

# A TOUCH OF UNDERSTANDING

## 2020-2021 Accomplishments

### Speaker's Panel, Disability-Awareness Workshop

ATOU provided **23 - 1 ½ hour Speaker's Panels** and related materials to **1728 students** in **21 schools** (1 of which participated for the first time this year - Inspire Charter Cottonwood School). ATOU staff trained the volunteers who assisted and spoke in the virtual panels. This brings the total number to **125,925 students** since incorporation. Each student received follow-up enrichment materials designed to extend the ATOU experience to their homes and neighborhoods.

**79 schools** were scheduled to participate during the 2020-2021 school year. Due to the Covid-19 school closures **59 schools** could not have the workshop as scheduled. A total of **1 new school** participated this year. Of which **0** could not host the program due to the pandemic closure.

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, ATOU created new programs which were able to be presented virtually. During the 2020-2021 school year, we provided our Virtual Speakers Panel which allowed students to engage with our speakers with disabilities Via Zoom. We provided this model to 1728 students at 23 workshops.

All students, as well as their parents and teachers, received a post-workshop questionnaire. The results of our analysis are summarized in the following table:

<b>Student Responses</b>
<p># 158 students responded to the questionnaires.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>85%</b> said they will be more comfortable around someone with a disability after meeting our speakers, listening to their stories and being able to ask questions.</li><li>● <b>96%</b> said they learned more about the tools that people with disabilities use.</li><li>● <b>87%</b> said it would be easier to make friends with someone with a disability.</li></ul>
<b>Teacher Responses</b>
<p># 18 teachers completed the questionnaire, which was sent to them approximately 1 day after students participated in the Speaker's Panel workshop.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>100%</b> think the ATOU presentation was clear and easy for students to understand.</li><li>● <b>100%</b> say the ATOU Virtual Speaker Panel presentation was a valuable educational experience for students.</li><li>● <b>89%</b> agree that students are more accepting and respectful of peers after the ATOU presentation.</li><li>● <b>94%</b> say the ATOU presentation increased their students' sensitivity and awareness of children with disabilities.</li><li>● <b>94%</b> reported that students can improve the ways in which they interact with children with disabilities.</li><li>● <b>100%</b> of teachers say they would recommend this presentation to other teachers.</li></ul>

**10** teachers responded to the questions proposed to teachers who have had the ATOU experience in previous years.

- **100%** have seen a positive impact of the ATOU workshop on their students throughout the year.
- **100%** reported an increase of sensitivity to other forms of diversity.
- **100%** reported that the long-term impact is one reason they schedule the workshop for the class of each year.

### **Parent Responses**

# 103 parents whose children participated, responded

- **96 %** think ATOU will be helpful in encouraging their child to accept and include individuals with disabilities in their life.
- **86 %** said their child was eager to share about the ATOU experience.
- **94 %** anticipate ATOU leaving a positive, lasting impression on their child.

### **School Rate of Engagement**

**90% of schools** that had only one grade participate during the 2019-2020 school year participated again in 2020-2021. (Schools that have more than one grade participate, schedule ATOU in alternating years to achieve complete coverage.) The remaining **10% of schools** that did not participate declined due to COVID reasons. We served **1 new school** during this school year.