



Educational Assistance Center

THE ADVOCATE: A Newsletter Devoted to Disability Equity



TOP NEWS OF THE MONTH

DID YOU KNOW? NATIONAL DONOR DAY IS FEB. 14

Observed every year on February 14th, National Donor Day is dedicated to spreading awareness and education about organ, eye and tissue donation. It is also a day to appreciate donors and loved ones who have given the gift of life, have received a donation, are currently waiting for or did not receive an organ in time. National Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn Corporation and its partner, the United Auto Workers.

According to the Health Resources & Services Administration, 103,223 men, women, and children are on the national transplant waiting list. Seventeen people die each day waiting for an organ transplant. The good news is that every donor can save up to eight lives and enhance the lives of an additional 75 more. To become a donor, you can apply at your local DMV or visit www.donatelife.net to join the registry.



**ONE DONOR
CAN SAVE UP
TO EIGHT LIVES**

DO YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR SUGGESTION FOR NEXT MONTH'S CONTENT?

Contact Heather Molloy at heather_molloy1@vcccd.edu

GEARING UP FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES AWARENESS

Developmental disabilities are a group of conditions that impact a person's physical, learning, language, or behavior. They can be intellectual, physical, or both. Developmental disabilities are usually present at birth and often last throughout a person's lifetime. However, some developmental disabilities can be acquired after birth because of injury or infection, delaying typical developmental milestones.

Some examples of Developmental Disabilities are:

- Autism
- Blindness
- Cerebral Palsy
- Down Syndrome
- Epilepsy
- Fetal alcohol syndrome

National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (NNDAM) was established in 1987 by President Ronald Reagan and has since been observed annually in March. It is a time to raise awareness about developmental disabilities, promote understanding, and advocate for the rights and needs of individuals with these disabilities.

One purpose of observances such as this is to increase public awareness about developmental disabilities including the potential identification of such disabilities when children are not meeting important developmental milestones. Other reasons to observe is to highlight barriers faced by individuals with such disabilities to create empathy and lasting change in policies to support them. Lastly, it is important to celebrate the achievements and contributions of people with developmental disabilities. Some of those people include, but are not limited to: Hellen Keller; Daniel Radcliffe; Millie Bobbie Brown, Elton John, Temple Grandin; and Stevie Wonder.

To learn more about on-campus events such as movies, guide dogs, and disability simulations in observance of National Developmental Disabilities Month, follow the EAC's social media accounts!

MILESTONES MATTER

Skills such as taking a first step, smiling for the first time, and waving "bye-bye," are called developmental milestones. From birth to 5 years, children should reach milestones in how he or she plays, learns, speaks, acts and moves. Parents and caregivers should track children as early as two months for developmental health.

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THE NOSE DOESN'T KNOW: ANOSMIA AND PAROSMIA

Anosmia is the medical term used to describe the complete or partial loss of the sense of smell. There are many different causes of anosmia, including injury to the nose or brain, certain diseases, and the aging process. In some cases, anosmia may be temporary and resolve on its own, while in other cases it may be permanent. Congenital anosmia refers to individuals who are born without the ability to smell, while acquired anosmia is a loss of smell that occurs after birth, often as a result of injury or illness. Some common causes of acquired anosmia include head injury, nasal polyps, sinusitis, and exposure to certain toxic substances. One of the major indicative

The pathophysiology of anosmia can be complex and can involve damage to the olfactory receptors in the nose or to the brain's olfactory center.

In 2021, 35.8 million or 14% of the adult population (95% CI 13.5-14.7%; mean age, 43.9 years; 53.8% female) had been diagnosed with COVID-19. Among those, 60.5% (58.6-62.5%) and 58.2% (56.2-60.1%) reported accompanying losses in smell or taste, respectively; there was a significant association between overall COVID-19 symptom severity and smell.

Unfortunately, there may be no cure and individuals with anosmia may need to rely on assistive devices such as smell-training kits and electronic scent detectors as well as other techniques to cope with their loss of smell.

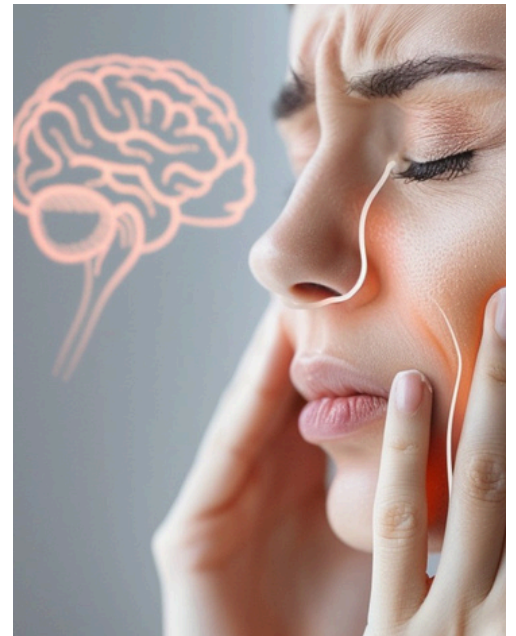


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EAC STAFF SPOTLIGHT: CANDICE WITKINS



Candice Wittkins is a nationally certified (NIC) ASL interpreter through the Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. She holds two Bachelor of Arts degrees from California State University, Northridge: one in Deaf Studies with a concentration in Interpreting and the other in Communication Studies.

Candice takes pride in working with the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing students to ensure they receive the support they need to reach their academic goals. Candice considers it a privilege to work at Oxnard College and to partner with faculty and staff to create an atmosphere that is welcoming and supportive of Deaf Culture.