

Shriver, Tim: talking points for round table discussion
“Sport for all. Cohesive, Accessible and Tailored to Each Person”
September 29 | 11:40 – 12:20PM

Moderator: Ms. Kristin Sheehan - Play Like a Champion Today

Participants:

Ms. Verena Bentele: Paralympic champion, Vice president of the German Olympic Committee

Mr. Tim Shriver: Chairman, Special Olympics International

Tim Shriver Talking Points:

- **Overcoming divisiveness and othering through sports**
 - Kids are not the bullies, adults are the bullies
 - Promoting empathy, problem solving, and inclusivity among adults
 - Biased and unjust culture and social structure
 - Adults have been swept into a culture of bullying
 - Online, media, politics, business, family
 - Industrial complex: people are profiting from hatred, disgust, and bullying
 - Epidemic of loneliness and racism
 - Plummeting belief in institutions
 - Alienated people grieving the loss of hope
 - Spiritual crisis
 - Bereft of meaning, purpose, and belonging necessary to sustain shared life
 - Fundamental building blocks of a flourishing culture are weak
 - Beliefs, rituals, and structures that create experience of ultimate meaning
- **Our task: build a new culture of ultimate meaning, individual purpose, and shared belonging**
 - Create institutions (individuals & communities) capable of drawing on spiritual energy
 - Overcome scapegoat mechanism
 - Desmond Tutu speech/quote
 - Challenge: organize for good around the principles necessary to build a new culture
 - Realistic possibilism → spiritual realism
- **Inclusive mindsets**
 - the predisposition to empathize with, understand, welcome, and accord dignity (Donna Hicks’ (2011) definition of dignity: “Dignity is an internal state of peace that comes with the recognition and acceptance of the value and vulnerability of all living things.”) to those who are socially excluded

Commentato [KD1]: Tim will infuse Special Olympics movement and mission throughout conversation as an example of the accessibility and inclusivity of sport, grounded in education, fostering a commitment to the common good— improving people and the world

- Orientated toward the good, the true, the beautiful, and the loving, collective hope
- Unite vs. divide
- Pillars
 - **Universal Dignity**
 - desire to promote others' sense of belonging, to recognize the value of all individuals, and to provide equitable opportunities for each
 - **Empathy and perspective taking**
 - **Courageous action**
- **New guidelines for the reform of existing institutions and the creation of new ones:**
 - Belief in the givenness of human dignity
 - Foundation of free and harmonious polity
 - Experience of grace, of awareness being held, felt participation in something bigger than ourselves
 - Practices of silence, presence, self-awareness and nonjudgement
 - Remove distractions to reveal a deeper connection to reality trust in being itself
 - Deepen trust
 - Practices of crossing boundaries and building relationships of dignity
 - Encourage and promote ways of crossing boundaries of identity, background, and experience
 - Provide meaning and belonging without creating superiority over or hatred of other groups
 - Service to the good, the true, and the beautiful
 - Purpose driven
 - Solidarity with suffering and marginalization
 - Circles of belonging are routinely opened to those who have been excluded