

# DISABILITY MATTERS *DIGEST*

## Special points of interest:

- Disability Matters North America  
April 19 – 21, 2016
- BRG Leadership Summit  
April 19, 2016
- Disability Matters Europe  
June 23 – 24, 2016
- Disability Matters Asia – Pacific  
Coming Soon

## Welcome Message

Dear friends:

In honor of the **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** of Springboard's **Disability Matters North America Conference and Awards Gala**, we have decided to consolidate all event announcements, press releases, etc., into one bi-weekly publication which will be referred to as the Disability Matters Digest.

Each issue will feature news about the upcoming event including but not limited to information about:

- ✓ Exciting new programming
- ✓ Content updates
- ✓ Confirmed keynote speakers
- ✓ New sponsor and/or registration information, and much more.

Although Disability Matters will continue to deliver what you have come to expect in terms of the quality education, inspiration, celebration and networking, the 2016 conference will be changing things up a bit to make it better than ever. The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary conference is a **MUST ATTEND!**

As your first round of information, I would like to announce our Keynote presenters Jane K. Fernandes, President of Guilford College, and Ali Stroker, New York Broadway Actress.

~Nadine



Nadine Vogel, CEO  
Springboard Consulting

## 2016 Keynote Speakers



*"the first deaf woman to lead an American college or university."*

**Jane K. Fernandes** is the ninth president of Guilford College and the first deaf woman to lead an American college or university. She began her work at Guilford July 1, 2014, having served as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of North Carolina at Asheville since 2008. At Guilford, she holds the faculty rank of Professor of English.

Recognized as one of the 20 most interesting college presidents by The Best Schools, Jane is leading Guilford College through curricular and administrative innovation to become further distinguished as a "college of excellence known for doing a few things splendidly." Guilford's rigorous liberal arts curriculum emphasizes integrative, active learning leading to 84 percent of its students

earning career employment or entrance into prestigious graduate schools within a year of graduation. Founded by the Religious Society Friends (Quakers) in 1837, the College has about 2,000 traditional-aged and adult students, including students in The Early College at Guilford. Guilford is recognized in Loren Pope's "Colleges that Change Lives" and in Princeton Review's "Guide to Green Colleges."



*"...the first actress in a wheelchair on Broadway"*

**Ali Stroker** is a dynamic New York Actress and Singer with an inspiring story of determination. Paralyzed from the chest down since she was two years of age, the *Glee* and *The Glee Project* star is the first actress in a wheelchair on Broadway, currently playing the role of Anna in the beloved

and controversial, Tony awarded musical, *Spring Awakening*. Continuing to push life's limits, Stroker strives to inspire others with disabilities to follow their dreams, just as she did. With the motto "Make your Limitations your Opportunities," Ali is a

founding member of "The Walk and Roll Dance Team" and "Be More Heroic", an anti-bullying campaign, as well as a co-chair for "Women Who Care", supporting United Cerebral Palsy. Stroker also enjoys encouraging others to shoot for the stars as a motivational speaker at various events.

Click here to see Ali's Today Show interview:

<http://www.today.com/video/meet-the-first-actress-to-star-on-broadway-in-a-wheelchair-567572035799>

**SPRINGBOARD CONSULTING,  
LLC**

14 Glenbrook Drive  
Mendham, NJ 07945

Phone:

(973) 813-7260

Fax:

(973) 813-7261

E-Mail:

[info@consultspringboard.com](mailto:info@consultspringboard.com)

We're on the Web!

See us at:

[www.consultspringboard.com](http://www.consultspringboard.com)

## About Springboard Consulting ...

Founded in 2005, Springboard is recognized as the expert in mainstreaming disability in the global workforce, workplace and marketplace. Serving corporations and organizations throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe and Asia, Springboard has become a trusted partner in relation to disability issues and initiatives across virtually every business category. Springboard Office annually honors exemplary organizational initiatives that promote the outreach, support & engagement of people with disabilities as employees and as consumers through the Disability Matters Awards.

**FOR TICKETS OR MORE  
INFORMATION**

Contact

**Jill Frankel**

Phone:

(973) 813-7260\*106

E-Mail:

[Jill@consultspringboard.com](mailto:Jill@consultspringboard.com)