

NATIONAL STUTTERING ASSOCIATION

IF YOU *stutter*, YOU ARE NOT *alone*.



**Tuesday, August 27, 2019**

## **Self-Advocacy at Work Webinar**

Many false assumptions and negative stereotypes about stuttering persist in the workplace. Employers may equate stuttering with anxiety or reticence, and poor interpersonal skills. Left unchecked, such biases can hinder meaningful employment and career advancement. This webinar will offer strategies for the person who stutters to feel empowered to challenge and correct harmful workplace assumptions

**(Facilitators – Pamela Mertz and Dale Williams, Ph.D.)**

### **Behind the Scenes - Chat Transcript**

Gail:	That's a great strategy. I like the hand signal for controlling the pace of the conversation.
Olivia:	As a Ph.D. student, I have been blatantly told, by my Ph.D. Advisor, I cannot be a professor and have had lab tasks taken away from me because of my speech. How would you address something that was so directly discriminatory?

Brittany:	I am a speech therapist at the Durham Veteran's hospital and one of my patients is a person who stutters. He is involved in a group where he has to share information with others. He finds others finishing his sentences/ talking over him. I told him to raise his hand and he has been using a sign that states he is a person who stutters to help explain his situation. However, he is still finding others talking over/finishing his sentences. Any additional recommendations?
Brittany:	He requested the sign because he did not want to verbally communicate that he is a person who stutters. I initially recommended him to say it verbally but he was not comfortable with the idea.
Kenneth:	As a therapist, can she educate the group on facts of stuttering, similar what a school therapist could do?
Brittany:	I am not at the group, unfortunately, but that would be a good idea to see if I could attend the session and provide education. I will ask him if he would be comfortable with the idea. Thank you for all of your help!
Stephen:	I am retired now. I advertised my stuttering with a wrist band (NSA has them) and a poster in my office.
Brittany:	NSA wrist band is a great idea!
Kenneth:	I agree, as a Clinical Educator.
Rupert:	Agreed! I teach in higher Ed as well.
Stephen:	Look at NSA web site for wrist bands.
Olivia:	I have thought about grabbing that brochure. Maybe using it as a chance to educate.
Terry, Kim, Gail, Brittany, Angela, Olivia and Rupert	Thank you to all!; Thank you for hosting this webinar, very informative!; Thank you Everyone for the great talk!; Thank you - helpful!! This has been great and very informative. Thank you for this!!Thank you guys!; Thank you Pam and Dale!