



### **Topics Include:**

- Disability Awareness**
- Character Education & Development**
- Overcoming Adversity**
- Self-esteem Enhancement**
- Parent Workshops**
- Professional Development Workshops**
- Career Days**

### **Presentation Summary**

Opening his presentation by discussing the nature and causes of his cerebral palsy and hearing loss, Paul offers students an opportunity to reflect upon their thoughts and ideas about people who have disabilities. He explains how his determination helped him get through the many years it took to learn simple everyday tasks, as well as accepting his own hearing aides as a complete "stereo system" right on

his ears! Shifting gears, Paul then shares his own hobbies and interests, and includes a few videos such as his actual weather forecast on a CBS evening newscast, his artistic talents, and his recent skydiving adventures.

Starting his public speaking career when he was just ten years old, Paul has since delivered his programs to tens of thousands of children in elementary, middle, and high schools around the country. With this solid 22 years of speaking experience at schools, colleges, and teacher conventions, Paul has delivered keynotes to professionals in the education, medical, and human services fields as well as motivated thousands of athletes and coaches at the 2001 Special Olympics. His interactive programs focus upon culturally important topics such as disability awareness and sensitivity, character education and development, and techniques to integrate gifted children within classroom activities.

His message is simple: when we allow our imagination and our realistic possibilities to soar, we can confidently leap over some of the most overwhelming hurdles that life throws at us.

### **Program Titles**

- Taking the "Dis" out of "Disability"
- Don't Just Dream About Your Future ... Create It!
- Mr. PMA, All The Way! (Positive Mental Attitude)
- Access to Success: A Dream, Motivation, and a Winning Attitude!
- Ripping that 'T' Out of the Word CAN'T: You CAN Do It!
- Techniques to Integrate a Special Child in Classroom Activities

### **Testimonials**

"Outstanding motivational presentation! Paul was warm, sensitive to the childrens' questions, informative, inspirational, and displayed a wonderful sense of humor. Children are already comparing him to some of the 'heroic characters' they've read about in literature this year." -- Sharon Kitley, Teacher, River Plaza School, Red Bank, New Jersey

"Paul is refreshingly open, honest, and all accepting! His ability to demonstrate 'no fear' brings reality to life! He does an excellent job in taking the "dis" out of "disability." -- Marilyn D. Kinelski, Coordinator, N.J. Coalition on Disabilities & Addictions

"If I was born with cerebral palsy, like Mr. Wichansky, I would have liked to grow up as him." -- Alex, 3rd Grader, Franklin School, Summit, New Jersey

"Using powerful imagery, Paul explained how the pain of negative words never really goes away. Paul's message taught the students that everyone has something wonderful to offer. We all have special gifts inside waiting to be shared. Kindness and understanding can help those gifts be revealed." -- Noreen Daniel, PTA President, Califon School, Califon, New Jersey

"Inspirational! Paul heightens the awareness of all the effort involved in dealing with a handicap and reinforces, to children, that people with disabilities are just regular folks dealing with a weakness. His theme of reminding students that we all have strengths and handicaps is a good one!" -- Sandra Goodman, Teacher, Franklin School, Summit, New Jersey

"Humorous, thoughtful, down-to-earth presentation -- obviously enjoyed by a rapt audience. Students were left with much to ponder about life's possibilities." -- Shelley Showill, Franklin School, Summit, New Jersey