Presume Competence

- Abilities are unequivocally abundant among individuals with disabilities.
- The social model of disability recognizes the discord between the environment and people who meet the disability threshold.
- People with disabilities are leaders, engineers, physicians, musicians, students, & professors.
- The way “it’s always been done” is frequently not the best way of doing IT.
- Ability can be fully embraced in the absence of arrogance; it takes ability to see ability.
- Do not presume another’s collective strengths and limitations are < or > than your own.
- Always look beyond what you can see. Lenses are easily clouded by isolated events, and learned stereotypes.
- People with and without disabilities make errors in judgment; avoid making unsubstantiated correlations between disability and behavior.

SAVE THE DATE
Thursday, April 10, 2014
4:30 pm @ Beckwith Recital Hall

Dr. Tim Cordes, MD, PhD, is a practicing psychiatrist in Wisconsin who will share transformational insights about his journey through medical school as a blind pioneer, student and teacher. Dr. Cordes provides examples of how open minds and ready innovators worked together to identify access solutions to ensure Dr. Cordes’ tremendous ability was meaningfully measured. From identifying complex anatomical structures to patient intubation and physical exams, Dr. Cordes made a practice of exceeding others’ expectations. Stay tuned for more information about the faculty pedagogical luncheon and campus-wide presentation on April 10th!

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ANYONE can INJURE their BRAIN at ANYTIME doing ANYTHING

With winter almost upon us, this graphic is particularly relevant with the leading cause of traumatic brain injury resulting from falls. It’s important to note symptoms and deficits can occur without losing consciousness and individuals may be unaware that a concussion or mild traumatic brain injury has even occurred. The prevalence of this frequently unseen condition is receiving added attention as knowledge increases about the often cumulative effects from sports-related concussions on attention and learning. A seemingly mild injury has the potential to produce a lasting impact.

Estimated Average Percentage of Annual TBI by External Cause in the United States, 2002–2006

- 35.2% Falls
- 16.5% Struck By/Against
- 17.3% Motor Vehicle–Traffic
- 21% Unknown/Other

Common challenges experienced by persons/students with head injuries:
- Reduced concentration
- Disrupted sleep patterns
- Reduced processing speed
- Forgetfulness/memory challenges
- Tinnitus (ringing in the ears)
- Double/blurred vision/headaches
- Mood regulation/persistent anxiety

Tips for supporting those with a head injury:
- Communicate with compassion even if understanding barriers is challenging; listen and reflect, before speaking.
- Remain open to discussing alternative methods for measuring mastery of concepts & providing instructions.
- Acknowledge your area of expertise may not prepare you to identify reasonable accommodations independently; Collaborate & Consult.