

## Elizabeth DePoy Introduction

Ladies and gentlemen, it is now my privilege to introduce you a woman dedicated to understanding disabilities and helping promote accessibility...

She is an acclaimed academic, who is a professor of social work, interdisciplinary disability studies, and a cooperating faculty in Mechanical Engineering at the University of Maine, a Senior Research Fellow at Ono Academic College in Kiryat Ono, Israel, and a collaborator on disability and access research with professors at Bar Ilan University...

She is a prolific author, who has written several books and articles on disability and the human experience, including *Rethinking Disability* and *Disability as Disjuncture: a Theory to Guide Social Work Practice*, and lectures on disability around the world, including in the U.S. and Israel...

And she is a passionate advocate, who is co-founder and has served as vice-president of the Evaluation Practice Group, a non-profit company that focuses on the development, funding and evaluation of projects to advance human rights and equality of opportunity to communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, please welcome a leader in promoting accessibility, Professor Elizabeth DePoy.