

National Disability Employment Awareness Month Achievers Award Winners

LaTanya Brooks

Practice Administrator
Johns Hopkins Community Physicians



LaTanya Brooks demonstrates humility, and working with her is a joy. She has lived with multiple sclerosis for over 20 years, and never complains or asks, “Why me?” She is instrumental in shaping how her colleagues approach life and is an example of how not to sweat the small stuff.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, LaTanya

Brooks was an ambassador for multiple sclerosis for the Roses Society and conducted seminars for people with the disease and their families. She is a model of excellence and discovery, leadership and integrity, diversity and inclusion, and respect and collegiality.

Ellen Kaplan

Learning Specialist and Disability Coordinator
Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine



Ellen Kaplan models the discipline it takes to proactively remove barriers for people with disabilities. She began in her current role in 2019, and her work has transformed how services are provided, increasing the number of students requiring accommodations from two to 33 — and that number is growing. By ensuring students with

disabilities can request and obtain needed accommodations, Kaplan is positively impacting diversity in the health care profession. Doctors with disabilities are underrepresented, and she is removing barriers to completing their education with her thoughtful, thorough and persistent efforts. She is an asset to students and the medical school.

With a holistic approach to her work, Ellen Kaplan uses her learning specialist and coaching expertise to support students with disabilities in a nuanced way. She works creatively with students who are exploring whether they have a disability, and supports them in obtaining affordable and timely evaluations. She has also trained the Student Disability Services staff to better help the diverse learners it serves by sharing materials and consulting on individual students. Colleagues are grateful to have her on their team.

Kaplan volunteers for working groups and offers her home for Student Disability Services retreats, she coordinates with outside professionals in her network to provide professional development and self-care/wellness support for her team, and she often organizes and facilitates games and icebreakers. Students and staff members alike appreciate her collaborative and generous nature.