

Students hear message that “Everyone Can”

Briana Walker, author, model and dancer visited Bunderson Elementary School last week to share the message that “Everyone Can.”

Walker was in a car accident at the age of 23 and suffered severe trauma to her spinal cord. She now uses a wheelchair and

travels throughout the country sharing her message of hope and inspiration.

To learn more of Walker’s story, visit her website at www.brianawalker.com.

Walker is working with Overstock.com to support the “Everyone Can” program. The Disabil-

ity Law Center uses the program to promote a positive, realistic understanding of people with disabilities. One focus of the program is the youth, who are forming critical opinions about diversity, relationships and an understanding of community.

Walker told the students “Every brain is automatically good at a lot of things. Try a lot of different things to find out what your brain is good at. Help others do the same. Show value, respect and that they are great.”

Everyone Can is the result of a discussion of how to create change for people with disabilities. Changing attitudes people have about individuals with disabilities would bring acceptance and allow everyone to celebrate the unique abilities of every person.

Many of the Disability Law Center’s advocacy efforts would be unnecessary if the community embraced the idea that disability is a natural part of the human experience. People with disabilities contribute to society in valuable ways and that by making minor adaptations to the environment we can remove most of the barriers people with disabilities encounter.

The “Everyone Can” philosophy is two-fold: the reality that everyone has natural abilities and skills that can be developed and shared with others; we can help promote the strengths of others, which makes our homes, schools and communities stronger.

Disability facts

There are 54 million people in the United States living with



BRIANAWALKER talked to Bunderson Elementary School about all the things she can still do.



OVERSTOCK.COM SPOKESPERSON Briana Walker demonstrates a 360 wheelie in her wheelchair for students at Bunderson Elementary School during an assembly. Walker told students they can create an amazing life, regardless of the challenges they must face.

disabilities.

There are approximately 400,000 people with disabilities in Utah.

Since its inception in 1978, the Disability Law Center has served more than 67,300 people with disabilities.

There are 5,871 people with disabilities in Box Elder County representing about 14 percent of the total population.

The unemployment rate for working age (16 to 64) people with disabilities in Utah is about 70 percent.

At least 70 percent of youth charged with a crime have one or more disabilities.

Despite substantial economic growth in the 1990s the employment rate for people with disabilities has continually decreased from its peak in 1989.