

Name:

Randall (Randy) Michaelis

Email

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District:

7th L.D.

Title And Position Number You Are Seeking:

House Position 1

1. Are you an incumbent?

No

2. If yes, what policy or budget item that supports people with disabilities who are employed or seeking employment are you most proud of advancing during your tenure?

Not an incumbent

3. If you are not an incumbent, what will you do to support individuals with disabilities find and keep jobs and contribute to our economy?

Yes, I am the dean of the School of Education at Whitworth University. I oversee our Special Education program, Applied Behavioral Analysis programs, as well as teacher, counseling, and principal programs. Supporting people with disabilities is at the core of what we do.

4. Do you personally know anyone with an intellectual/developmental disability? I/DD includes people who have cognitive disabilities such as Down syndrome, Autism, Cerebral Palsy, etcetera.

Yes, we operate a year round literacy center that serves children and youth with many of the disabilities you list above. I also taught elementary school for 11 years and worked hard to support success for all my students, including those with disabilities.

5. Have you ever worked alongside anyone with a developmental or intellectual disability?

I have done so in the role of teacher or professor. I also work with colleagues who struggle with issues of mental illness.

6. Nearly 80% of people with a developmental disability are not employed or are underemployed. What can you do in your role to address this issue?

This would be of great interest to me. I don't have any off-the-shelf solutions in mind but would love to learn from organizations like yours on what more we can do.

7. Many people with developmental and intellectual disabilities who do work are worried about losing critical lifeline benefits such as medical care and social security because of earnings. Will you commit to working with CEA and other stakeholders to bridge this gap in coverage for people who want to work?

Yes. I would love to do that

8. It is estimated that 12,560 people with developmental disabilities receive NO paid services from the Developmental Disabilities Administration. If you are elected, what will you do to ensure services for all?

I would need to know more before I could recommend solutions for this, but I am certainly supportive in spirit. A year ago, my adult high-functioning daughter was struck with an aggressive form of mental illness that led to taking her own life. Since she could not work during this time we were

desperate to find services and meaningful work for her to do. While your question is not about same issue, I have firsthand experiences on the importance of providing support to those who are not able to work due to disabilities.

9. If elected and during your campaign, will you commit to meeting with businesses in your community and across the state who have benefited from having a diverse work force which benefits their bottom line?

Yes. I will need to learn more on how to this but my commitment is strong.

10. Community Employment Alliance members work hard every day to secure and retain competitive employment, increased wages, benefits and job training for people with disabilities. The impact of community employment on individuals and families is substantial. During your campaign, will you commit to meeting with families whose sons and daughters have benefited from employment services and hear their stories of inclusion, autonomy, and independence?

Yes.

11. Is there any other information pertaining to this topic that you would like your constituents with developmental disabilities, their friends and their family members, to know about you?

I believe my own values and experiences align well with your mission and goals.

12. Do you have any questions about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities that we can help you with?

I understand many of your concerns through the lens of Education. I would need to learn more about the employment aspects.

Thank you for remitting your candidate questionnaire. Your feedback will be posted on our website exactly as you have written it. Your responses will help inform thousands of constituents in your district and across the state of your positions on these very important issues. Your responses will not be edited. If you have questions or if you need help completing this form, please call or email Executive Director, Adrienne Stuart, at the contact information below. Thank you for your time.

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