

Advocacy Across Cultures and Races: The Story of Chicagoland DPOCC



partnering with
**UIC INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY
AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

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September 2, 2025

About Jae Jin

- Co-Founder of Chicagoland DPOCC
- Researcher at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)
- Immigrant, Korean, Advocate, Educator, and Ally
- Fun fact
 - I enjoy photography, fountain pens and love train trips



About T.J.

- Co-Founder of Chicagoland DPOCC
- Researcher at University of Illinois Chicago (UIC)
- Multimedia artist; blogger/creator of *the Black Autist*
- Fun fact
 - I have two six-year-old kiddos: one son, one goddaughter
 - I love to watch and learn football all day!



Presentation Outline

- I. About T.J. and Jae Jin
- II. Benefits of Advocating Across Cultures, Ethnicities and Races
- III. About Chicagoland DPOCC
- IV. Examples of Multicultural Advocacy Projects by Chicagoland DPOCC
- V. Ways to Advocate with People from Many Cultures and Races
- VI. Connecting with Chicagoland DPOCC, T.J., and Jae Jin
- VII. Opening Up for Q&A or Speak Up, and Speak Out!

Benefits of Advocating Across Cultures, Ethnicities and Races

- Different Cultures and Identities
- We have similar needs and face similar issues
- We call it “INTERSECTIONALITY”
- People Power! The More, the Merrier
- Share Different Perspectives, foods, cultures, etc. That’s how America is built (*wink wink*)
- We can have similar things in common
- We all want to live in a fair, happy world where we thrive together



About Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC)

- Founded in 2018 by Jae Jin and T.J.; responding to lack of brave spaces for disabled people of color in the Chicagoland area
- Supported by the Institute on Disability and Human Development at UIC
- **Our Vision:** Uplift the voices of BIPOC disabled people by engaging in advocacy, supporting independence and interdependence, education, and collaborations in the work we do as a group.



Our Mission: We, the Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition (Chicagoland DPOCC), are a group founded by, centered around, and run by disabled, Deaf, and neurodivergent people of color in the Chicagoland area. We are an organization that:

- **Promote Disability Justice** and **celebrate people of color with disabilities** through education, advocacy, arts & culture,
- **Educate on principles of disability acceptance, accessibility, and inclusion** in communities of color, and
- **Foster a brave space for disabled people of color** to advocate and discover their disability pride

Allies of the Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition are also welcome to attend our meetings and events, as long as they uphold our three-point mission statement and understand that the organization centers around issues and topics related to disabled people of color.



Examples of Multicultural Advocacy Projects by Chicagoland DPOCC

- Addressing Racial Unrest, COVID-19 Pandemic and Vaccination Misinformation
- How to Address “Fake News”
- Accessible Juneteenth
- Disability Day of Mourning
- Voting Rights with RevUp Illinois
- CripSex Pride Talks
- Building Intersectional/Multicultural Disability Communities Through Arts and Culture

There is a joke going around where some are referring to the omicron variant as “the Omarion variant”, after the popular R&B artist. It is said that if you get the Omarion variant, you will dance a lot.



Ways to Advocate with People from Many Cultures and Races



Disability exists in every race, culture, and community



Listen to and uplift BIPOC disabled voices



Share leadership, platforms, and storytelling space



Make materials accessible in plain language and multiple formats



Partner with racial justice, LGBTQ+, and immigrant rights groups



Celebrate cultural pride and disability through art, food, and community



Keep learning, showing up, and growing together

Connecting with Jae Jin and T.J.

Jae Jin

- Email
 - jjpak@uic.edu
- Socials
 - Facebook: [facebook.com/jaejinpak](https://www.facebook.com/jaejinpak)
 - LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/jaejinpak
 - Instagram: [instagram.com/halfblindsnapper](https://www.instagram.com/halfblindsnapper)

T.J.

- Email
 - tgordo7@uic.edu or timotheus.tj.gordonjr@gmail.com
- Websites
 - <https://linktr.ee/timotheusgordonjr>
 - <https://linktr.ee/blackautist>

How to Support or Reach Out to Chicagoland DPOCC

- Email: chicagolanddpocc@gmail.com
- Website: <https://linktr.ee/chidpocc>
- Mailing Address
 - Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition
% The Institute on Disability and Human
Development
1640 West Roosevelt Rd, 436 DHSP, (MC 626)
Chicago, IL 60614



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Opening Up for Q&A
Speak Up, and Speak Out!
Thank you for your support

