

April 7, 2015

Conference “Reframes” Understanding of Learning Disabilities

MEDFORD, Ore.—Jonathan Mooney, a writer and activist, will be the keynote speaker at “The Gift: LD/ADHD Reframed” conference at the Medford Library large meeting room at 205 S. Central, on Thursday, April 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. The conference is free and open to the public.

According to recent data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 2.3 million school children have a diagnosed learning disability (LD), and 5.6 million children have been diagnosed with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). In Oregon, 7 percent of children age 4-17 have ADHD, a 53 percent increase in the last decade.

Yet LD/ADHD is frequently not well understood.

Jonathan Mooney and a panel of RCC students will help conference attendees better relate to the problems and opportunities associated with LD/ADHD, and challenge participants to consider a progressive view of learning and intelligence.

Mooney, because of his learning disabilities and ADHD, did not learn to read until he was 12 years old. Today, he is a graduate of Brown University and holds an honors degree in English Literature. With the publication of *Learning Outside the Lines*, Mooney established himself as one of the foremost leaders in LD/ADHD, disabilities, and alternative education.

Individuals who need accommodations for hearing impairment and/or for those who want more information may contact Andrew Childress at 541-245-7692 or achildress@rogucecc.edu. The program is open to the public and will be especially enlightening for students, parents, teachers, and counselors. Seating will be on a first come, first serve basis.

“The Gift: LD/ADHD Reframed” conference is made possible in part by a grant from Oregon Humanities (OH), a statewide nonprofit organization and an independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, which funds OH’s grant program, and is sponsored by the Rogue Community College Diversity Programming Board and the Medford Branch of the American Association of University Women.

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