



Anjali Forber-Pratt
Athlete
www.anjaliforberpratt.com

MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER

Anjali is a born fighter ... and has a powerful story.

Born in Calcutta, India, Anjali was adopted by her loving family from Natick, Massachusetts. Two months after arriving in the United States, she contracted an illness resulting in the diagnosis of transverse myelitis, a neurological disorder that affects the spinal cord. Rushed to the hospital, she was not expected to live. However, her fighting spirit prevailed and Anjali survived. But, transverse myelitis left her paralyzed from the waist down. What some people might view as a tragedy, Anjali would come to view as a positive life altering event. Through this adversity she developed an innate drive and determination that she has utilized in every facet of her life.

Anjali also had to fight to get an education. She was challenged and many doubted that she had what it takes to "make it." Her determination and grit led Anjali to excel not only in primary school, but also in her secondary education.

At age 14, she hired her own lawyer to take on her school district fighting for a public education and to stand up to injustices and discrimination on the basis of her disability. This, coupled with her athletic successes, provide the platform for her to help transform perceptions of what it means to be an individual with a disability and encourage others to accept their own differences.

Paralympic Medalist Anjali Forber-Pratt became Dr. Anjali Forber-Pratt earning a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Human Resource Education with a concentration in Human Resource Development. The degree was completed within the College of Education at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. She was presented the Emerging Scholar Award for her dissertation at the AERA conference in Vancouver. Anjali completed her undergraduate and master's degrees also at the University of Illinois, graduating in the top 3% of her class.

Anjali enjoys traveling for speaking engagements around the country and volunteering with local organizations for kids with disabilities. Forber-Pratt co-authored an educational children's coloring book about disabled sports, *Color Learn & Play: All About Sports for Athletes with Physical Disabilities*. Aimed at educating young aspiring Paralympians on the variety of sports they can play, she often shares the book with her school-age audiences at her motivational talks hopefully teaching young children that disabled people can play sports too!

Anjali plans to continue competing and with the desire to eventually work in the field of leadership development, promoting opportunities for individuals with disabilities worldwide. Recently the U.S. Olympic Committee bestowed the Amazing Mentor Award at the Paralympic Leadership Conference for her efforts with disabled athletes.

Forber-Pratt is passionate about sharing her story, with the goal of transforming perceptions of what it means to be an individual with a disability, helping others accept their own differences and motivating others to take action in their own lives and communities. So that all, regardless of their physical limitations can, indeed live her motto, "Dream. Drive. Do."

To learn more about her or to schedule Anjali as a motivational speaker, please visit her website at: <http://www.anjaliforberpratt.com>



Dream. Drive. Do.

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