



Business Leaders for Diverse Abilities

Michigan Ross School of Business

BLDA x Wellness Week: Managing Chronic Illness

Event Date: Fri, Oct 27, 2023, 12 PM – 1 PM ET

Event Location: Trotter Multicultural Center

Event Description:

Over 1 billion people worldwide have a disability. That's more than 15% of the world's population. This number is expected to grow because of factors like ageing, stunting, natural disasters. People with disabilities encounter biases and barriers when accessing basic services. This starts off while they are in school and then is carried forward to workplaces and other engagement spaces. I encourage you to think about how we can break down barriers and ensure no one is left behind.

Today, we come together to engage in a meaningful conversation, a conversation that is long overdue. We are here to discuss the nuanced and often complex topic of "Managing Chronic Illness at Work." This panel discussion is not just about medical conditions and doctor's notes; it is about the resilience, the strength, and the untapped potential that individuals with chronic illnesses bring to the table each and every day.

As we gather here, we acknowledge that our workplaces are microcosms of the wider world, where challenges, vulnerabilities, and uncertainties are all too common. But they are also places of opportunity, where diversity, inclusivity, and support can flourish.

Therefore questions we must ask ourselves is:

"Is our world inclusive towards people who are different from us? If not, what can we do to change it?"

This, my friends, is our mission—to redefine the boundaries of what is achievable for those managing chronic illness in the workplace.

Event Impact & Reflection:

The event profoundly underscores the need for inclusivity and support for those with chronic illnesses in the workplace. We hope that these conversations initiate a wave of commitment among participants to advocate for meaningful changes in workplace policies and practices. Creating a truly inclusive world requires continuous effort, open dialogue, and a collective willingness to dismantle barriers and embrace diversity at every level of society. This is not just an objective but a necessity for innovation and human solidarity.