

EXPANDING OUR DECISION-MAKING INITIATIVES: INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AT HOSTOS COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND A VERY PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION

Although offering an individual 3-phase facilitation process leading to an SDMA (Supported Decision-Making Agreement) has been our primary focus over the past 7 years, we have also been committed to developing a decision-making curriculum that could be used in a variety of educational settings. The first iteration piloted in the Transitions program at the Cooke School (Good News [10/22/2021]); it led indirectly to a Developmental Disability Planning Council grant to our Faculty Associate, Professor Gina Riley and the Hunter School of Education to create a scenario-based decision-making curriculum for young, middle school and transition age students (Good News [11/4/2022]). What we've always wanted, but lacked the bandwidth for until now, was to try it out in a post-secondary inclusive education setting.



Hostos Community College students

Last week we launched “You Decide: Supported Decision-Making 101”, at Hostos Community College, a part of the CUNY system, in the Bronx, led by our Mentor and Transition Specialist Jenna Lamm, who came to us from the CUNY Central Office of Student Inclusion Initiatives where she was Associate Director of Disability Programs, including CUNY Unlimited. (for more information on CUNY Unlimited, click [here](#)) Jenna is really putting her all into the class which will take students through some of the journey of self-exploration that occurs during Phase 1 of the SDMNY facilitation process. Notably, during the class, students will work together through the seven steps of decision-making using an example from Jenna’s own life as she teaches the class—her honeymoon! (Good News [8/4/2023]). We are so excited to see what they come up with!



Jenna and her fiancé Will

Jenna reports an enthusiastic reception from the first session last Friday, and says:

“I am so glad to bring together my current work with SDMNY and my prior experience at CUNY on such a promising new initiative. We chose Hostos to pilot this class because of the wonderful support among the program staff and faculty, as well as the amazing students, some of whom I’ve had the chance to meet over the years! CUNY Unlimited and SDMNY have similar goals in terms of self-determination, personal growth, and advocacy for the rights and full inclusion of people with intellectual disabilities. It is definitely a natural partnership.”

THANKS JENNA, AND CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND THE GREAT HOSTOS STUDENTS!