

Noted television news anchor to headline UCSD's disability awareness & safety fair

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Former San Diego, New York and Los Angeles news anchor Bree Walker will appear as keynote speaker at the Disability Awareness & Safety Fair to be held Oct. 16 at the University of California, San Diego.

Walker, a longtime disability rights leader, will speak at noon in the Price Center Plaza on the topic "Has Disability Been 'Dissed' by Our Administration?"

The event, planned to showcase talented people with disabilities, will begin with a "Dancing on Wheels" demonstration at 11 a.m. and a musical performance by Bill Harris & the San Diego Steel Drum Band at 11:20 p.m.

Other program elements include a demonstration by Canine Companions at 12:30 p.m., followed by harpist Amy Lynne Kanner, 12:45; a demonstration of karate on wheels, 1 p.m., and guitarist Patty Hutchins at 1:20 p.m.

A number of wide-ranging exhibits and demonstrations on safety and disability are scheduled on Library Walk during the day, including hi-tech safety and stability-prevention equipment, alternative-device aids, ergonomic furniture, computer aids, voice-activated computers, fat-testing and acupuncture demonstrations and a snake exhibit. Free prizes will be given away during the event.

Barry Niman, manager of UCSD's Employee Rehabilitation Program, said the purpose of the fair is to celebrate and increase awareness of the capabilities of people with disabilities, and to promote safety for all people.

Now retired to raise her two small children, Walker co- anchored nightly newscasts for KCBS-TV Channel 2 in Los Angeles for six years. She came to Southern California in 1988 from New York, where she had anchored daily newscasts at WCBS-TV.

Before moving to New York she worked as consumer reporter and news anchor at San Diego's KGTV Channel 10, where she became the city's most decorated news personality.

It was during her years in San Diego that Walker earned a national reputation as an activist for people with disabilities. She served on the President's Committee for Employment of the Handicapped, the California Governors's Committee, the Board of Directors of the Women's International Center and a variety of other civic and philanthropic groups oriented toward disability rights. Now mother of two children with an inherited genetic hand and foot anomaly called ectrodactyly, Walker continues as a disability and reproductive rights activist.

For further information call UCSD's Employee Rehabilitation Program, 534-6744.

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