

Distinguished Speaker Event
Saturday October 7, 2023
10:00AM to 1:00PM
Folsom Hall-Sacramento State

TIME-ORDERED AGENDA

10:00 – 10:30 **Check-In & Continental Breakfast Reception**
10:30 – 11:30 **Rebuilding Identity in Stroke Recovery**
Debra Meyerson, Ph.D. & Steve Zuckerman
11:30 – 1:00 **Health Fair**

Short Abstract: The emotional journey in stroke recovery is critical to rebuilding meaningful lives in the face of such a significant trauma and, most often, life-long disabilities. Through personal experience, researching and writing a book, and now the work of Stroke Onward, Debra and Steve have seen a severe lack of attention to this critical aspect of recovery. Using their personal story of hope and resilience, Debra and Steve will illustrate this gap in the stroke system of care and share some of what they believe is needed to raise awareness and help fill this gap.

Bios: **Debra Meyerson** is an author, advocate, and a professor at Stanford University Graduate School of Education. Following her severe stroke in 2010, Debra wrote [Identity Theft: Rediscovering Ourselves after Stroke](#) (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2019). Writing Identity Theft began as a critical part of her personal journey to rebuild her own life outside mainstream academia. With her husband, Steve Zuckerman, she co-founded Stroke Onward to expand and accelerate that work. In addition to her role on the board, Debra's significant volunteer commitment to Stroke Onward focuses on speaking engagements, deepening the content built into their work, and supporting related research projects. Prior to her stroke in 2010, Debra's academic work focused on feminism, diversity, identity, and organizational change. Debra's most significant contribution from that period was *Tempered Radicals: How Everyday Leaders Inspire Change at Work* (HBS Press, 2001). [More on her selected publications here.](#) Debra currently serves on the board of the Pacific Stroke Association (PSA), Bay Area Outreach and Recreation Program (BORP), the BU Sargent School Constituent Advisory Board, and the Stakeholder Advisory Board for Acceptance Commitment Therapy (ACT) for Aphasia research project (University of Pittsburgh). Debra received her B.S. and M.S. from M.I.T. and a Ph.D. in Organizational Behavior from Stanford University.

Steve Zuckerman is an experienced executive who has held leadership positions in both non-profit and for-profit organizations. He is Debra Meyerson's husband since 1988, carepartner since her stroke in 2010, and an unnamed co-author of [Identity Theft: Rediscovering Ourselves after Stroke](#) (Andrews McMeel Publishing, 2019). In 2019 he scaled back other leadership roles to co-found Stroke Onward with his wife Debra. In addition to his role on the board, Steve's significant volunteer commitment to Stroke Onward focuses on organizational strategy, fundraising, and governance.

In 2006, Steve launched a California presence for Self-Help, a nationally recognized economic justice nonprofit based in Durham, NC. In 2008, he co-founded [Self-Help Federal Credit Union](#), where he continues to serve part-time as President and Senior Advisor to Self-Help's west coast operations. His first career involved 14 years with >McCown De Leeuw and Co., a private equity firm, where he was a Managing Director. Throughout his career, Steve has served on numerous nonprofit boards supporting economic, social and health justice, including Tides Foundation, Positive Coaching Alliance, and Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center. He currently serves on the BU Sargent Clinical Advisory Board and the ACT for Aphasia Stakeholder Advisory Board (University of Pittsburgh). Steve earned a BA from Yale University and an MBA from the Stanford University Graduate School of Business.