

# MATTHEW SHAPIRO

## AMERICA'S DISABILITY ADVISOR

If you assumed that booking a speaker or consultant with a disability means a narrow selection of topics or abilities, think again! Matthew Shapiro is an approachable, easy-going individual who has lived his life breaking down the barriers of disability. He uses his positive outlook to enlighten audiences on a variety of topics including disability, leadership, relationships, employment, safety, and more. Matthew's interactive presentations always bring participants a smile and a fresh perspective.

Born with Cerebral Palsy and using a wheelchair for his mobility, Matthew knows that people are naturally curious about his condition and how he manages his multifaceted life. As an educator he welcomes questions relating to his life, disability, and his mindset. He knows that honest dialogue results in increased understanding and promotes positive changes.

Known for his ability to relate to an audience, Matthew creates a unique learning environment. Every program he delivers combines engaging content with group participation, resulting in an outstanding audience experience

Matthew's efforts as an advocate and consultant, have won him honors including serving the Obama Administration in the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, named to Style Weekly's Top 40 Under 40 (in Richmond, VA), profiled in Virginia Business Magazine, and receiving the Virginia Social Vision Award (presented by The Governor). Matthew graduated from Virginia Commonwealth University with a double major in Interdisciplinary



Studies with an emphasis in sociology, psychology, public policy, and special education and a degree in sociology with a minor in psychology.

Matthew is a founding father of the Virginia ETA Phi Kappa Psi Fraternity Chapter at Virginia Commonwealth University with brother badge number 6 for the chapter.

In addition to a busy consulting schedule, Matthew is particularly proud of his participation in the passing of Virginia House Bill 2140- Alternative application for employment for persons with a disability. This bill directs the Virginia Department of Human Resource Management to create an alternative application process for the employment of persons with a disability in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Inclusion has become a critical topic for college campuses. Matthew's presentations are perfect for new student orientation; welcome week; student leaders, athletes, Greek life, residence life; staff training; HR staff, DEI programs, and safety management professionals. Additionally, Matthew can customize his presentations for academic departments such as Engineering, Pre-Med (including OT, PT, Dentistry), Human Resources, Transportation, Urban Planning, Architecture, Social Work, Technical Schools, or Social Justice. As a special addition to his presentations, Matthew also offers an accessibility review of your campus, offering helpful suggestions to create a safe and inclusive environment for all.