

# PEPSA



## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

# Free!

Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism

### 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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Gainesville, FL 32611

### Registration Information:

**REGISTRATION IS MANDATORY**

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

Register online at:

<http://doepartnership.fmhi.usf.edu/trainings.html>

For more information contact:

[ufcard.training@gmail.com](mailto:ufcard.training@gmail.com) or  
(352) 273-0581

### Directions:

For directions click [HERE](#)

### 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.*

### 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.



**UF** Center for Autism  
and Related Disabilities  
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Regional Trainings are hosted by the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, through the Partnership for Effective Programs for Students with Autism (PEPSA), a program funded by the State of Florida, Department of Education, K-12 Public Schools, Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services, through federal assistance under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Part B. [www.DOEpartnership.org](http://www.DOEpartnership.org).