

INCLUSIVITY UNMASKED

A research project by Dr. Randy Johner and Kelsey Culbert

Featuring

The Big Sky Centre for Learning and Being Astonished Inc.

THE BIG SKY CENTRE FOR LEARNING AND BEING ASTONISHED INC.

Who we are:

The Big Sky Centre for Learning and Being Astonished Inc. (Astonished!) is a not-for-profit organization that works in inclusive community to address barriers facing young adults with complex physical disAbilities (Core Members) by creating opportunities for teaching and learning, social, recreational and cultural engagement, and for employment and housing.



ONE OF ASTONISHED'S MAJOR PROGRAMS IS THE ASTONISHED TEACHING AND LEARNING CENTRE (A!TLC)

The Astonished! Teaching and Learning Centre (A!TLC)

- The A!TLC is located at the University of Regina and is a place where young adults with complex physical disabilities become Student Researchers
 - Student Researchers have meaningful work in a vibrant, inclusive, learning and teaching environment
 - *Student Researchers are the leaders and work with faculty, students, and the wider community in research, learning, and teaching about inclusion;
 - Inclusive community and culture grows in a vibrant and diverse learning and teaching environment.



Snapshots of the AITLC

**The A!TLC was approached by U
of R Social Work professor Dr.
Randy Johner and Student
Researcher Kelsey Culbert to
participate in their research
project – exploring inclusion and
exclusion at the University of
Regina**

Randy and Kelsey gave us 3 tasks...

Task Number 1:

Photo Elicitation – break off into teams of two to capture examples of inclusion and exclusion at the U of R.

One team equaled:

One Student Researcher to dictate what to photograph and to appear in the photo if needed

One Photography assistant to snap the picture





Task Number 2:

Word Lists - Brainstorm two word lists.

One list of words that could be associated with INCLUSION

and one list of words that could be associated with EXCLUSION

SAMPLE WORD LISTS

Inclusion Words:

- Community
- Belonging
- Relationship
- Contribute
- Friend
- Happy
- University
- Individual
- Unique

Exclusion Words:

- Community
- Lonely
- Invisible
- Different
- Individual
- Isolated
- Relationship
- Misunderstood
- University

OUR FINDINGS AND OBSERVATIONS SO FAR.....

Task 1: It was easy to use our cameras to point out the good and the bad at the U of R

Task 2: Sometimes one word could fit into both lists, depending on what perspective you were coming from. Go figure!

Examples of these versatile words:

**Community, Contribute, Individual,
Relationship, University**

(the whole) Picture
(a part of the) Picture



Task Number 3:

Soundtrack: Randy and Kelsey wanted to use our pictures and our words to create a slideshow.

This slideshow needed a soundtrack. They asked us to pick any songs that we found to be meaningful for this soundtrack.



STUDENT RESEARCHER SONG PICKS



Kaitlyn: Only God Knows Why by Kid Rock – *I just really like this song. I have to listen to it at least once a week, usually on Saturday mornings.*

Kennen: Happy by Pharrell Williams – *I love this song and it makes me smile.*

Rebekah: Ordinary Day by Great Big Sea – *I like the music and the lyrics, **especially** the chorus.*

Avery – All About that Chair - Heather Schouten (the wheelchair parody to “All About that Bass”) – *It makes me feel good when I hear it.*

Kelsey – Firework by Katy Perry – *I love everything about this song*

A SHOUT OUT!

A big thank you goes to John Loepky - a very talented video producer.

He helped Randy and Kelsey to make their slideshow/video.

Great work, John!

RESEARCH MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Final Reflections:

We are so happy to be at the University of Regina. The opportunities that continue to come our way as a result of being there are outstanding. It is an age appropriate setting filled with natural peers and goal oriented people, just like us.

Sometimes, we do not feel like there is enough room for us – it can definitely be overwhelming when the classes change and there are tons of people in the halls, but we are great navigators and we do our best.

As vibrant young adults living with complex disabilities, we are the experts on where there is room for accessibility improvement. It is essential to consult with us, and have us in on the conversation.

It is good that when we find barriers, we are encouraged to use our cameras (amongst other things) to point them out and make some noise! There is lots to be done.

Are you watching? Are you listening?