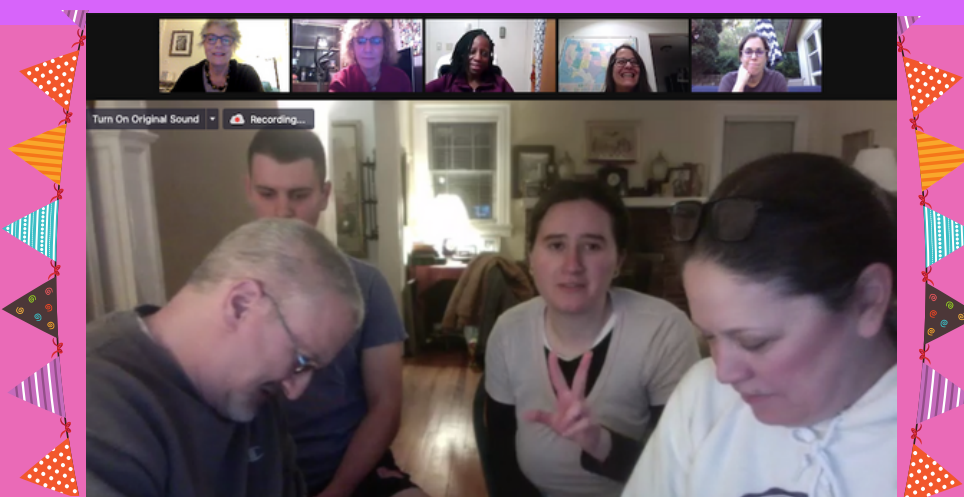


Celebrating the First SDMA from the Inclusion Project at Queens College

The Inclusion Project is an innovative partnership between NYC Department of Education's District 75 and CUNY's Queens College, offering a non-matriculated "college experience" to students at John F. Kennedy High School between 17 and 22. SDMNY has worked with the program for the past several years, enrolling 4 Decision-Makers before the pandemic and New York State's "pause." Now, having adapted to remote learning, **Anna**, the first of those Decision-Makers, has just signed her SDMA (you may already know **Anna** from the video she made about Covid-19 on our website). **Anna** says that having her SDMA will help her "with learning all the independence and future awareness" she needs to live an inclusive life.



SDM fits perfectly with the goals of the Inclusion Project that **Anna** and our three other Decision -Makers, **Dylan**, **Joshua** and **Noel** attend. Their counselor, Eric Rubin says,

"The mission of our school is to provide independence, but when I first began working there was a push toward guardianship...that was worrisome because it seemed counterintuitive to what I was trying to do--promote independence -- [so] I was very happy to learn of SDMNY"

Decision-Maker **Dylan** adds,

"This college program is a gateway to new possibility in my life...to get the experience of actually being able to explore the world of independent rights and building confidence..."

And just to complete the CUNY connection, **Joshua's** facilitator, Herminia, is a recent graduate of the Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) program at LaGuardia Community College!

CONGRATULATIONS ANNA AND THE QC INCLUSION PROJECT!