

Stephen Torres-Esquer



I am dedicated to challenging the status quo and changing the way that people perceive what it means to be "different", through my unique approach to motivational speaking, content creation, art, music, teaching and beyond!

Profile:

Inclusion Specialist

Public Speaker

Content Creator

Special Education Teacher

Ability Advocate

Education:

Master's Degree: Special Education

San Francisco State University (SFSU) | 2016

CA Teaching Credential

Special Education:

Moderate/Severe | SFSU, '16

Deaf Blind Specialization Certificate

SFSU, '16

BA Liberal Studies, Minor Special Education | SFSU
AA Degree Liberal Arts & Spanish

Delta College | Stockton, CA.

Contact Info:

Email:

MrStephenOnline@gmail

Cell Phone:

(415) 562-6401

Website:

MrStephenOnline.com

Social Media:

[@MrStephenOnline](https://www.instagram.com/MrStephenOnline)

Teaching Experience:

Young Adult Program | Stockton, CA. | SpEd Teacher | 2020 - Present
Duties & Accomplishments:

- **Designed and run a Young Adult Transition Program** for adults with "moderate to severe" disabilities, focusing on vocational and life skills with opportunities for community access
- **Designed and implement Special Education Curricula**
- **Manage 10 - 14 Individualized Education Plans (IEP)**
- **Collaborate with a large number of professionals**, including teachers, therapists, psychologists, advocates, lawyers, and more
- **Create and manage staff schedules**

Stockton USD Induction Program

Teacher Mentor | 2021 - 2026
Duties & Accomplishments:

- **Attended specialized trainings** to prepare to mentor new teacher
- **Organized weekly meetings with mentee** to review new teacher goals and progress
- **Tracked Current Practices & Strategies** to provide up-to-date support.

Edison High School

| Stockton, CA. | SpEd Teacher | 2019 - 2020
Duties & Accomplishments:

- **Designed and ran a "Special Day Class" program** for students with moderate to severe disabilities focusing on functional academics, vocational and life skills with opportunities for mainstreaming/inclusion and community based instruction
- **Designed Curricula**

San Francisco State University

Special Education Teacher Mentor
2018-2019

Lowell High School | San Francisco (SF), CA. | SpEd Teacher | 2015 - 2019
Duties & Accomplishments:

- **Designed and ran a "Special Day Class" program** for students with moderate to severe disabilities
- **Designed and implemented multiple Special Education Curricula**
- **Designed and implemented a 2-semester General Education Curriculum:**
"Mr. Stephen's Special Education Mentorship Program", for high school students interested in becoming Special Education teachers.
- **Managed between 8 and 10 Individualized Education Plans (IEP)**, and lead or participated in 15-25 IEP meetings/year
- **Collaborated with a large number of professionals**, including teachers, therapists, psychologists, advocates, lawyers, and more

Thomas Edison Charter Academy | SF, CA. | Inclusion Specialist | 2014 - 2015
Duties & Accomplishments:

- **Supported students and teachers** in the General Education (non-SPED) setting
- **Managed 14 IEPs**
- **Collaborated with a large number of professionals**

Awards and Recognition:

[Board Meeting Video Recognition & Showing: 50 Years of IDEA](#) | February, 2026 | Stockton Unified School District (SUSD)

[Board Meeting Video Recognition & Showing: Franklin High School Toy Drive](#) | January, 2026 | Stockton Unified School District (SUSD)

[Staff Member of the Month](#) | November 2024 | Stockton Unified School District (SUSD)

[Certificate of Appreciation & Superior Excellence](#) | December, 2022 | Stockton Unified School District (SUSD)

[Brandon Gruber Diamond Award](#) | May, 2019 | Brandon Gruber Foundation

[California Educator of the Year](#), Region 4 | 2018 / 2019 | California League of High Schools

[Special Education Teacher of the Month](#) | October, 2016 | San Francisco Unified School District

Public, Inspirational Speaking & Performance:

[Escuchen Mi Voz Conference: My Voice, My IEP \(3 hours\) | June, 2026 | Escuchen Mi Voz](#)

Presented for people impacted by disABILITY and their families, to help them find and use their voices to challenge antiquated systems, stand up for change, to educate, to advocate, and to spread love. The schedule consists of my personal story, interactive activities, guided conversations, and diverse voices.

[Host & Creative Director for the YAP Graduation Ceremony \(90 min\) | May, 2026 | Young Adult Program of Stockton USD](#)

Hosted, directed, and created all video content for the 2026 YAP Graduation for the Young Adult Program of Stockton, CA., serving students with disabilities from 18 to 22 years old.

[First Annual Family Empowerment Summit \(6 hours\) | May, 2026 | Stockton Unified School District](#)

I was invited to set up a table for my video program, YAP News, to share my work with the community, and to produce a video report of the event.

[Around the World on Transworld Drive Event \(30 min\) | March, 2026 | San Joaquin County Office of Education](#)

Spoke and performed with Mr. Stephen Productions cast members as advocates for visibility, awareness, and inclusion; sharing a series of musical performances, including singing, dance, and rap.

[All Administrator Training \(30 min\) | January, 2026 | Stockton USD](#)

Spoke and performed with Mr. Stephen Productions cast members as advocates for visibility, awareness, and inclusion; sharing a speech, a song, and an original video honoring 50 years of the Individuals with disABILITY in Education Act

[What is Your "Why"? Stockton USD All-Paraprofessional Training \(60 min\) | July, 2025 | Stockton USD](#)

Helped audience members to identify a reason and purpose for doing the work that they do, and encouraged them to move forward guided by their "why"

[Personal Choice and Transition to Adulthood from Special Education \(60 min\) | April, 2025 | San Joaquin County Office of Ed.](#)

Delivered a presentation specifically for parents to promote personal choice for people with disABILITY, focusing on growth mindset, new possibilities, a roadmap of services beyond graduation, interactive activities, and tools to help families during SJCOE's Family Cafe Event

[Keynote for Stockton USD All-Administrator Training \(60 min\) + Lightning Round Sessions \(2 x 30 min\) | June, 2024 | Stockton USD](#)

Shared my personal success story as someone who identifies as "different", my message that "different" is beautiful, as well as video and music projects promoting inclusive education and entertainment. I also ran two 30 minute "lightning round" sessions, promoting conversations around inclusion for all.

[Special Education for Aspiring Teachers \(45 min\) | March, 2024 | Stockton USD's Career & Technical Ed. Program](#)

Shared a roadmap to Special Ed. as well as a call to INCLUDE all people, across settings, and to create equity through creativity and LOVE

[Stanford University California World Language Project Summer Seminar | July, 2023 | UC Santa Barbara](#)

Supported Stanford CWLP team to promote diversity, culture, and inclusion through art work, graphic design, music, speech, event organization.

[Big Dreams & Growth Mindset for Families in Special Education \(60 min\) | April, 2023 | San Joaquin County Office of Education](#)

Delivered a presentation specifically for parents to promote big dreams for people with disABILITY, focusing on growth mindset, new possibilities, a roadmap of services beyond graduation, interactive activities, and tools to help families during SJCOE's Family Cafe Event

[Leading Effective IEP Meetings | February 21, 2023 | Stockton Unified School District](#)

Shared product & strategies for dynamic, student-centered Individualized Education Programs with SpEd High School and Young Adult teachers

[Inclusion & Self Efficacy \(1 hr\) | March, 2023 | Lawrence Elementary School, Lodi Unified School District](#)

Delivered a presentation to promote self efficacy, inclusion and awareness through speech, music, activities, and more!

[Anti-Bullying & Inclusion Assemblies \(1 hr\) | August, 2022 | Washington Elementary School, Lodi USD](#)

Designed 2 presentations to address the issue of bullying, and to promote inclusion and awareness through speech, music, activities, and more!

[Stanford University California World Language Project Summer Seminar | July, 2022 | UC Santa Barbara](#)

Supported Stanford CWLP team to promote diversity, culture, and inclusion through art work, graphic design, music, speech, event organization.

[Stanford University California World Language Project Summer Seminar](#) | July, 2021 | Virtual Conference (COVID-19)

Supported Stanford CWLP team to promote diversity, culture, and inclusion through art work, graphic design, music, speech, event organization.

[Delta Kappa Gamma State Convention](#) (1 hr) | Virtual Conference due to COVID-19 | May 2, 2021

[“Taking the ‘dis’ out of disABILITY”](#) | Inspiring Change | Changing the way that people perceive “different”

CalTASH | Virtual Conference due to COVID-19 (1 hr) | March, 2021

[“Simple Strategies for Supporting the Deaf Community”](#), included live presentation and a pre-recorded video interview with Deaf Advocate, Ashley Lowe, both written and produced by Stephen Torres-Esquer.

Census 2020 El Concilio/Fathers & Families Event (20 min) | Stockton, CA. | September 5th, 2020

Created and performed a call for Inclusion and [a song in English & ASL with the Ability Advocates to promote Census 2020](#)

Educators Not Robots Podcast | [Click Here to Listen.](#) | September, 2020

As a guest, I discussed my career as an Inclusion Specialist, Ability Advocate and Special Education teacher.

California Language Teachers Association (CLTA) (1 hr) | Virtual Conference due to COVID-19 | July 30th, 2020

[“Creating Video Content for Online Teaching”](#) to support teachers in distance learning (COVID-19 Pandemic)

Stanford University and CWLP Diversity Panel (1 hr) | Virtual Conference due to COVID-19 | July 18th, 2020

Participated on a panel of leaders discussing the topics of [Diversity, Inclusion, Black Lives Matter](#) and more!

SUSD Summer PD Series (1 hr) | Virtual Conference due to COVID-19 | June 9th and 11th, 2020

[“Creating Video Content for Online Teaching”](#) to support teachers in distance learning (COVID-19 Pandemic)

Stanford University CA. World Language Project (1 hr) | Palo Alto, CA. | March, 2020

[“Taking the ‘dis’ out of disABILITY”](#) & Class Accommodations with Margaret Peterson and Liz Manchett

FLASCC 2020 Jamboree (1 hr) | Henry M. Gunn, Palo Alto, CA. | January 29, 2020

[“Taking the ‘dis’ out of disABILITY”](#) & Class Accommodations with Margaret Peterson and Liz Manchett

Delta College, DKG Assembly (30 min) | Stockton, CA. | September 14, 2019

[“Taking the ‘dis’ out of disABILITY”](#) | Inspiring Change | Changing the way that people perceive “different”

Stanford University California World Language Project Summer Seminar | July, 2019 | UC Santa Barbara

Supported Stanford CWLP team to promote diversity, culture, and inclusion through art work, graphic design, music, speech, event organization.

Space 4 Us Visionary Panel (1 hr) | San Francisco, CA. | April 28th, 2019

Participated on a panel of leaders discussing the topics of business, strategy, success, and more!

Carnaval Festival (15 min) | San Francisco, CA. | 2016 - 2019

[“Taking the ‘dis’ out of disABILITY”](#) LIVE with The Direction: Ability Advocates

Stanford University, CERAS Building (45 min) | Palo Alto, CA. | March 23, 2019

[“Taking the ‘dis’ out of disABILITY”](#) | Inspiring Change | Changing the way that people perceive “different”

Cal TASH Conference (30 min) | San Diego, CA. | Feb. 22, 2019

I designed and presented a session titled, “The Unconventional Ability Advocate” for this prestigious national convention, sharing my personal approach as an Ability Advocate

Educator of the Year Statewide Award Ceremony | Monterey, CA. & Moraga, CA. | Jan. 12, '19 & Nov. 27, '18

I delivered a speech designed to create Inclusion, and Awareness for people with disabilities as a nominee

Ability Mashup Talent Showcase (3 hr) | San Francisco, CA. | Dec. 17, 2018

Planned and organized this one-of-a-kind talent show for adults with disabilities in San Francisco, in collaboration with Edith Arias. I served as MC for the event, presented with “The Direction: Ability Advocates”, and delivered a keynote speech around Inclusion and Ability Pride.

22nd Annual Golden Gate Self-Advocacy Conference (1 hr) | Milton Marks Conference Center, SF | Sept. 27, 2018

Designed and led a 45 minute conference session with the Ability Advocates which consisted of live presentation, original video, activities, visual content, and original resources for the audience to take home.

Online Content:

Whether we like it or not, our society is built on Hollywood and Pop Culture. *My goal is to use entertainment as a vehicle for change.*

- [YAP News Series | 2021 - Present | Mr. Stephen Productions | Filmed at Young Adult Program Studios, SUSD](#)
YAP News is produced by Mr. Stephen Productions at YAP Studios and is part of Stockton USD's Young Adult Program. This unique program provides opportunities for community building and inclusion, and boasts a cast and crew comprised of some of the greatest leaders in Inclusive Entertainment.
- [Original Music | 2018 - Present | Mr. Stephen Productions | Written and performed by Mr. Stephen and cast](#)
Music written, produced and performed by Mr. Stephen, featuring Mr. Stephen Productions cast members
- [Mr. Stephen's Variety Show | 2022 - Present | Mr. Stephen Productions in collaboration with YAP Studios](#)
A talent showcase, featuring some of the greatest leaders in the world of inclusive entertainment. Comedy, music, fashion, and beyond!
- [Creative Projects | 2021 - Present | Mr. Stephen Productions | Filmed at Young Adult Program Studios, SUSD](#)
A compilation of music, acting, and other artforms brought to life through film by a diverse group of creators
- [Ashley Lowe: Deaf Advocate Interview | Website & Social Media](#)
A 30 minute on-camera interview highlighting the experiences of a Deaf Advocate
- [Young Adult Program Promotional Video \(Trilingual\) | Written & Produced for SUSD Young Adult Program, 2021](#)
A promotional video created to assist students and families in their transition from high school to YAP
- [Vocational Life Skills Challenge Videos | Written & Produced for Stockton USD Young Adult Program | 2020](#)
A video series designed to assist young adults with disabilities in becoming more independent at work & home
- ["Hot Spot" Distance Learning Guide \(English & Spanish\) | Written & Produced for Stockton USD | August, 2020](#)
A guide to help families using internet hotspots during distance learning
- [Keeping Up with Mr. Stephen | Website & Social Media | November, 2018](#)
A 6 part video series designed to promote Inclusion and disABILITY Awareness in a fun and digestible way.

[Mr. Stephen](#) | Stephen Torres Esquer

Other Accomplishments:

[Beautify Stockton City Cleanup Campaign](#) | 2020 - Present | Organized by Stephen Torres-Esquer

Beautify Stockton is a campaign under the Mr. Stephen Productions umbrella aimed at creating a public demonstration in which people who some might deem to be "unlikely" heroes are able to take a position of leadership, support the community, and build a better and more inclusive future.

[Curriculum Development](#) | 2015- present | *Teachers in the moderate / severe setting are often left to their own devices when it comes to curriculum. I happen to have a strong ability to design and create curricula that is meaningful and effective for both teachers and students alike. I began sharing my curricula with other teachers and therapists as well as designing supplemental curriculum for General Education teachers. I now share these materials online, and I am interested in utilizing my creative design and presentation skills in the next chapter of my career.*

[IEP Meeting Editable Slideshow](#) | 2023 | Created by Stephen Torres-Esquer

Use this editable, easy to use IEP Slideshow to help you run organized, engaging, student-centered IEPs!

[Click & Go Virtual Learning Program](#) | 2020 | Created by Stephen Torres-Esquer

This virtual learning tool is a 6 week extensive program designed to support students with academic support needs during distance learning, the pandemic, home instruction, and beyond.

[The Direction: Ability Advocates](#) | 2015 - Present | Founded by Stephen Torres-Esquer

This iconic group of young heroes with disabilities strives to ensure that all people are seen, heard, respected, and represented in our communities. Our mission is to create public positions of leadership through private meetings, volunteer work, live presentations, music, and online content.

[Summer Program: The Direction: Ability Advocates](#) | Summer 2016 |

A 6 week summer program for "The Direction: Ability Advocates" in summer 2016 which consisted of team meetings for the Ability Advocates, supported volunteer work, and public presentations at a wide variety of community events, ranging from some of the most iconic festivals and fairs in the Bay Area to neighborhood gatherings. I can provide more information, planning materials, curriculum, and photos upon request.

[Mr. Stephen](#) | Stephen Torres Esquer

Volunteer Experience:

Best Buddies Club Advisor | Lowell High School | SF, CA. | Club Advisor | 2015 - 2019

Collaborated with the General Education and Special Education populations to create more inclusion and awareness across settings through meetings, events, fundraisers, campaigns, trainings and more

Alvarado Elementary School | 2012 - 2014 | Special Education Moderate/Severe Special Day Class Volunteer (+/- 12 hours per week) During my time at Alvarado Elementary, I worked in a K-3 moderate/severe special day class setting as a volunteer paraprofessional staff member. I worked 5 hours in the classroom plus 1 hour as an Inclusion Specialist after school, 2 days a week for 2 years in an effort to gain knowledge and experience.

Earlier Work Experience:

Stonestown Family YMCA Y-Camp | SF, CA. | Inclusion Specialist | Summer 2014

Duties & Accomplishments:

- **Supported students and camp leaders** in the General Education setting
- **Created and implemented behavior intervention plans**
- **Created and implemented alternative assignments and activities**

Private Consultation | 2017- present |

I offer consultation services for Special Education Teachers, community organizers, and entrepreneurs which typically consists of an hour-long sit-down meeting around their goals and objectives, an actionable plan for execution, collaborative adjustments, and as needed supports moving forward.

References: (1) Margaret Peterson, CA. World Languages Project at Stanford University; Ongoing Consultation and Public Speaking (2) Edith Arias; "Ability Mashup" event (3) Rami Aweti; Ability Awareness planning & implementation