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I am a Peer/Self-Advocate and Motivational Speaker. I travel throughout the US sharing the messages of ability, inclusion and full participation in life for all.

I graduated in 2000 from high school with a regular high school diploma.

I have been on numerous boards that advocate for individuals with Down syndrome and other Special Needs. I have been a member of my local Buddy Walk committee for many years and have participated in the NDSS Buddy Walk on Washington, meeting with legislators on issues for the betterment of lives of individuals with Down syndrome.

I purchased my own condo ten years ago and have lived independently.

I committed my life to my wife, Heather Hancock-Blackburn in June of 2016 and, even though we live in different states, we spend time together often and communicate daily. Our love and life as a couple continues to grow.

I have a very active sports and social life. I belong to two social groups that hosts dances and fun events. Almost every night is busy with basketball, swimming, bowling and bocce.

I worked for Winn Dixie for 18 years, but in 2017, I knew I wanted more. I really wanted to have my dream job. I applied for and was accepted for a position as an equipment team member for the NBA team, the New Orleans Pelicans. It has been an amazing opportunity and every day, I look forward to my dream job! I have now been employed by the Pelicans for over three years.

Senator Brown (D-OH) and Senator Portman (R-OH) introduced [SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act \(S. 4102.\)](#) It would update the amount of money you can have and still get Social Security. The current SSI rules make it very hard for couples with disabilities to get married. Would you please sign on to as a co-sponsor for this bill?



My wish for all Self-Advocates is to be the best you can be! That is not only good.....that is GREAT!!!!!!