FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Let’s All Play Accessible Athletics**

OrangeAbility 2015 Expo at SU

Members of the SU campus and Central New York community are invited to participate in Syracuse University’s fourth annual Accessible Athletics Expo, “OrangeAbility.” This student-led initiative is sponsored by the SU Disability Student Union, the Beyond Compliance Coordinating Committee, the [Disability Cultural Center](http://sudcc.syr.edu/) (DCC), Department of Recreation Services, and community organization, [Move Along Inc](http://www.movealonginc.org). The event will take place on March 28, 2015, from 1-4 p.m. in Flanagan Gymnasium on the SU campus. It is free and open to the public. Participants will have the chance to play and experience wheelchair basketball, power soccer, sled hockey, and more. Drop-ins are welcome on the day of the event, while sign-ups for organized or informal teams are encouraged through the [event website](http://orangeability.syr.edu).

In addition, attendees will be able to visit with local community-based organizations and SU student groups at the expo. Local businesses and organizations who align with a wide array of diversity areas interested in tabling at the event are welcome, and should register in advance [online](http://orangeability.syr.edu).

“OrangeAbility is extremely important because it promotes inclusive and accessible sports for both Syracuse University and community members” says SU student Jordan Feldman of the event planning committee and board member of the Disability Student Union. “Everybody should have the opportunity to experience the joy of sport and OrangeAbility gives that opportunity to anyone willing to play. After working with so many different people to make this event possible, I cannot wait to play with them and anybody else who wants to be a part of all the sports offered on Sunday.”

OrangeAbility allows people who are able-bodied or have a disability to enjoy sports that are tailored for a wide variety of players. The afternoon activities will celebrate an array of disability cultures and identities, providing a safe space for all to feel welcome and comfortable. It is an event that highlights the legacy and growing vibrancy of the disability community on and off the hill.

“We’ve designed another event with both inclusion and fun at the core” says SU student Eddie Zaremba of the event planning committee and co-founding past president of the Disability Student Union. “With this year’s expo we are building on past successes, and bringing a wider variety of sport and recreation outlets into the mix to make this event even more meaningful. We’re here for seasoned adaptive sport enthusiasts, or someone rolling around in a sports chair or hand-cycle for the first time. Community includes us all, so come out and play!”

Community partner, Move Along, will be facilitating the accessible athletic events, joined by other local organizations that specialize in an array of accessible sports. Part of this organization’s ongoing work is to provide the necessary resources through athletics to enable youth and adults to excel.

“During the past seven years, Move Along has successfully established itself as a sustainable organization to help those with physical limitations meet their maximum potential in our communities through the use of sports as a way to provide mentoring, coaching, and teaching of life skills,” says Gregory Callen, founder and executive director of Move Along. “Partnerships with the Disability Cultural Center and Syracuse University allow us to maximize resources in our community to improve the quality of life of everyone in our society, as the target population for inclusion athletics is *everyone*!”

American Sign Language Interpreters (ASL) will be on-site. Free parking is available at the venue. For more information, questions, or additional accommodations needed, please visit [orangeability.syr.edu](http://orangeability.syr.edu).

*Originally By Jill Ouikahilo, Edits By Eddie Zaremba*

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