

Universal Member Appears on Ellen and Gets Appointed to the Special Olympics Board of Directors

The Ellen DeGeneres Show needs no introduction. Global celebrities and music icons appear regularly on the talk show, which has been on the air for 19 seasons and won over 60 Daytime Emmy Awards.

Universal is proud to announce that one of the latest individuals joining the long list of stars to appear on Ellen is a member of the Universal family, Michelle Canazaro!

Canazaro, who has been a part of the mailroom staff since 2017, was invited to be on an episode that aired in early June. During the show, Canazaro learned, from Ellen herself, that she would be representing Florida in the 2022 Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando next summer.

Ellen is an ambassador for the upcoming rendition of the games and surprised Canazaro with the news. Canazaro said it wasn't mentioned in the rehearsal she did before the show.

Michelle will be competing in stand-up paddleboarding. 2022 is the first year that stand-up paddle will be a part of the USA Games. This will be Canazaro's 25th year of competing in Special Olympics-organized events. Although she traveled to [the World Winter Games in Austria in 2017 as an alpine skier](#), this will be her first time at a USA Games, which like the World Winter Games, are typically held once every four years.

And, as if things couldn't get better, just weeks later Canazaro was named to the Special Olympics Florida Board of Directors. Going forward, she will help organize events in the state and promote inclusion.

"I was very shocked and so honored," said Canazaro, "I didn't think I would ever be able to do this kind of thing."

Of the 23 people on the Special Olympics Florida Board of Directors, which includes the current state attorney general and several Florida business executives, Michelle is one of only two current athletes who sit on the board.

Congratulations, Michelle!