

Nathan R. Stenberg

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Inspirational and innovative leader with over 15 years of experience transforming public thought and policy on disability from compliance to opportunity.

- Thought & Change Leadership
- Stakeholder Engagement & Advocacy
- Strategic & Creative Vision
- Budgeting, Grant Writing & Fund Allocation
- Policy Development & Implementation
- Executive Presence & Cultural Competency

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Inaugural Director of Disability & Affiliate Faculty

2023 – Present

The Johns Hopkins University (JHU) & JHU Berman Institute of Bioethics | Washington, DC-Baltimore Area

- Spearhead the creation and execution of a strategic vision for disability policy, research, and innovation across the Johns Hopkins enterprise.
- Collaborate with a diverse array of stakeholders throughout the decentralized JHU system to develop unified policies, strategies, and resources that promote equity and accessibility for all community members.
- Lead a data-driven strategy to deepen understanding of the needs and the benefits derived from the experiences of both internal and external disabled stakeholders, enhancing the use of demographic and climate data.
- Integrate disabled perspectives in governance and policymaking processes across the university and health care system, guiding the strategic planning for these entities.
- Develop toolkits offering best practices on the recruitment, hiring, and support of disabled staff and faculty.
- Build and nurture a network of over 300 internal and external stakeholders across the university and health system in six months, driving forward a shared commitment of policy improvement, research innovation, and disability advocacy.
- Emerge as a thought-leader in disability policy, law, bioethics, and biomedicine through active contributions to national forums, academic conferences, and public discourse, aiming to close the policy gap in education and healthcare.
- Proactively apply to both internal and external grants to host a groundbreaking disability policy research, bringing together federal lawmakers, educators, healthcare professionals, and activists to generate healthcare reform.
- Develop coursework related to critical disability studies, disability legal and policy studies, and bioethics.

Disability Public Speaker

2017 – Present

- Lead educational and motivational presentations for clients, including the UNESCO Center for Peace, the Association for Higher Education and Disability, Steelcase Life Design, Princeton University, and University of Pennsylvania, to enhance understanding and advocacy for disability rights.
- Monitor STEM, education, healthcare, and disability policy trends to set objectives.
- Develop and disseminate position statements on disability policy discourse at state and national levels.
- Secure over \$500,000 in funding by authoring more than 30 grants.
- Generate widespread awareness on topics like disability, STEM, and human rights by creating and delivering over 1,500 hours of multimedia material to varied audiences.

Disability Consultant

2017 – Present

- Collaborate with organizational leaders to drive disability awareness and remove structural barriers through engaging content and customized training.
- Build relationships and trust to conduct needs-based analyses, using audits and interviews to understand staff perspectives across all levels.
- Transform analysis findings into actionable reports, outlining strategies, timelines, and resources for educational content, hiring practices, and professional development in disability awareness.
- Create personalized development plans and curriculums, integrating disability principals for equitable workplace culture.
- Develop strategic frameworks for clients like the Center for Energy & Environment and the Minnesota Historical Society.
- Inspired a workshop participant to make a career transition into disability advocacy, showcasing the transformative impact of disability education.

Filmmaker, Music Director, Actor & Performing Arts Teacher

2010 – Present

- Direct and produce the feature-length documentary film, *Untitled Pennhurst Film* (in production), which promotes awareness of disability and healthcare access issues. This impactful film won the prestigious 2022 Catapult Film Fund and the Ford Foundation's JustFilms Grant.
- Acquire and manage a diverse group of clients, consistently meeting financial goals through fundraising and budgeting.
- Devise strategic lesson plans, assess clients' development in individual sessions, and supervise group rehearsals.
- Conceptualized and executed an annual benefit concert from 2011 to 2014 for an under-represented urban community.

Disability & Aging Intern

Summer 2021

United States Senate | Office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand | Washington, DC

- Proposed and successfully secured an individualized internship that allowed me to gain substantive professional experience in federal disability policymaking.
- Drafted crucial legislation and policy memoranda aiming to empower and fund direct care workers and personal care assistants, which was introduced in July 2021 as the Supporting Our Direct Care Workforce and Family Caregivers Act.
- Formulated strategic policy and political recommendations addressing key disability and aging issues.
- Synthesized constituent and stakeholder feedback into coherent policy recommendations.
- Advised the Legislative Director in presenting the Disability and Aging Portfolio to the Special Committee on Aging.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee Member

2019 – Present

Steering Committee for the Proposed National Museum of Disability History & Culture (NMDHC) | Washington, DC

- Drive bipartisan legislative initiatives, advocating for the establishment of a NMDHC.
- Develop and nurture relationships with federal lawmakers, advocacy organizations, and community stakeholders.
- Conduct research and analysis on museum legislation, applying best practices to the development plans of the NMDHC.
- Organize and facilitate public forums to gather community input, ensuring the museum will reflect the diverse experiences within the disability community.

Board Member

2018 – 2025

Pennhurst Memorial & Preservation Alliance (PMPA) | Disability Advocacy Non-Profit | Havertown, PA

- Created and lead the PMPA fellowship program in 2021, to bridge gaps for first-generation disabled college students, cultivating educational and professional opportunities.
- Interview and supervise a diverse fellowship cohort, advising fellows in identifying, implementing, and exceeding measured and timely goals.
- Coach and mentor two first-generation disabled college students in its first two years; cultivating educational and professional opportunities.
- Successfully negotiated terms between the greater organization and external influencers, resolving longstanding operational disputes in 2020, fostering a unified coalition dedicated to further growth and advocacy for disabled people.

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy | University of Minnesota | Minneapolis, MN

Subject-Matter Expertise: Disability Law & Policy | Bioethics & Biomedicine | Performance Studies

Master of Divinity | Princeton Seminary | Princeton, NJ

Subject-Matter Expertise: Religion, Society, & Ethics | Trauma-Informed Practices

Bachelor of Arts – Music | Roberts Wesleyan University | Rochester, NY