In the 2005 US Census Bureau, 1 in 5 (19% of the US population) people reported living with some sort of disability.

More recently, the CDC reported that 15% of American children have a developmental disability.

World Health Organization reports that 650,000,000 people in the world are disabled.

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Disability comes in varying degrees of severity, from moderate to significant, from temporary to permanent. Some are born disabled, others become disabled as a result of an accident or disease.

2004--The Special Olympics International Board of Directors adopted a resolution to update the movement’s terminology from mental retardation to intellectual disability.

2008--The Special Olympics launched the r-word.org website in 2008, to combat inappropriate usage of the r-word in everyday speech.

2010--Rosa’s Law: President Obama signed the S.7281 Bill into federal law, removing the term “mental retardation” from federal health, education, and labor policy, and replaced it with “individual with an intellectual disability.”

We hope to increase awareness about the inflammatory use of the r-word, retarded, while educating people about the valuable CITIZENSHIP of people with disabilities.

We encourage everyone to reconsider using the word “retard” to describe someone with disabilities, or even someone who is acting silly or stupid. The r-word has a heated history, and like the n-word, it demeans a population of people who DESERVE BETTER.
Pledge and support the elimination of the derogatory use of the r-word from everyday speech and promote the acceptance and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Should the r-word be CENSORED?

What effect does LABELING have on ourselves and others?

How can we be ALLIES for people with cognitive and physical disabilities?

Speakers will include family members of those with disabilities.

Teach-In: the R-word

Concerning People with Cognitive and Physical Disabilities

Where: WWU Viking Union Room 565

When: Wednesday, May 25, 2011 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm