

"The RESPECT Institute has freed my mind, engaged my spirit and inspired me to release the past.

I am free to be me."

- RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduate

"After my RESPECT Institute experience, true healing began. I was armed with self confidence, pride and respect. I am an amputee. I am blind. And I am a voice of recovery and independent living. I am hope!"

- RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduate

"The speakers really opened my eyes to those who are living with a mental health challenge. I never really thought of the amount of work that goes into recovery."

- RESPECT Audience Member

For more information,
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DBHDD

Through a partnership with Slack Consulting and the Georgia Mental Health Consumer Network, the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities sponsors over 20 RESPECT Institute trainings and several hundred speaking engagements annually throughout Georgia. There is no cost to participate in a RESPECT Institute training or to host one of our speakers.

**SLACK
CONSULTING**



**GEORGIA
MENTAL
HEALTH
CONSUMER
NETWORK**



***Giving Hope,
Recovery and
Independent Living
a Voice...***

- Inspiring
- Educational
- Liberating
- Healing
- Empowering
- Humanizing

...One Story at a Time

The RESPECT Institute

The RESPECT Institute of Georgia, created by mental health advocate Joel Slack, supports participants in developing the skills necessary to transform their experiences with mental health or substance use challenges and cross-disabilities into inspirational and educational presentations.

Graduates of the RESPECT Institute of Georgia share their stories of hope, recovery and independent living to diverse audiences such as conferences, management meetings, employee orientations, university classrooms, peer-run organizations, civic meetings, and continuing education programs. To date, RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduates have shared their stories to over 160,000 listeners in Georgia!

"I will never forget the powerful stories that were shared with me and my colleagues."

- RESPECT Audience Member

Motivated and Prepared Educators

RESPECT Institute of Georgia participants may choose between an in-person training or a virtual training. During Covid 19 restrictions, only virtual trainings are available. An in-person training is hosted in your community, includes 10 participants, is conducted over 3 days and is followed by a graduation ceremony on the 4th morning. A virtual training includes 6 participants, is conducted over 4 days and is followed by a graduation ceremony on the 5th morning.

Following the training, the RESPECT Institute of Georgia Outreach Team facilitates speaking engagements for the graduates to share their stories statewide.

Empowered

By learning to share their stories, RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduates are empowered. They give back to their community by sharing hope with fellow citizens who experience similar challenges.

In Their Own Words

"When I share my story I am strengthened! RESPECT has been very liberating. I have a sense of purpose. I have a mission."

- RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduate

"I am not ashamed of what I have been through anymore. This means a lot on my road to recovery."

- RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduate

"This is the first time that I have been able to give people a full understanding of my recovery. It feels good to know that I will be helping others by educating my community."

- RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduate

"The RESPECT Institute helped me to be more open about my challenges and to focus more on the positives in my life."

- RESPECT Institute of Georgia Graduate