
News from the DCC @CSUEB (Sept 2026) - The 2025-26 Year in Review and More!

From Disability Community Collaborative <dcc@csueastbay.edu>

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To Mass Mail-group <massmail@csueastbay.edu>

Cc Christina Chin-Newman <christina.chin-newman@csueastbay.edu>; Dale Ireland <dale.ireland@csueastbay.edu>; Rachel Brunson <rachel.brunson@csueastbay.edu>



Christina Chin-Newman

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News from the DCC @CSUEB - September 2026



Welcome to the newsletter of the **Disability Community Collaborative at Cal State East Bay!**

The [Disability Community Collaborative \(DCC\)](#) brings together CSU East Bay students, alumni, staff, faculty, and community members in order to collaborate through education, advocacy, creating inclusive physical and virtual spaces, and fostering access and authentic connection.

We'd like to invite you to our upcoming meeting next week:

Monday, September 28th from 3:30-5 pm - All are welcome to attend the DCC's first regular monthly meeting over the year! Meetings are always held virtually over Zoom. We will follow up on topics discussed during the DCC Fall Retreat which took place last month. Here is the [agenda](#) and [Zoom link](#).

Other campus news:

Tuesday, September 29th from 12:30-2 pm in MI 2064 or via [Zoom](#) - All are welcome to attend Dr. Sona Kazemi's presentation and conversation about her book, [*Disabling Relations: Wounded Bodyminds and Transnational Praxis*](#), which explores the experiences of disabled survivors of violence in Iran and examines disability through transnational, political, and social contexts.

Wednesday, September 30th - Applications are due for CSUEB faculty to apply to serve as the lead faculty/facilitator or participant of a **Faculty Learning Circle on Access By Design**. Sponsored by the [Office of Faculty Development](#), this group will explore how course design, teaching practices, and classroom environments can create or remove barriers for students with disabilities.

Disability Justice and Neurodiversity Club seeks officers and members - Students interested in becoming involved in the Disability Justice and Neurodiversity Club may email csueb.djnd@gmail.com or message the [DJND Instagram account](#). More information below.

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Disability Community Highlights @CSUEB from the 2025-26 Academic Year

There is a vibrant disability community at Cal State East Bay! Some of the highlights from last year's activities include:

- The [Center for Disability Justice Research: Health Equity, Education, and Creativity \(CDJR\)](#) sponsored the 2nd annual [Disability Justice Week](#) (February 17-21, 2026), including a visit by [Dr. Sunaura Taylor](#), author of [Disabled Ecologies: Lessons From a Wounded Desert](#).
- The [College Link Program](#), which serves students on the autism spectrum, [celebrated its 15th anniversary](#) with a week of activities (March 21-24, 2026), including a visit by Joey

Travolta, founder of [Inclusion Films](#).

- The [Disability Community Collaborative \(DCC\)](#) sponsored 2 hybrid Community Conversations events which could be attended in person or virtually, to discuss disability culture and neurodiversity. The DCC also hosted guest speaker [Dr. Katie Strom](#) from Educational Leadership.
- The [Diversity and Inclusion Student Center \(DISC\)](#) hosted a Disability Awareness Month Celebration event, with student/alum panel, on October 20, 2025.
- The [Disability Justice and Neurodiversity Club](#) sponsored an Autistic Self-Advocacy in Healthcare event with Dr. Chris Danguilan.
- [Think By The Bay](#), our inclusive post-secondary education certificate program for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, was awarded a grant to expand and serve more students, including the option to live on campus.

Read more below for additional disability community news about participatory action research and inclusive performance from last year!



Student Research Spotlight: Uncovering Neurodivergent Student Experiences at CSUEB through Participatory Action Research

Throughout the 2025-2026 academic year, a team of neurodivergent students led a Participatory Action Research (PAR) study to elevate the voices and perspectives of their peers on campus. This study aimed to critique and push back on notions of normalcy to gather important insights from the campus community. The PAR Team gathered perspectives from CSUEB students on normalcy/neurotypicality within higher education environments as

well as how we can challenge ideas of normalcy to make campus more safe, accessible, and neuro-inclusive.

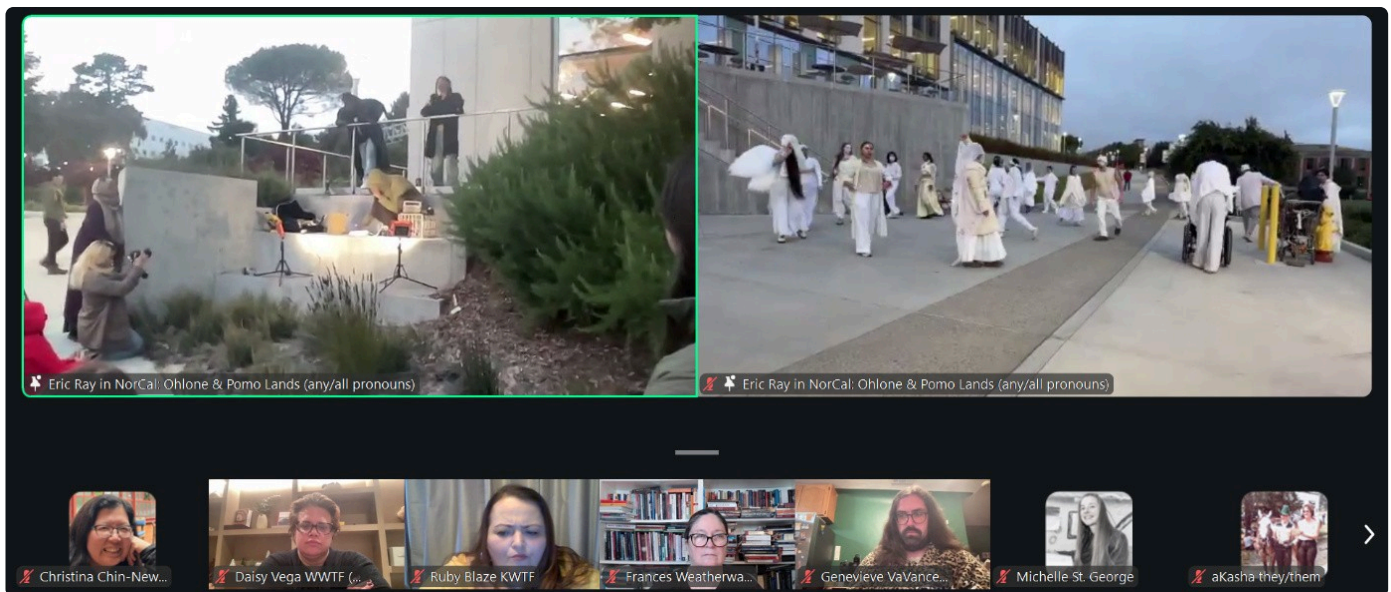
The Research Team

- 5 student co-researchers at Cal State East Bay who identify as neurodivergent
- 1 research mentor, Rachel Brunson (Director, Student Center for Academic Achievement), who trained the student co-researchers and guided the project as part of her dissertation

As a result of their neurodivergent student survey, the PAR Team made the following recommendations to university leadership:

1. Partner with this student research team to arrange a **focus group** with other neurodivergent students
2. Prioritize **staff and faculty training** as well as **student programming** to support the East Bay community in understanding and honoring neurodiversity
3. Add workshops and coaching support within the Student Center for Academic Achievement specifically focused on the development of **Executive Functioning** skills
4. Add tailored support within the Career Empowerment Center for neurodivergent students who are interested in **workforce preparation** or who are exploring jobs/internships
5. Create an **affinity space** within the Diversity & Inclusion Student Affinity & Resource Centers on campus specifically for disabled and neurodivergent students

To learn more about the survey results and impact of being involved in this project on the student co-researchers, read the full version of [Student Research Spotlight: Uncovering Neurodivergent Student Experiences at CSUEB through Participatory Action Research](#).



Hybrid Performance of Parable of Belonging by the Wandering Ensemble

Audience members had the option to attend performances of the Parable of Belonging, a play based on Octavia E. Butler's novel Parable of the Sower, by following the Wandering Ensemble around the CORE library building on the Hayward campus on May 5, 6, or 7th. The last performance was made more accessible by being offered in a hybrid format, allowing audience members to attend in person or via Zoom.

"What if the past, present, and future could share the same dance floor? Eric Kupers' Parable of Belonging project brought together students, alumni, staff, and faculty to collectively imagine possible futures. We danced, wrote, acted, created, and collaborated our way into community. Ancestors, those not yet here, and descendants yet to come all met in our imaginings, and we kept returning to the present with more hope. Performing with the online cohort was the highlight of my spring semester!" - Dale Ireland, Lecturer Faculty, Department of Writing, Languages, and Literatures

News from the Disability Justice and Neurodiversity Club

Last year, one of the actions of the [Disability Justice and Neurodiversity Club](#) was to sign on to this [letter](#) urging Costco to divest from Autism Speaks!

This year, they are still seeking students interested in serving in officer positions during the current academic year (2026-27). If interested, please contact csueb.djnd@gmail.com or complete this [form](#) (update: Aaron Fong is currently serving as President, so that role is no longer vacant).



**Scan above to
connect with us
on Instagram!**

THE DISABILITY JUSTICE & NEURODIVERSITY CLUB

**is looking for new cabinet
officers for 2026-2027!**



What Do We Do?

The Disability Justice & Neurodiversity Club provides community support, educational opportunities, and advocacy for students who identify as Disabled or Neurodivergent, students who are currently exploring their identity as potentially Disabled or Neurodivergent, and students who consider themselves allies to the Disability Justice and Neurodiversity movements.



No Prior Experience Required!

To be eligible to submit an application, we simply expect that you are able to commit to this role and are willing to maintain proper communication with the other officers.



Cabinet Members...

- Advocate for accessibility on campus
- Help plan inclusive events
- Build community for disabled and neurodivergent students
- Develop leadership experience
- Work towards creating positive spaces for students

**Scan below if
interested!**



Flyer explains that the Disability Justice and Neurodiversity Club provides community support, educational opportunities, and advocacy for students who identify as Disabled or Neurodivergent, students who are

currently exploring their identity as potentially Disabled or Neurodivergent, and students who consider themselves allies to the Disability Justice and Neurodiversity movements. Cabinet members advocate for accessibility on campus, help plan inclusive events, build community for disabled and neurodivergent students, develop leadership experience, and work towards creating positive spaces for students. No prior experience is required. To be eligible to submit an application, we simply expect that you are able to commit to this role and are willing to maintain proper communication with the other officers.

Upcoming Book Talk with Dr. Sona Kazemi on Tues Sept 29th at 12:30 pm

Dr. Kazemi will discuss her book, [*Disabling Relations: Wounded Bodyminds and Transnational Praxis*](#), which explores the experiences of disabled survivors of violence in Iran and examines disability through transnational, political, and social contexts.

Dr. Kazemi is an Assistant Professor of Race, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at the University of Wisconsin–La Crosse.

This event is co-hosted by the Departments of Economics, Ethnic Studies, and Human Development & Women's Studies.

Please join us in person or virtually for this event!

- Tuesday, September 29th at 12:30 pm
- On campus in MI 2064
- On zoom at <https://csueb.zoom.us/j/84653572340>

PEOPLE
IDEAS
JUSTICE
BELONGING

Guest Lecture & Book Presentation

DISABILITY | HUMAN RIGHTS | GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES

Disabling Relations

WOUNDED BODYMINDS AND
TRANSNATIONAL PRAXIS

Sona Kazemi

FEATURING

Dr. Sona Kazemi



Disabling Relations examines how disability is produced through unequal social and political relations across transnational contexts. Drawing on the experiences of disabled dissidents and survivors of incarceration and torture, veterans and civilians wounded in the Iran-Iraq War, survivors of punitive limb amputation, and women survivors of acid attacks, the book develops the ideas of “wounding” and “disability consciousness” within a transnational disability framework.

ALL ARE WELCOME



September 29, 2026



12:30–2:00 PM



Building MI-2064

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, EAST BAY

Visual description of flyer: The book cover of "Disabling Relations: Wounded Bodyminds and Transnational Praxis" by Sona Kazemi features an image of a woman with glowing eyes wearing a hijab. A photo of the author shows a smiling woman with long, dark, wavy hair with highlights, who is wearing a white, button-down shirt. Text at the top of the flyer reads "Guest Lecture & Book Presentation," "Disability, Human Rights, Global Perspectives," and "People, Ideas, Justice, Belonging." Description of the event reads: "'Disabling Relations' examines how disability is produced through unequal social and political relations across transnational contexts. Drawing on the experiences of disabled dissidents and survivors of incarceration and torture, veterans and civilians wounded in the Iran-Iraq War, survivors of punitive limb amputation, and women survivors of acid attacks, the book develops the ideas of 'wounding' and 'disability consciousness' within a transnational disability framework." Text at the bottom of the flyer reads "All are welcome," "September 29, 2026: 12:30-2:00 pm," and "California State University, East Bay: Learning, Equity, Community, A Brighter Tomorrow."

Disability Community News @CSUEB and Beyond

Disability Community Collaborative (DCC) monthly meetings - The DCC meets monthly over [Zoom](#). All are welcome to join us during any or all of our upcoming fall meetings on the last Monday of the month from 3:30-5 pm.

Mon Sept 28th from 3:30-5 pm

Mon Oct 26th from 3:30-5 pm

Mon Nov 30th from 3:30-5 pm

Email dcc@csueastbay.edu if you'd like to be added to the list for email announcements, or submit your email address to this [form](#) if you want to receive future issues of this newsletter!

UC Berkeley's Disability Cultural Community Center hosts Disabled Makers' Market - On ***Wed Oct 7th from 12-4:30 pm***, disabled makers and artists sell their wares at the Alumni House. If you are interested in selling, complete this [form](#).

UC Berkeley's Labor Center hosts [Access to Action: Panel with Disabled Labor Activists and Organizers](#) - On ***Thur Oct 8th from 5-7 pm***, a hybrid panel and Q & A with disabled labor activist and organizers addresses how workers with disabilities can tackle organizing work,

and how we can build a truly inclusive labor movement. [RSVP here](#) - attend in person at 2521 Channing Way or register for the Zoom link.

CSU San Bernardino Hosts Disability Studies Speaker Series - Upcoming Zoom talks include:

Mon Oct 19 from 12-1 pm - Dr. Rua Williams discusses [Disabling Intelligences: Legacies of Eugenics and How We Are Wrong about AI](#). Here is the [Zoom link](#).

Tues Oct 27 from 10-10:50 am - Dr Scot Danforth discusses [An Independent Man: Ed Roberts and the Fight for Disability Rights](#). Here is the [Zoom link](#).

“

Disabled people have always existed, whether the word *disability* is used or not. To me, disability is not a monolith, nor is it a clear-cut binary of disabled and non-disabled. Disability is mutable and ever evolving. Disability is pain, struggle, brilliance, abundance, and joy. Disability is sociopolitical, cultural, and biological. Being visible, and claiming a disabled identity brings risks as much as it brings pride.

– Alice Wong, [Disability Visibility: First Person Stories from the Twenty-First Century](#)

”

What We're Reading

News stories:

[National Disability Organizations Condemn the Federal Government's Abandonment of Its Commitment to Community Integration for People with Disabilities](#)

[Naty Rico appointed as inaugural program director for UC Irvine's Disability Cultural Center](#)
[Head of Student Services for Calif Dept of Rehabilitation visits her alma mater](#) (CSU San Bernardino)

Journal Articles:

[Current issue of the Canadian Journal of Disability Studies](#)

Newsletters:

[SF Disability Cultural Center](#)

[UC Berkeley Disability Cultural Community Center](#)

[Crip News](#) - “A weekly roundup about disability arts and politics”

A Note from the DCC Newsletter Committee

Please feel free to contact us at dcc@csueastbay.edu with any questions or ideas for future stories!

Also, please share your email address on this [newsletter subscription form](#) if you'd like to receive future issues of the newsletter.

-Christina Chin-Newman, Dale Ireland, and Adisa Sefic

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