Aggies Elevated to Be Subject of Documentary | CPD

Sue Reeves

04/13/2015

A documentary filmmaker from New York City will be at Utah State University the week of April 20 to document the Center for Persons with Disabilities’ Aggies Elevated program.

Ben Stamper visited the campus recently to learn more about the program, and spent a day with the students and program staff. Stamper learned about Aggies Elevated through Beth Foley, dean of the Emma Eccles Jones College of Education and Human Services. Foley is also acting as associate producer of another film he’s creating about an artist on the autism spectrum.

“It’s really a different kind of film,” Foley said. “It’s about people with disabilities being accepted for who they are, rather than trying to fit them into a mold. It’s about creating a dialogue and ultimately striving to be more aware of people with disabilities.”

Filmmaker Ben Stamper observes during a recent Aggies Elevated class

Stamper’s visit showed him the program’s expectations for the students always push them outward.

“(Staff) provide support, but real challenge,” he said. “That’s how any of us learn. This is not failure. As a parent, the hardest thing to do is to stand back and watch a child fail. Aggies Elevated provides something that’s very different than a parent can provide in a home environment. I imagine this transforms (the parents’) view and approach of parenting as well.”

For more information on Stamper and his work, view his personal website.

Share This Story