

CALL FOR MATERIALS THAT PROMOTE GENDER EQUITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The Gender Equity and Disability Subpanel of the Gender Equity Expert Panel is seeking programs, practices, products and research studies designed to promote gender equity in education for people with disabilities. Such materials will be considered for a recommendation to the Secretary of Education as promising or exemplary resources in the field of gender equity and disability, and if so designated, will be shared with other educators, equity specialists and activists around the country and internationally.

A recent initiative by the US Department of Education's Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI) has established the Gender Equity Expert Panel to make decisions about promising and exemplary products, programs, materials and practices that focus on promoting gender equity in education, with education broadly defined to include not only formal schooling but diverse arenas in which youth and adults learn. This panel consists of several subpanels with two main tasks: 1) to solicit materials for submission to the appropriate subpanels, and 2) to evaluate submitted materials, make recommendations to the Secretary of Education, and offer feedback to developers for their improvement.

The Gender Equity and Disability Subpanel, partially supported by the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS), is seeking to identify and evaluate effective programs and materials for people with disabilities and their allies that recognize and address gender-specific needs and issues, including issues of gender bias and double discrimination based on gender and disability. The Subpanel will also consider programs and materials addressing disability equity issues that may not have been designed with gender in mind but have proven to be particularly beneficial for women and girls with disabilities. Examples might include:

- o Programs and materials specifically designed for women and girls with disabilities that address such issues as advocacy/leadership/empowerment; sexuality/body image/self-esteem; violence prevention; math and science education; or access to employment
- o Programs and materials for people with disabilities addressing the same types of issues described above that have been especially effective for women and girls
- o Training programs and materials on gender equity and/or the intersection of gender and disability equity for teachers, counselors, family members and others involved in the lives of people with disabilities

If you have developed resources that fit these categories, or know of appropriate materials developed by others, please contact the Subpanel Chair, Harilyn Rousso, with the title(s), developer(s), including address and/or phone, and, if possible, a brief description so that a submission packet can be sent to you or the appropriate persons/organizations. Harilyn can be reached by e-mail: HarilynR@aol.com; by standard mail: Disabilities Unlimited, 3 East 10th St., 4B, New York, NY 10003, or by telephone/fax: 212-673-4284. Submission guidelines and additional information about the entire Gender Equity Expert Panel can also be obtained from Joe Maxwell at the WEEA Equity Resource Center (e-mail: jmaxwell@edc.org; telephone: 617-969-7100)