

# Disability Awareness Month Events

## PUBLIC EVENTS

### "Great Minds Are Not All The Same"

Temple Grandin, PhD

Wednesday, Feb. 21 | 7-8 p.m.

Samuelson Chapel

Temple Grandin, PhD, an American academic, author and animal behaviorist, will discuss different types of thinkers such as object visualizers, who think in pictures; visual, spatial, mathematical thinkers, who think in patterns; and verbal thinkers, who think in words. Further descriptions are available in her recent landmark book *Visual Thinking: The Hidden Gifts of People Who Think in Pictures, Patterns, and Abstractions*.

Grandin is a University Distinguished Professor with the Department of Animal Science at Colorado State University, a prominent proponent for the humane treatment of livestock for slaughter, the author of more than 60 scientific papers on animal behavior, and an autism spokesperson who is one of the first autistic people to document the insights she gained from her personal experience of autism. In 2010, Time 100, an annual list of the 100 most influential people in the world, named her in the "Heroes" category. She was the subject of the Emmy- and Golden Globe-winning biographical film *Temple Grandin*, starring Claire Danes, and has been an outspoken proponent of autism rights and neurodiversity movements.

Admission is free. For more information, contact Jana Weber at [janaweber@CalLutheran.edu](mailto:janaweber@CalLutheran.edu) or 805-493-3014.

Supporting partners for this lecture are the Center for Equality and Justice, The Autism Center, Faculty Development, and the Artists and Speakers Series.

### Disability Awareness Month Lecture Lunch

#### "Disability Advancing Access and Equity"

Sandra Aldana, PhD

Thursday, March 14 | 12:30-2 p.m.

Ullman 100/101

Sandra Aldana, PhD, will lead a discussion about real-world, systemic-change efforts to include people of all abilities. Learn how participatory action research, largely emphasized in the Global South and implemented by many international development agencies, confronts inequity and injustice for racial and ethnic groups experiencing health disparities.

Aldana is a former Governor's Appointee representing the Central Coast at the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities, and current Ventura County Representative to the Consumer Advisory Committee of the USC University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.

This free event, open to the public and available to attend in person or via Zoom, is sponsored by the Office of Talent, Culture and Diversity. To RSVP, visit [bit.ly/3Tf1861](https://bit.ly/3Tf1861). For more information, please contact James Esparza at [jesparza@CalLutheran.edu](mailto:jesparza@CalLutheran.edu).

### Our Spectrum, Our Stories: Illuminating the Colors of Autism through Personal Narrative

Edlyn Peña, PhD

Thursday, March 21 | 12:45-2 p.m.

Archive Reading Room, Pearson Library

Join us for an engaging session featuring our own distinguished expert in autism research, Edlyn Peña, PhD, director of the Autism Research Center. Peña will share her personal experiences as the mother of an autistic son and insights into the world of autism through the art of storytelling. Her narratives will not only provide valuable perspectives, but also serve as a platform to enhance our collective understanding of autism.

This gathering offers a safe and supportive environment for individuals to explore the complexities of autism and share their own stories. Whether you have a personal connection to autism or simply wish to gain a deeper understanding, this event promises to be an enriching and enlightening experience that celebrates diversity, fosters empathy and encourages the power of storytelling in creating community.

This free event is sponsored by the Pearson Library. To RSVP, visit [bit.ly/3uMFhHZ](https://bit.ly/3uMFhHZ). For more information, contact Yvonne Wilber at [ywilber@CalLutheran.edu](mailto:ywilber@CalLutheran.edu) or 805-493-3092.

### Disability Awareness Month Display

Month of March

Pearson Library

The Pearson Library will feature a selection of books, a slideshow, posters and digital resources to bring awareness to Disability Awareness Month.

In conjunction with the university's programming for signature events, the library offers displays that celebrate the different cultures, groups and peoples honored by heritage and awareness months.

For more information, contact Erin Sommers at [emsommers@CalLutheran.edu](mailto:emsommers@CalLutheran.edu) or 805-493-3431.

## ONLY STAFF AND FACULTY

### ADA Accommodations Training

Friday, March 15 | 11-11:30 a.m.

Zoom

The Human Resources office invites staff and faculty members to join our Friday Microlearning Session to learn more about the ADA Accommodation and Interactive Process for employees and supervisors. This training is part of the microlearning series and in observance of Disability Awareness Month on campus.

Join the Zoom session at [tinyurl.com/CLUMicrolearning](https://tinyurl.com/CLUMicrolearning).