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Why Dr. Stephen Shore is One of My Favorite Autism Advocates



By Kerry Magro, Self-Advocate, National Speaker, and Author

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I've written many articles about how the lack of having a peer role growing up on the spectrum affected me. I didn't know about Dr. T Grandin and others who had autism that I could look upon to show me how

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far I could go. As I reached adulthood though I learned about advocates such as Dr. Grandin, Carly Fleischmann, Alexis Wineman, John Elder Robison, Amy Gravino, Jesse Saperstein, the list goes on and on.

One person though who I particularly look up to is none other than international speaker Dr. Stephen Shore. Stephen Shore is not only a dear friend but also one of the biggest role models I currently have in my life.

When I first met Stephen it was at an Autism Society of America conference. He immediately befriended me and wanted to get to know me better. After our first meeting I'd go on to read several of his books and later would be able to contribute a chapter to a book he co-authored called [College for Students with Disabilities: We Do Belong](#). I to this day use his quote "if you've met one individual with autism, you've met one individual with autism" in a majority of my presentations. It shows how wide and unique our spectrum truly is.



Another quote which I enjoy from [Stephen is on his website](#) where he mentions the "unlimited potential for people on the autism spectrum." What a wonderful message. I think that's something our entire community wants to see for our loved ones.

Now even years later it's been astonishing to see how many times our paths have crossed. Although we are only a trade ride away from each other, me being from New Jersey and Stephen teaching in New York at Adelphi University, we still end up running into each other around the world speaking at different events. Most recently, our paths even crossed at [ISCRD 2017](#) hosted by [IBCCES](#) in St. Augustine, Florida.

If Stephen ever reads this I would like him to know how much he's meant to my development and to those in our autism community. To see him featured on IBCCES website and many others today just shows the impact he truly has.

I can only hope that our loved ones, regardless of being on the spectrum can have their own Stephen Shore in their corner to show them all the things they are capable of.

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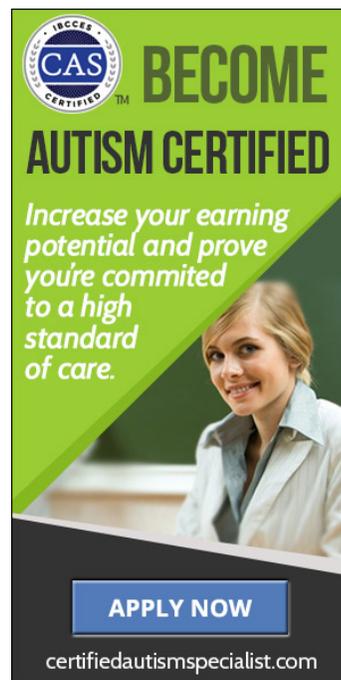
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