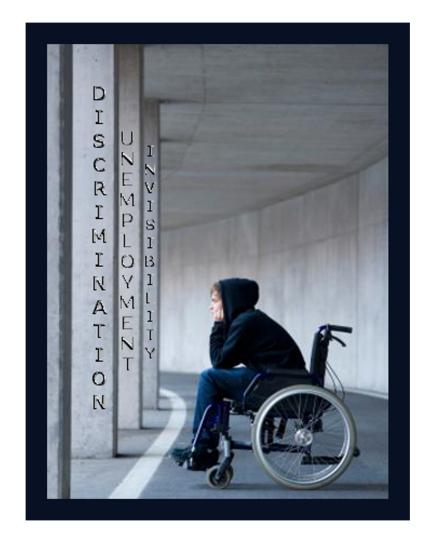
## Wasted Potential, Broken Dreams

Improving Educational Opportunities and Outcomes for K-12 Students with Disabilities

> Page Unified School District No. 8 Governing Board Amy J. Gould Arizona State University



Disabled students have significant disadvantages in acquiring the degrees they need to be considered for employment in the current workforce [5]. Disabled people presently have more than double the unemployment rate of those who are not disabled [11]. While the best job prospects are in STEM fields, disabled students are often discouraged from taking or are denied access to those K-12 level classes that would prepare them for post-secondary education and STEM careers [9]. The Page Unified School District does not have a qualified SPED instructor, and other teachers have little or no guidance on how to help disabled students [1]. Teachers and counselors can undergo professional development to improve their abilities to teach and mentor disabled students, greatly enhancing the disabled students' chances for educational and vocational success.

A Critical Deficiency