

**ROCHESTER ACCESSIBLE ADVENTURES RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM
UR STRONG CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES,
ERIE CANALWAY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR AND NYS CANAL CORP, AND DISABLED SPORTS
USA/CRAIG H. NEILSEN TO PRESENT INCLUSIVE KAYAKING AND CYCLING OPPORTUNITIES
“APACC EXTRAVAGANZA”**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK – JUNE 6, 2017 – ROCHESTER ACCESSIBLE ADVENTURES (RAA) is proud to announce it has received funding through University of Rochester Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, Disabled Sports USA/Craig H. Neilsen, and the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor/NYS Canal Corporation to promote inclusive active recreation opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

RAA is creating a Revolution in Inclusion, rolling out a unique model of Community Health Inclusion (CHI) initiatives to ensure individuals with disabilities have accessible and inclusive active recreation opportunities. The APACC Extravaganza seeks to ensure people with disabilities know about their options for participating in inclusive healthy, active recreation.

ROCHESTER ACCESSIBLE ADVENTURES (RAA) will partner with Erie Canal Boat Company to provide a two day event on the Erie Canalway in Fairport, NY, from 10:00AM -2:00PM on June 10 and 11, 2017 at 7 Liftbridge Lane West, Fairport, NY 14450. This two-day event is free and open to the community. Guests will learn how Erie Canal Boat Company is now operating INCLUSIVELY any time their doors are open, offering standard and adaptive kayaking and cycling equipment rentals daily during the season. We will highlight equipment options -- dock-mounted hoist lift, easy access kayaks, seat and grip modifications, three-wheeled cycles, MonoMano cycle, hand cycles, tandem, and more! This is a family event, with inclusive yoga, massage, music, kayaking, and cycling. Staff and Volunteers will be on site to assist and staff from Rochester Accessible Adventures' Regional Resource Network will provide community resource information to keep families with members with disabilities connected.

“This is a fantastic opportunity!, says Anita O’Brien, Executive Director of Rochester Accessible Adventures. “We are grateful to UR Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities, Disabled Sports USA and Craig H. Neilsen, Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor and NYS Canal Corporation for their support in helping us reach out to the community to showcase our work towards a truly inclusive society.” “Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities is happy to support Rochester Accessible Adventures’ efforts in making the Rochester community accessible and inclusive for everyone,” says Susan Hetherington, Director of Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities. “Recreational activities are important to the quality of life for all people.”

“It is so important to me to be able to continue to do active things with my family, even as my Multiple Sclerosis progresses. Knowing I can still ride bikes with my husband and daughters or go kayaking together – just by using some of the great equipment pieces that make it easier for me – is crucial to ALL of us as a family” says Kerrie Giesen, a Rochester area resident who has benefitted from RAA’s work towards inclusion in the region and who was recently featured in New Mobility Magazine, June 1, 2017 www.newmobility.com. Families with members with a variety of disabilities and medical conditions are invited to attend The APACC Extravaganza and learn how they can recreate together with this model of inclusion.

About Rochester Accessible Adventures

Rochester Accessible Adventures is a non-profit founded in 2015 to address the community’s need for accessible inclusive recreation and sport opportunities for individuals with disabilities and their families.

RAA's Community Health Inclusion (CHI) initiatives provide the crucial training to remove barriers that exclude families with a member with a disability from participating together. "Inclusion is not a program," says Anita O'Brien, Executive Director of RAA. "Rather, inclusion means equal access and when you have that, you create healthier individuals and stronger communities." RAA is also strongly committed to supporting adaptive and inclusive sports teams such as The Rochester Wheels and Rochester Sled Hockey to ensure youth and adults with disabilities have on-going opportunities for competitive and recreational team sports experiences. For more information, visit www.rochesteraccessibleadventures.org.

About Erie Canal Boat Company

In July 2016, RAA rolled out its first Community Health Inclusion initiative as it unveiled its partnership with Erie Canal Boat Company (ECBC) in Fairport, NY. That partnership created the ability for Peter Abele, ECBC owner, to operate his business in an inclusive manner every day he is open, now offering BOTH adaptive and standard kayaking and cycling equipment for rental. ECBC is perfectly situated just feet from the waterway and pedestrian/cycle pathway and offers a variety of water and pathway rental options daily throughout the season. www.eriecanalboatcompany.com

About Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities

Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities (SCDD) at the University of Rochester is one of 67 University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities in the country. It is federally mandated to provide training, service, and research in intellectual and developmental disabilities, and is committed to the inclusion of people with disabilities in all aspects of their communities. Recreation and Leisure is one of SCDD's focus areas, along with health, education, and employment.

[University of Rochester Strong Center for Developmental Disabilities](http://www.urmc.rochester.edu/strong-center-for-developmental-disabilities)

Disabled Sports USA/Craig H. Neilsen www.disabledsportsusa.org. This grant is offered in partnership with the Craig H. Neilsen Foundation, www.chnfoundation.org.

[Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor](http://www.eriecanalway.com) and [NYS Canal Corporation](http://www.nyscanal.com) Event and Festival Sponsorship

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