural and recreational resources and activities within their community.

We call upon you and all people throughout the State of Florida to become a force for making our communities fully inclusive. Make inclusion happen – NOW!