



*The Advocate*

Fall 2021

Sarvin Salar

Ph.D Candidate-The College at Brockport

I am Sarvin Salar and a PhD candidate Adapted Physical Education in Iran and the first woman in Iran earning an Adapted Physical Education PhD degree. As the only Iranian woman, I was awarded a scholarship to pursue my progressive research interest in the field of Adapted Physical Education. Currently I am a research scholar in the Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies and Physical Education at The College of Brockport. After a long and arduous two-year process my dream of studying in the United States became a reality. The story of my migration is the story of many years of dreams that I believed and felt moment by moment. It was a new beginning step to my life. My mission is to promote physical activity and create a better quality of life, mentally, physically and socially for individuals with disabilities through research related to physical activity and sport. I decided to choose this path consciously with all of the love that is flowing in my heart. I believe that taking this path is the most beautiful and strongest motivation and enthusiasm and one of the pleasures in my whole life. I am fulfilled when I see happiness, hope and independence in people with disabilities. I am not able to use my words to describing it because my happiness is not measured by materials things. I believe “People with Disability are different, but not less.” They are still the same as you and I and have amazing abilities.

Currently, I am at in a place I have dreamed of for years and I am having a great time in here. I am thrilled to be in Brockport and I am gaining priceless experiences and an amazing opportunity in the areas of research, teaching, and program leadership. I have very bright and valuable friends and colleagues by my side, supportive and encouraging of me. I appreciate Dr. Lieberman who invited me and has supported me consistently throughout my time here. I will keep her in my heart and mind in the future of my life. I love the experiences I’ve had at Brockport so far. Also, I am looking forward to new learning experiences to be able to provide a better world with more justice for people with disabilities through the power of sport and physical activity.



While at Brockport I worked with the Institute on Movement Studies for Individuals with Visual Impairment or Deafblindness and submitted a systematic review on balance interventions for individuals with visual impairments. I have also been working hard on my dissertation. I had the opportunity to help with the Virtual Camp Abilities, an in person Deafblind conference, and two in person Camp Abilities Outdoor Adventure Camps. I am currently helping with an on campus community motor skills and fitness program. These experiences will help me to provide more research and programmatic services to my community when I go back to Iran.

Thank you to Dr. Michelle Grenier for this opportunity to share my story.