**Gainesville, FL**

**DEEJ Movie Screening and Discussion**  
Presented by: DJ Savarese  
Hosted by: UF-Gainesville CARD

**April 2, 2018**  
6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Doors open at 5:15 pm

**University of Florida Reitz Union Auditorium**  
686 Museum Road – 2nd Floor  
Gainesville, FL 32611

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**About the Presenter**

DJ Savarese graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Oberlin College in May 2017 with a double major in anthropology and creative writing. An Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN) Scholar Fellow, he was also the recipient of Oberlin’s William Battrick Poetry Fellowship and their Comfort Starr Award for meritorious scholarly work in anthropology. His poems and prose have appeared in *The Iowa Review*, *Seneca Review*, *Prospect, Disability Studies Quarterly*, *StoneCanoe*, *Wordgatherings.com*, *Voices for Diversity and Social Justice: A Literary Education Anthology*, and *A Doorknob for the Eye*. Currently a 2017 Open Society Foundations Youth Exchange/Human Rights Initiative Fellow, he works to make literacy-based education, communication, and inclusive lives a reality for all nonspeaking people.

**Training Description**

**Target Audience:** Educators, Professionals, Individuals with ASD, Family Members, & Community Members

Abandoned by his birth parents and unable to speak for himself, DJ Savarese (“Deej”) found not only a loving family, but also a life in words, which he types on a text-to-voice synthesizer. As he makes his way through high school and dreams of college, he confronts the terrors of his past, the obstacles to inclusion, and the sometimes paralyzing beauty of his own senses. In his advocacy on behalf of other nonspeaking autistics, he embraces filmmaking and poetry, discovering what having a voice can truly mean. In this first-of-its kind collaboration between a veteran filmmaker and a nonspeaking autistic, Robert Rooy and DJ share editorial control as they navigate the challenges of representing autism. DEEJ, the result of this often difficult partnership, is a story told largely from the inside by DJ; not by his parents, autism experts, or even the camera. At its core, DEEJ reflects the level of participation that disability rights advocates insist upon: "Nothing about us without us."

**Training Objectives**

After the presentation, participants will be able to explain issues related to inclusion as discussed in the DEEJ movie:

- Inclusion shouldn’t be a lottery.
- Communication is a basic right.
- Redefining “normal.”
- “Nothing about us without us.”
- Interdependence, not independence.

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**Registration Information:**

**REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY**

**DEADLINE:** April 2, 2018  
Limited to first 100 participants

Register online at:  
[http://doepartnership.fmhi.usf.edu/trainings.html](http://doepartnership.fmhi.usf.edu/trainings.html)

For more information contact:  
ufcard.training@gmail.com or  
(352) 273-0581

**Directions:**

For directions click [HERE](http://doepartnership.fmhi.usf.edu/trainings.html).

**Attention:**

Please attend as fragrance-free as possible

*Be sure to contact your ESE District Staff or Staff Development Contact to determine the process for receiving in-service.*