SB 639 Success Stories – Nicole Brobeck

Hi, my name is Nicole Brobeck and I am a volunteer at the Mission Valley Library in Central San Diego County. The Library is an intimate facility with two-floors snug between Ikea and Lowe's. It is about 15-minutes away from SeaWorld. I have been volunteering for the past seven years as the Children's Librarian Assistant. I have worked alongside two Children's Librarians during my time. I primarily assist with weekly storytime. I record attendance and prepare program material for the young patrons and their guardians.

The night before my weekly shift, I was informed that the State Librarian, Greg Lucas, would be our guest. He was on his statewide library tour. I was really excited to meet a government official, especially one that works for all the libraries in California! I picked out a nice outfit to wear with my favorite headband and made sure my service dog, Bailey, looked her best. I arrived just a few minutes after Mr. Lucas. He was introduced to the Branch Manager, Karen Reilly, and Marika Jeffery, the Children's Librarian. During storytime, he sat with Bailey and me on the outside patio. We listened to a Japanese book tale about a fox. After storytime, I asked Greg for a picture to remember this day. We later discussed employment opportunities or programs to help persons with disabilities become librarians. Since there are no current programs available, he made a note of the idea and stuck it in the breast pocket of his jacket.

When I got home, I excitingly shared the news with my mom and showed her our picture. She shared in my excitement. A couple of days later, I told Mary Ellen Stives (Manager at the State Council on Developmental Disabilities). We serve on the Regional Advisory

Committee. The Regional Advisory Committee is an advocacy group of community members - including persons with disabilities, service providers, and other advocates. She congratulated me for using my voice and encouraged me to continue speaking on issues that matter to me.