

OCALI | Podcast – Episode 18

Inclusion is the Future: A Conversation with Dani Bowman

[SOUND OF RADIO DIAL CHANGING STATIONS] [HAPPY MUSIC PLAYING IN BACKGROUND]

Welcome to Inspiring Change from OCALI. Our forum of stories and connections from our ongoing work of inspiring change and promoting access for people with disabilities. I'm Simon Buehrer.

[MUSIC FADING OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I was more interested in sharing my stories and having a way to express myself as I didn't have much language.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I want to help people on the autism spectrum and challenge the status quo that people on the autism spectrum can have an independent life. They can have a productive life.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Dani Bowman is an animator, filmmaker, author, teacher, student, and entrepreneur from Southern California. I first met her in August of 2012. She was teaching an animation camp to kids and young adults at our offices in Columbus.

Dani was in high school at the time. Yeah, what were you doing in the high school? It was a pleasant, August day, and we had this impromptu video interview before an audience of cicadas from a picnic bench outside our main entrance.

[CICADAS IN BACKGROUND THROUGHOUT]

Is it hard to go to high school and run your company at the same time?

I would not say it's hard, but it's a little tricky because I have to do my homework first before I have to work--

[LAUGHS]

--on the animation projects. It's because my aunt and uncle says about that school is the most important thing I have to do. You see? It's pretty big to do school. The reason why? Because I have to get good grades. And so I can be able to graduate and also pass the California High

School Entrance Exams. Recently, from high school, I just got a 4.0, which means I got a straight A's cause--

High five.

[HANDS CLAPPING]

That's awesome.

Because I know this was very hard at first, but once I get used to it, everything turns out to be good.

Sure, are you a junior, senior?

I passed junior year, and now I'm moving on to senior year.

You'll be a senior.

Yeah.

What are you going to do after you graduate?

I'm going to head off to college.

[CONVERSATION CONTINUES IN BACKGROUND]

What struck me about Dani, was not just that she already had her own animation company and was teaching her peers and younger students animation skills and techniques, which are both really remarkable and impressive pursuits for a high school student.

But also, Dani had big dreams and aspirations, not just for herself, but for others on the autism spectrum. She's a proponent, advocate, and champion of opportunity and inclusion--

[BACKGROUND CONVERSATION FADES OUT]

--helping others to build their own knowledge and skill set with an eye towards self empowerment, employment, and creating a more neurodiverse workplace. As she plainly states on her website, inclusion is the future.

So I wanted to check in with Dani and see how things are going years after we first met and also see how she was doing during the pandemic. Was she still able to keep up with her own studies, her numerous projects, her summertime animation camps, her push towards empowering and employing young people on the spectrum? Or, like for so many of us, did COVID-19 knock all of these pursuits and doing's off course and offline? Here's my conversation with Dani Bowman.

SIMON BUEHRER: What I wanted to do in this conversation, because I've been following you on Facebook over the years and I've kept up with you through your website, but we haven't really talked. And so, I wanted to find out what you've been doing, how things are going, and what's next in Dani's, in Dani's life because you're always doing stuff and you're always making stuff. And so--

DANI BOWMAN: Gee, thank you.

SIMON BUEHRER: --it's just exciting to learn about everything that you're involved with. But to start us off, for as long as I've known of you and about you, animation has been kind of the central part. Whenever I think of Dani, I think of animation. I think of the things you create. I think of the camps you do. But I've never asked you directly, why is animation such an important part of your life? Why is it important to you?

DANI BOWMAN: So animation has always been an important part of my life. Like many children with autism, I was withdrawn and not at all social but very obsessed with animation. By first watching animation at three or four years old I actually started doing stop-motion animation. I was actually animating before I was speaking. I didn't realize at that time, but in addition to being entertained, I was actually learning social cues and other important lessons that neurotypical people learn naturally.

There's something about the animated characters' exaggerated expressions and interactions that helped me learn expressions and social cues that I didn't naturally learn from the people around me. As I grew up, my family used my obsession with animation to help me learn other things that I wasn't interested in -- like math and reading. They were sneaky!

Now I realize the power of animation can make a difference in people with autism's lives. Not that everyone will grow up to be an animator, but the process of animation teaches us social skills, collaboration, and builds upon confidence and self-esteem.

SIMON BUEHRER: That's fantastic, Dani. There's a lot to unpack with that, and I as we continue with the conversation we'll touch on a lot of those a lot of those things. So I know you created your animation studios, which used to be called Powerlight Animation Studios. Is that correct?

DANI BOWMAN: That is correct.

SIMON BUEHRER: And now what is it called?

DANI BOWMAN: It's now Danimation Entertainment.

SIMON BUEHRER: And so Danimation, which is a combination of your name and the word "animation," kind of combined, right?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes. Danimation got its' name changed in during its six year--

SIMON BUEHRER: OK.

DANI BOWMAN: --after the Ability Magazine released an article about my life. And they titled it, "Danimation." And second of all another reason why Powerlight Animation Studios changed its name, it is because Powerlight was too general. We don't know who Powerlight is. But we know who Dani is.

SIMON BUEHRER: I love it. OK.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, thank you.

SIMON BUEHRER: So so the inspiration for the name change came from an article?

DANI BOWMAN: That is correct.

SIMON BUEHRER: OK, it's a great synergy of who you are and what you do, both as an animator and as a teacher of animation. So I think it's so properly named, Dani. But you can you take us back to when you ... created? Why did you want to create your own animation company, your own animation studios?

DANI BOWMAN: So why did I want to start my own company? The journey st--

SIMON BUEHRER: Why?

DANI BOWMAN: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

DANI BOWMAN: The journey started when I was in elementary school. While I was drawing and creating storybooks at home one day, one of my classmates brought one of his story books to class and tried to sell them. A light bulb went off--

[CHUCKLES]

--in my head that I could, too, sell my work someday. I'm not sure if the motivation was financially driven like other kids' lemonade stands, or I was more interested in sharing my stories and having a way to express myself as I didn't have much language. I went to talk to my aunt asking for her help to sell them. She looked at me politely then handed them back to me saying that they were nice stories, but they were not ready to be sold to the public.

SIMON BUEHRER: Uh-huh.

DANI BOWMAN: I was crushed. And I--

SIMON BUEHRER: Hmm.

DANI BOWMAN: --walked away from her saying, "No one ever listens to me." She called me back and told me that she'll always listen to me and told me that I needed to develop the books further and needed a company to publish them. I think she was hoping that these words would

make me happy and eventually I'd give up the idea -- well kind of. So, I started surfing and researching the web.

About a week later, I came back to her with a logo and a business plan. So much for me giving up quickly! Over the next three years, I continued to draw, making more storybooks, creating eight different animated series, and continued to create simple computer animations using PowerPoint and Adobe Photoshop.

In March 2009, I launched Powerlight Animation Studios with the help of my aunt and uncle with a logo. And the business plan I created three years earlier.

SIMON BUEHRER: How old were you in 2009, Dani?

DANI BOWMAN: 14. [CHUCKLES]

SIMON BUEHRER: That's--

[LAUGHTER]

SIMON BUEHRER: That's amazing. It's really amazing. So, when you first started the company you were working on your own animations, correct?

DANI BOWMAN: That is correct.

SIMON BUEHRER: And you kind of got connected, I think, with Joey Travolta. And is that how you started with the animation camps?

DANI BOWMAN: That is correct. And ... that is correct, and I'll just tell you about it. Initially, I never had thought about doing animation and teaching. It really started with Joey Travolta, like you said, the older brother of John Travolta. Joey has a company called Inclusion Films. A film workshop that teaches people with disabilities film production.

At our first meeting, when I was 15, I showed him in my early animation work and a couple of animation pitches, and he was amazed. He said that he really couldn't do anything for me. But I asked in reverse, "OK, what can I do for you?" He laughed, and then he invited me to do an animation demonstration for his students at his Burbank workshop.

The following summer of 2011, Mr. Travolta invited me to teach animation at his summer-inclusion film camps in Jacksonville, Florida, Tenafly, New Jersey, and Detroit, Michigan. And the next summer in 2012 he invited me to teach in San Diego and Moraga, California. Eventually, we added new locations including our first camp in the UK last year in Plymouth University.

Before COVID, we had 11 camps scheduled for summer 2020.

SIMON BUEHRER: And those were 11, in-person camps?

DANI BOWMAN: Yeah, 11, in-person camps before the COVID-19--

SIMON BUEHRER: Wow.

DANI BOWMAN: --hit.

Can you believe that?

SIMON BUEHRER: Well, I can believe that you had them set up, but I can't imagine the disappointment that you must have felt and that the--

DANI BOWMAN: Yeah I--

SIMON BUEHRER: --campers must have felt.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, it is a disappointment when COVID-19 strike and really just-- however, COVID-19 also offer opportunities. Just because COVID-19 hit does not mean it can let every company's fail.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

DANI BOWMAN: Danimation Entertainment did eventually flourish when that hit.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah? Do you want to tell us that story? How did it flourish?

DANI BOWMAN: How did Danimation Entertainment flourish was-- I can tell you a little bit of story, personally, in my point of view when COVID-19 hit.

SIMON BUEHRER: Let's hear it.

DANI BOWMAN: OK, [CLEARS THROAT] I will never forget March 11, 2020. I was working on my finals for one of my MBA classes, and I began to notice the news that the World Health Organization was reporting COVID-19 related cases in Los Angeles, California. There was so much-- all that craziness going on, including some panic buying and everything.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

DANI BOWMAN: But I was a little, I was a little overwhelmed and a little bit not so sure what to do. So therefore when COVID-19 hit everything, all my classes, all my University classes went online.

SIMON BUEHRER: So, OK. Let me see if I understand this correctly. So you were you were in school in March, and your classes were switched to an online format? And so you were no longer going to the physical classes anymore? Is that--

DANI BOWMAN: No longer that.

SIMON BUEHRER: OK.

DANI BOWMAN: It's true.

SIMON BUEHRER: Before we get to my next question, I just wanted to ask, were you OK? How did that work for you, Dani? Are you comfortable working in an online class environment as a student?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, I was I was comfortable, and I was able to take the online classes just fine. Because I used to take a lot of-- because I am used to different types of software. I am used to Zoom, and the software that they use was RingCentral, which is a lot similar to Zoom.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

DANI BOWMAN: Class was only just a few clicks of a touch pad from my computer.

SIMON BUEHRER: OK.

DANI BOWMAN: So it was better for me.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: And the classes were just way much easier.

SIMON BUEHRER: [LAUGHS] Really?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes. However, it's also a little strange because they're learning the class materials aren't as collaborative as it was in person, but at least I completed the MBA class.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah, that's great. When were classes completed? Were you done in May?

DANI BOWMAN: Yeah, definitely done in May. But it's also very, very peculiar because also my University held an awards ceremony instead of in person.

SIMON BUEHRER: Hm.

DANI BOWMAN: It was disappointing and strange, but I guess this is what all graduating classes of 2020 coronavirus students have to do deal with. It's just very strange. And that is compared to my graduation ceremony back at 2008 when I get my BFA in animation and doing the walk. But nobody's doing that. I was just, right now, in my grad cap and gown--

[CUCKLES]

--throwing my hat up in the streets in Montrose.

[LAUGHTER]

SIMON BUEHRER: Wait. You walked around in the streets with your cap and gown?

DANI BOWMAN: Yeah, that's what I had to do. There's no other choice.

[LAUGHS]

There's no--

[MUFFLED VOICE IN BACKGROUND]

And I was playing the graduation-- I was playing the Pomp to Circumstance.

SIMON BUEHRER: No you were not.

DANI BOWMAN: Yeah. [LAUGHS]

[LAUGHTER]

SIMON BUEHRER: Dani, that's awesome. Do you have video of this I hope?

DANI BOWMAN: [LAUGHS] I do on Facebook. [LAUGHS]

SIMON BUEHRER: OK good. I need to take a look at that.

[LAUGHS]

SIMON BUEHRER: So you graduated this spring as well.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes--

SIMON BUEHRER: OK.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes.

SIMON BUEHRER: Congratulations!

DANI BOWMAN: Thank you, so much. And now I have to wait for another year to start my Ph.D. program in psychology -- specializing in serial killers. Just kidding!

[LAUGHTER]

Kind of seeing if you were still paying attention.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm actually focusing on autism, and my research will be on the impacts of my programs on my students over the past 10 years. Because I want to study on how people on the autism spectrum can get-- how their lives are changed. How their lives are changed, and how they get

it-- and how they can be able to live to be independent individuals, like many neurotypicals, by taking my classes. And the reason -- people with autism do have a voice. They need help. They do have a voice. They need to be recognized. They need to be recognized. Inclusion is the future.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

DANI BOWMAN: And I want to help people on the autism spectrum and challenge the status quo that people on the autism spectrum can have an independent life. They can have a productive life.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah, and you're definitely evidence of that, Dani. So I really, I love how all of this ties together. That you have the skills, you have the business sense, and now you're focusing on the psychology so that you can study what you've been doing and understand the impact that it's had on your campers and your students. And you're diversifying your skill set too, right?

DANI BOWMAN: That's correct.

SIMON BUEHRER: You can do a whole bunch of things. You can think about a whole bunch of things and make a whole lot of different things happen. You mentioned the word, or the quote, "inclusion is the future," which is one of the things I wanted to ask you about because it's on your website. Can you just speak a little bit more? Can you tell me what that means to you?

DANI BOWMAN: The meaning behind the slogan is that the business world would be much better if there is a diversity. We're currently living in the world of ... supremacy. The supremacy ... which I don't believe in supremacy whatsoever. It's not only about race, gender, sexuality, financial status, or religion, it's all about different disabilities, whether physical or mental. There has never been an animation studio founded by a neurodiverse person like Danimation. And creators with disabilities have to be recognized and accepted, just like women, people of color, religious minorities, and the LGBTQI community. Everybody has a voice. We all have a creative voice. And we can be capable. We can be creative capable of creating creative stories to come across.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah, and I know that that's been an ongoing, not just the theme, but part of your mission since you started Danimation.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, that's correct.

SIMON BUEHRER: That's correct, OK. And you also mentioned the word neurodiversity which I think we hear a lot about in our culture and in the media. And sometimes it means different things to different people, but I'm just curious. How does Dani define neurodiversity? What does it mean to you?

DANI BOWMAN: Neurodiversity means we all have different forms of minds.

SIMON BUEHRER: Hm.

DANI BOWMAN: We may have a combination of neurological disorders, like ADHD and autism, Turrette's and dyslexia, and so on and so forth. Just because we have a invisible disability does not mean we cannot do anything. We can be very capable. Look at my aunt, for example. Sandy has dyslexia, but yet, it doesn't stop her from her common sense. She uses her common knowledge to be able to help run-- to help run the marketing side of Danimation.

SIMON BUEHRER: Hm.

DANI BOWMAN: She's the chair.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

DANI BOWMAN: She does it despite her challenges and dyslexia.

SIMON BUEHRER: So part of what you do is champion that diversity in abilities and skills, in communication styles and preferences. I really appreciate you talking with us today, Dani, because I know, from having watched some of your past interviews, that vocalizing isn't necessarily your preferred means of communication.

DANI BOWMAN: Vocalization, it's true. Some people can vocalize. Some people with dyslexia or like a different non-verbal learning disorder can vocalize. They can give information. Some, they're not very good at writing, but they can ... but they're still good at managing. It's the power of emotional intelligence. Some people on the autism spectrum are powerful creativities We all have different abilities.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

Yeah, we sure do. So, tell me, Dani, how's it going with the online animation classes? Because it's my understanding that when your own studies went online, like we talked about, that gave you the idea that you could offer your animation classes online too.

DANI BOWMAN: ... That I could offer free, online animation classes, online animation demos, every Wednesday at 10 AM Pacific Time. So this is how I kind of got the idea of free online classes. The reason behind this is because I've noticed some children with autism are bored and unable to find animation classes due to lock down and stuck at home. The free demo classes are offered to those that I want to try out what the virtual animation classes look like. I welcome everyone from different parts of the world to join my free class.

I also offer paid one-on-one sessions, especially to those that want to take more classes with me. On average we typically get about like five free sessions, five students that attend the free session. But we welcome more people that wanted to get a free session. So there's no limit of how many participants come to the free session.

SIMON BUEHRER: And have you enjoyed doing those free sessions?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes I do, and especially meeting lots of new participants that wanted to attend the classes.

SIMON BUEHRER: Would you say, Dani, that this has been-- for as many years as you've done it, this has been the biggest challenge to go online? Or is it--

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, it has been the biggest challenge, even though I find it easy to teach--

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: --online and be able to do things online.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah, does it?...

DANI BOWMAN: Online's fun. But at the same time I get so bummed from home--

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: --traveling. I do not have to worry about travel expenses and all the stress.

[LAUGHS]

I have that I get to do classes at home because going to teach a class was only a few clicks of a touch pad away. Now I offer one-on-one classes as I mentioned, as well the summer camp workshops, to anyone, anywhere in the world. I have one-on-one students from different parts of the world and all over the US, really cool.

SIMON BUEHRER: It is really cool. Yeah, because one of the disadvantages is, I know you travel a lot, but your camps only go to so many different cities.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes.

SIMON BUEHER: So, the one advantage now is, if I live in the middle of rural Iowa, all I need is a connection, and I can connect with you--

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, all you need--

--and learn that way.

All you need is just a computer--

[CHUCKLES]

--and just to connect, and also some computer equipment, so you can do animation classes.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah, going forward, Dani, do you think you're going to continue to do the online camps but then also do the face to face? Would you do both?

DANI BOWMAN: I would do face to fa--

SIMON BUEHRER: Like a hybrid?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes, that would be possible. I would do both face to face and in person after the pandemic dies down.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: Yet, the online classes are going to be a little bit more expensive. Because the prices that I have right now are COVID-19 deals.

SIMON BUEHRER: OK, so you're friendly to people during COVID-19, yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: Yes. And then, but then after the pandemic is over, I'm going to put them back to regular price.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah, that makes sense, yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: That way I can focus on more on in-person classes.

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm. Yeah, because you know you've got the video on your home page, and it just shows-- it just looks like there's some good energy and some excitement. It looks like a lot of fun. You've got people that come in the room, and you're high fiving everybody. I mean, it just looks like at these camps there's a really positive vibe and energy. Everybody's feeding off of each other, right?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes.

SIMON BUEHRER: And you're all kind of in this really, charged creative environment, so.

DANI BOWMAN: But I try to do my best as I can to keep up with everybody.

[MUFFLED PERSON IN BACKGROUND]

[LAUGHTER]

DANI BOWMAN: I just want to keep that going via Zoom. And--

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: --I always want Zoom to be my to be buddy, be my best friend to Danimation.

SIMON BUEHRER: Have you had any students over all these years who've gone on to some work or career in animation or in visual arts?

DANI BOWMAN: Yes there are some various examples. There's many examples of my students that have gone to their careers.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: And I'll tell you a couple of examples.

SIMON BUEHER: OK.

DANI BOWMAN: Recently, I had two students from my Miami, Florida Animation Gets Real camp, Arturo and Mark. Due to their exceptional animation abilities, they participated as team members to produce a live-action animation documentary that we've entered for the Easterseals Disability Film Challenge. I noticed that both of these gentlemen have come a long way. I will forever cherish this golden memory.

Some students didn't have to focus on animation to find work or a career after camp. One notable example was a student named Zach from Inclusion Films Camp in Moraga, California in 2012. He was 17 and very depressed about his ASD diagnosis and felt hopeless. I was 15, had ASD, and was teaching a class of 15 students.

Later, when he was older, he said to me that when he first met me he said to himself, "What's my excuse?" And changed his entire mindset. He went on to get his master's degree in teaching and is now a motivated, special-ed teacher at the Springstone School in Martinez, California.

SIMON BUEHRER: That's a really, wonderful story, Dani. How does it make you feel to know that you had a direct impact on maybe the course of his life?

DANI BOWMAN: I felt so blessed to see that some people really surprised me.

[PERSON MUFFLED IN BACKGROUND]

From the bottom of my heart, it just makes me so blessed that they are continuing on their dreams.

[PERSON MUFFLED IN BACKGROUND]

It feels worthwhile. One of the best things is when they reach out to me years later to tell me how much I helped them change their lives. That makes it all worthwhile to me because we all need role models. And I try to be the best role model I can be.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SIMON BUEHRER: You're listening to Inspiring Change from OCALI. Our forum of stories and connections from our ongoing work of inspiring change and promoting access for people with disabilities. I'm Simon Buehrer. That was my conversation with Dani Bowman, animator, filmmaker, author, teacher, student, entrepreneur, and role model from Southern California.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC PLAYING IN BACKGROUND] Like so many of us during the COVID-19 pandemic, Dani has had to pivot towards offering online and remote learning classes, including free online animation classes led by Dani herself. You can learn more and sign up through her website, Danimation Entertainment dotcom. And I should note that Dani is spelled D, A, N, I. So again, that website, Danimation Entertainment, all one word, dotcom.

You can also learn more about Dani's personal projects and watch trailers from some of her own animated short films. Once again that's at Danimation Entertainment dotcom. Speaking of which, we did talk a little bit about the creative process, working as a team, and what makes a good leader. Here's a little bonus snippet from our conversation.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DANI BOWMAN: When I first started Danimation at 14, I thought I could do everything as a founder, from creating my own animation content, marketing, representing the films at festivals, and speak to groups about my company's mission. It's only later I realized, if I want to grow beyond a one person shop, which is well known as a sole proprietorship, that there are---

SIMON BUEHRER: Mm-hm.

DANI BOWMAN: --a huge number of moving parts in running the company. It's not all just drawing and animating. The animation production process alone is complicated. Ever notice that 500 or so people on the credits of a Pixar film? Now add this on top of the sales, marketing, managing the crew and resources. That's a lot to learn and manage.

Because my uncle has entrepreneurial experience, he told me to take one step at a time by focusing on small commercial projects to have revenue and that I need a team by my side. It's OK to dream big, but it's best for me to start small and build upon as I complete my project's slowly but surely.

SIMON BUEHRER: That's awesome, Dani. Do you do you find that-- so when you're working on a project, you mentioned getting some help. Like with music, for example. Do you feel like as a creator, is that hard for you to let someone else contribute--

--to your creative--

DANI BOWMAN: Let someone else contribute as the creator?

SIMON BUEHRER: --process?

DANI BOWMAN: Well--

SIMON BUEHER: Yeah, do you feel-- some people when they want to make something, they want to do it all. They want to own it all.

DANI BOWMAN: Well--

SIMON BUEHRER: And when you bring other people into it--

DANI BOWMAN: Well I have other people-- it really makes a huge difference. It's actually much easier when I have a crew with me.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: People will be able to compose music for my short films. And I even have several animators on the side. It's about getting the right people on the bus.

SIMON BUEHRER: Yeah.

DANI BOWMAN: According to Jim Collins, what makes a good leader, it's about getting the right people on the bus and getting the wrong people off the bus.

[LAUGHTER]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SIMON BUEHRER: [CHUCKLES] Oh, it was so much fun to talk to you. Thanks again, Dani.

[MUSIC PLAYING IN BACKGROUND] Be sure to subscribe to Inspiring Change wherever you get your podcasts. And if you or someone you know needs an accessible version of this podcast, you can find it at [OCALI.org/podcasts](https://ocali.org/podcasts).

While you're there, be sure to check out our sister podcast, From My Perspective, hosted by my colleague and friend, Jen Bavry, from the family and Community Outreach Center here at OCALI. Thanks again for listening to Inspiring Change. Because the need for change is everywhere and inspiration can come from anywhere. I'm Simon Buehrer. See you soon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]