

Superintendent Article



Celebrate Community!

We find ourselves in a world where we spend more time on how we are different from those around us: how we differ on politics, how we differ on core beliefs, how we differ on what the weather will be tomorrow. We are bombarded with more information than we can handle. What if we spent our time focusing on how we are all similar: how we crave love, acceptance, and belonging?

People with disabilities know this landscape all too well. Many times friends, neighbors, and community members' focus on what people with disabilities struggle to do and how they are different rather than how they are similar. At UCBDD we believe our community is up to the challenge of seeing all people for what they bring to our community. We believe people with disabilities, teach us how to see the world differently, and push us to examine our thinking. In other words, they strengthen the fabric of our community.

Most of us take pride in our community and identify closely with it. Our chests swell when we say we are from Union County, Marysville, Richwood, Plain City and other local communities. This year's theme for developmental disabilities awareness is "Celebrate Community." I challenge all of us to "Celebrate Community" by seeing each of our community members, whether they have a disability, struggle with mental health concerns, have a medical issue, or nothing at all, for what they contribute to our lives and our community for the whole is greater than the sum of its parts!