

Jillian Nelson

Self Advocate
Community Resource
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Autism Society of Minnesota



Breakout 1

Employment Accommodations: Small Accommodations with a Large Impact

The Americans with Disabilities Act protects employee rights to request reasonable accommodations. Participants will learn about small accommodations with big impacts and tips and tools for how to work with employers to set up accommodations in a mutually beneficial way.

Breakout 2

What Autistic People Wish You Knew... The Experience behind the Facts

Participants will learn about life experiences from the perspective of a person with autism, understand the anatomy of a meltdown, what it's like to live with executive function deficits, and more. This presentation goes beyond the awareness of challenges and diagnostic criteria and delves into the emotion and experience behind the facts and traits and talk honestly and uncensored about existing with autism and how we experience the world.

***Jillian Nelson** was diagnosed with autism as a young adult. With a degree in human services and a background in self-advocacy, she has dedicated her career to helping others with autism achieve their goals, advocating for system change, and spreading a message of education and autism acceptance. Nelson currently sits on the Governor's Council for Developmental Disabilities and the State Rehabilitation Council in Minnesota.*

As Community Resource and Policy advocate she leads the policy committee and information and resource services for the Autism Society of Minnesota. She has worked in education settings, housing resources, direct support and employment services helping others with autism secure and retain appropriate, successful employment.

Jillian will also be doing a brief presentation prior to the teen panel !

WORDS MATTER: THE POWER OF LANGUAGE IN CREATING A UNIFIED COMMUNITY

Addressing the role that words have on self acceptance and social impact related to autism. Examining how the language choices we make, and how and where we talk about autistic people impacts us on multiple levels.