Topic Area: Changing the World: Advocacy in Action

Advocacy plays a large role in creating meaningful and lasting social change for persons with disabilities, marginalized communities and individuals whose voices are often silenced. Based on the premise that advocacy is of integral importance in improving social services and securing social change for the present and future, what are the most effective ways to advocate? Do we need new advocacy models, and are we getting the results we want? What are the challenges of the non-profit sector when advocating for social change and how do we fund advocacy work?

The term “Advocacy” can describe a number of scenarios, from political lobbying, to using social media to spread a message, to even protesting on the street. It can happen in nearly any context, from a court of law, to a classroom, to a discussion around a kitchen table. While these diverse forms of advocacy and self-advocacy thrive, it begs the question to if the governments’ advocacy is enough to meet the needs of our diverse society. Where is there room for improvement?

We can work together to define advocacy, share best practices, and help reform broken models of advocacy. The committee is interested in proposals on any of the following topics:

- Stories of struggles and successes in advocacy and self advocacy;
- Best practices for making advocacy accessible to all, presenting effective ways for children and persons with disabilities to be advocates themselves;
- What doesn’t seem to be working and how to make advocacy more effective;
- New models for advocacy;
- Emerging trends in advocacy and the growing role that social media plays;
- Best practices for how advocates can be inclusive;
- Best practices for a multi-stakeholder approach to advocacy;
- Ways that advocacy can translate to movement building;
- Historical long term impacts of advocacy and projections for the future;
- New directions in funding and how to make resources more widely available for advocates in a challenging economy;
- The ways in which advocacy can ‘level the playing field’ and equalize power.

We welcome proposals in any presentation format. Please see presentation formats on our webpage at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats/. Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions or send your proposals via email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information please contact prcall@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference, please contact Charmaine Crockett at cccrocke@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.
For registration questions please contact registration desk at prreg@hawaii.edu, Phone: (808) 956-8816, Fax: (808) 956-4437.