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OFFICIAL BIO

Stephanie W. Cawthon, PhD, is an internationally renowned author, educational psychologist, and researcher who is the Catherine Mae Parker Professor in Education at The University of Texas at Austin.

Her new bestselling book, *Disability Is Human: The Vital Power of Accessibility in Everyday Life*, dispels myths and raises expectations about disabled people. It draws upon more than 25 years of research — and her own experiences as a deaf woman with multiple disabilities.

In 2023, Cawthon founded the National Disability Center for Student Success — the first research center of its kind — to use innovative, disability-centered collaborations to establish an actionable research foundation to support the success of more than four million disabled college students in the U.S. .

She has been awarded more than \$50 million in federal and other grants for her groundbreaking research that investigates issues of equity and access, explores accommodations and accessible learning and work environments, and challenges systemic standards that are holding people back.

The author of four books, Cawthon is the first deaf editor of *Perspectives on Deafness*, an Oxford University Press international book series on the leading research and practices with deaf people, and gave the first commencement address in American Sign Language at UT Austin.

She lives in Austin, Texas.