

Keynote Speakers in order of presentation

Paula Kluth, Ph.D., Consultant, Chicago, IL

9:00 AM Tuesday, March 11

Did the Founding Fathers Have a DynaVox?: Inclusive Schools & Standards Too!

This presentation will highlight models of inclusive schooling that move beyond physical inclusion and help all students access challenging academic content and standards-based learning. Topics that will be covered include reducing pull-out services; giving all students (even those with significant disabilities) access to appropriately challenging academic curriculum; providing inclusive literacy education; helping all students meet the standards; and raising teacher expectation.

Dr. Kluth is nationally recognized for her work on differentiating instruction and supporting students with autism and other significant disabilities in inclusive classrooms. She is a former special educator who has served as a classroom teacher, consulting teacher, and inclusion facilitator. She is the author of *"You're Going to Love This Kid:" Educating Students with Autism in Inclusive Classrooms* and the lead editor of *Access to Academics: Critical Approaches to Inclusive Curriculum, Instruction, and Policy*, and co-author of *A Land We Can Share: Teaching Literacy to Students with Autism*.
www.paulakluth.com

Mary Falvey, Ph.D., Dean Charter College of Education California State University, Los Angeles, CA

1:00 PM Tuesday, March 11

Access for, Research-Based Practices about, and Solutions to Educating Students Who Challenge Educators

Dr. Falvey, is the Dean of Charter College of Education at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). For 25 years she coordinated and taught in the credential and masters programs in moderate to severe disabilities, as well as the masters program in Inclusion Facilitation in the Division of Special Education and Counseling at CSULA. She is a former teacher and principal in the public schools in Northern California. She received her doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 1980. She has lectured at over 200 international, national, state, and local conferences as well as taught courses at numerous universities throughout the United States, Canada, Peru, and New Zealand. She has written, edited, and contributed chapters to over 15 books and has written 4 books, her most recent book: *Believe in My Child with Special Needs* was published by Paul Brookes Publishing Co. In addition, Mary has attended numerous IEP meetings as a mother, aunt of a boy with Down syndrome, advocate for numerous children and adolescents with disabilities, and a consultant for many school districts.

Anne Donnellan, Ph.D, Director, University of San Diego Autism Institute, CA
Martha Leary, MA, CCC-SLP, Nova Scotia, Canada

9:00 AM Wednesday, March 12

Movement and Autism: Sorting What We Know From What We "Think" We Know

Anne M. Donnellan, Ph.D. is a Professor at the U. of San Diego and Emerita Professor at the U. of Wisconsin-Madison. She founded and directs the Autism Institute at USD. She is a long-time researcher, teacher and advocate. Her books include *The Handbook of Autism* (with Donald J. Cohen) and *Movement Differences and Diversity* (with Martha R. Leary).

Martha Leary is a Speech and Language Pathologist who has worked with people with autism and their families for over 30 years. She has worked with people with complex needs and lectured extensively in the United States, Canada, Ireland, Australia and England. Her highly acclaimed journal article with David Hill and her publications with Anne M. Donnellan, Ph.D. present a scholarly review of alternative ways of viewing the symptoms of movement difference which may affect our understanding of people with challenging behaviors. Her recent publications include: "I can't get started: Stress and the role of movement differences for individuals with the autism label" coauthored with Donnellan and Robledo in *Stress and Coping in Autism*; *Movement differences and diversity in Autism/Mental Retardation* with Donnellan; and *Moving on: Autism and movement disturbance* with Hill in the journal *Mental Retardation*. Martha is also an urban gardener in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

Barbara Buswell, Director, PEAK Parent Center, Colorado Springs, CO

12:00 Noon Wednesday, March 12

Taking Risks to Build the Future

Barbara is the Executive Director of PEAK Parent Center, Colorado's federally-designated Parent Training and Information Center. She received a M.A. from San Diego State University in Inclusive Education Reform. As a parent leader herself, Barbara co-founded PEAK Parent Center twenty years ago. PEAK is well-known for its leadership in promoting inclusive education.

Breakout Session Presenters A-Z

Jamie Burke, Student, Syracuse University, NY

Yovana Bustamante, Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales, Philadelphia, PA

Barbara Buswell, Director, PEAK Parent Center, Colorado Springs, CO

See above under keynoters

Bronwen Buswell, PEAK Parent Center, Colorado Springs, CO

Bronwen Buswell is the Conference and Marketing Coordinator at PEAK Parent Center, Colorado's Parent Training and Information Center (PTI). Bronwen is passionate about disability rights and social justice issues. Bronwen has two older brothers, one of whom has a disability. He has been one of the most important teachers in her life.

Anne Donnellan, Ph.D, Director, University of San Diego Autism Institute, CA

See above under keynoters

Beverley Evans, Ph.D., Professor, Duquesne University, Moderator
Bev is an Associate Professor in Special Education, Department of Counseling, Psychology and Special Education at Duquesne University School of Education.

Mary Falvey, Ph.D., Dean Charter College of Education California State University, Los Angeles, CA
See above under keynoters

Douglas Fisher, Ph.D., Professor, San Diego State University, CA
Doug is a Professor of Language and Literacy Education in the Department of Teacher Education at San Diego State University, the Co-Director for the Center for the Advancement of Reading at the California State University Chancellor's office, and a classroom teacher at Health Sciences High & Middle College. He is the recipient of an International Reading Association Celebrate Literacy Award, the Farmer award for excellence in writing from the National Council of Teachers of English, as well as a Christa McAuliffe award for excellence in teacher education. He has published numerous articles on reading and literacy, differentiated instruction, and curriculum design as well as books, such as *Creating Literacy-rich Schools for Adolescents* (with Gay Ivey), *Improving Adolescent Literacy: Strategies at Work* (with Nancy Frey) and *Teaching English Language Learners: A Differentiated Approach* (with Carol Rothenberg). He has taught a variety of courses in SDSU's teacher-credentialing program as well as graduate-level courses on English language development and literacy. An early intervention specialist and language development specialist, he has taught high school English, writing, and literacy development to public school students. He can be reached at dfisher@mail.sdsu.edu.

David Gates, Esq., Managing Attorney-Harrisburg, PA Health Law Project, PA

At the PA Health Law Project David works to ensure children and adults with disabilities receive the Medicaid and Third Party Insurance funded services and supports they need in settings they choose. Mr. Gates was actively involved in drafting the legislation establishing the Children's Health Insurance Program which became law in 1992. He has done trainings and workshops on Medical Assistance, managed care, waivers, mental health services and related issues.

Julie Harmon, PEAK Parent Center, Colorado Springs, CO

Julie Harmon is the Director of Parent Services at PEAK Parent Center, the Colorado Parent Training and Information Center. Julie is the parent of two boys with disabilities who have received Part C services. Julie enjoys sharing strategies to help families build on their strengths.

David Hasbury, David Hasbury & Associates, Ontario, Canada

David is an organizational and community development consultant, educator, and facilitator. For more than 20 years he has been committed to engaging the power of CoCreation --- people gathering together to creatively shape the world around them.

Luz Hernandez, Hispanos Unidos para Niños Excepcionales, Philadelphia, PA

Stephen Hinkle, Technologist at Health Science High School and Middle College, San Diego, CA

A National Self Advocate on disability rights. I am a person who grew up with autism, and has lived the special ed system from inside. I am a graduate of San Diego State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science.

Nancy Hubley, Esq., Managing Attorney-Pittsburgh, Education Law Center, PA

Nancy established and is the current Director of the Pittsburgh office of the Education Law Center (ELC) a non-profit public interest law firm dedicated to ensuring that all of Pennsylvania's children have access to a quality public education, beginning with access to quality early education and intervention for the youngest children. She has served as the Pittsburgh Director for the past 22 years and pursuing public education and early intervention rights for Pennsylvania's most needy children.

Wendy Jones, M.Ed., MSW, National Center for Cultural Competence at Georgetown University, Center for Child & Human Development, DC

Wendy Jones is a research instructor in the Department of Pediatrics at Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, D.C. She has been associated with the Georgetown University Center for Child & Human Development (GUCCHD), University Centers of Excellence, for the past 12 years and has served in various capacities. She is a bilingual special educator and social worker specializing in advocacy, support, and training for individuals and families with limited English proficiency and families with developmental, educational and emotional disabilities. Currently, Wendy directs the Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs project of the National Center for Cultural Competence (NCCC). The NCCC's mission is to increase the capacity of health care and mental health programs to design, implement, and evaluate culturally and linguistically competent service delivery systems. In this capacity she conducts a range of training, technical assistance and consultation activities. She also has teaching responsibilities within the GUCCHD. Ms. Jones has a Bachelor's degree in Education, a Master's degree in Bilingual Special Education, and a Master of Social Work.

Christi Kasa-Henderickson, Ph.D., Professor, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs, CO

Christi is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Education at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs. Her work involves teaching and research on inclusive education and communication for people with significant disabilities.

Christi has published articles including "Say just one word at first": The emergence of reliable speech in a student labeled with autism in *The Journal of the Association for People with Severe Handicaps* and "There is no way this kid is retarded": Teachers optimistic constructions of student ability in *The International Journal for Inclusive Education*. Christi also co-produced the 2002 documentary, *Inside the Edge: A journey to using speech through typing*. She is the recipient of the TASH Image Award and the University Book and Supply Outstanding Teacher Award.

Chaz Kellem, Account Executive, Pittsburgh Pirates, Pittsburgh, PA

Chaz received his Bachelor of Science in Health and Physical Education in 2005

from Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, and now works for the Pittsburgh Pirates as an account executive. He currently serves on the boards of Three Rivers Foundation, Steel City Rowing Club, and Consumer Health Coalition. He mentors high school students on-line on careers. Chaz participated in the 1994 *Small Differences* video and is working on the development of a sequel showing former students in their adult lives.

Paula Kluth, Ph.D., Consultant, Chicago, IL

See above under keynoters

Martha Leary, MA, CCC-SLP, Nova Scotia, Canada

See above under keynoters

Kiki McGough, PBS Coordinator, Colorado Department of Education, CO

Kiki Mc Gough currently works as the PBS Coordinator for the Department of Education in Colorado. She has worked in special education for 32 years as a teacher, administrator and PBS Coach. She particularly enjoys working with families to support their active participation in their child's education. She has lived in CO for 24 years but is originally from Pittsburgh.

Michael McSheehan, Professor, University of New Hampshire, NH

Michael is Clinical Assistant Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of New Hampshire and a Project Coordinator with UNH's Institute on Disability/UCED. With training in speech-language pathology, specializing in augmentative and alternative communication, and now working on his doctorate in autism spectrum disorders and teacher education, Mr. McSheehan's primary area of interest is the learning of general education curriculum in the general education classroom by students with significant (intellectual and developmental) disability labels. He also coordinates two federally funded projects on alternate assessment. He has co-authored peer-reviewed research articles about high expectations, augmentative communication, and learning of academic content by students with significant disability labels, and is co-authoring a book on the same topics. He is guest faculty in UNH's Inclusion Facilitator Program, faculty member for the NH Resource Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, consults with a number of state departments of education here in U.S., and presents internationally at professional conferences and for family organizations.

Rebecca Moyes, Parent, Consultant, Trainer, Pittsburgh, PA

Mrs. Rebecca Moyes, a former teacher in both public and private schools for nine years, is the mother of two children. Her oldest is diagnosed with Asperger's syndrome. Rebecca is currently an autism consultant/trainer for several school districts in Pennsylvania, USA, and serves as President of the [AVID Learning Center](#), a therapeutic center for children with disabilities located in New Kensington. She has published three books, *Incorporating Social Goals in the Classroom—A Guide for Teachers and Parents of Children with High-Functioning Autism/Asperger's Syndrome*, *Addressing Challenging Behaviors in the Classroom—A Guide for Teachers and Parents of Children with High-Functioning Autism/Asperger's Syndrome*, *I Need Help With School!—A Guide for Parents of Children with High-Functioning Autism/Asperger's Syndrome*.

Marshall Peter, Director, CADRE, Portland, OR

Marshall Peter is the Director of the Consortium for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education (CADRE). After receiving an M.S. in Special Education from the University of Oregon in 1976, Peter became a family advocate and then Director of Direction Service, a multi-program family support agency in Eugene, Oregon. The father of a now deceased child with multiple disabilities, Peter has provided case coordination and advocacy services to more than 500 families. Peter's early work as an aggressive advocate evolved into a major professional focus on understanding and developing methods for facilitating home school partnerships that are respectful, considerate and yield powerful results for children. Peter has provided training and consultation on mediation and dispute resolution throughout the United States. His work in the areas of advocacy and human rights has resulted in him receiving numerous awards.

Barbara Ransom, Esq., Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia (PILCOP), PA

Barbara is an attorney at the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia who represents families and organization seeking an inclusive education for children with disabilities. She does individual cases and class action litigation to obtain systemic relief for her clients.

Virginia Roach, Ed.D., Professor of Educational Administration, George Washington University, Washington, DC

Sarah Rose, Student at McDowell Senior High School, Millcreek Township, PA

Nancy Rosenau, Ph.D., Executive Director, EveryChild, Inc., Austin, TX

Nancy is Executive Director of EveryChild, Inc. in Texas. She is currently heading up a project funded by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission to develop family-based alternatives for children with developmental disabilities living in institutions. She worked for twenty years in Michigan for the Macomb Oakland Regional Center, an internationally recognized early leader in deinstitutionalization, where she played a leadership role in development of family support services, passage of Michigan's Family Support Subsidy legislation, recruitment of foster families, closure of pediatric nursing homes, and implementation of permanency planning policies. She has been a frequent presenter, consultant, and trainer providing both practice and policy advice nationally and internationally.

Alice Udvari-Solner, Professor, Univ. of Wisconsin-Madison, WI

Alice is a national consultant in education and holds an appointment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the Department of Curriculum & Instruction. The graduate and undergraduate courses she teaches on the topic of accommodating diverse learners in general education settings are integral to the elementary, secondary, and special education teacher certification programs. Differentiation, the design of effective curricular adaptations, collaborative team work among educators and paraprofessionals, and systems change toward inclusive education are areas that are central to her research and teaching. Dr. Udvari-Solner recent research has focused on the development of the *Universal Design Process for Differentiation* – a method used to promote co-planning among educators to design responsive strategies for diverse

learners. She has written numerous journal articles and her work has been featured in multiple texts which include: *Creating the Inclusive School*, *Inclusive Urban High Schools*, *Restructuring for a Caring & Effective Education*, and *Creativity & Collaborative Learning*. The use of active and collaborative learning strategies as methods of differentiation are the focus of her soon to be released book from Corwin Press Inc., *Joyful Learning: Active and Collaborative Learning for Inclusive Classrooms*, coauthored with Dr. Paula Kluth.

Amy Vallimont, Student at Gannon University, Erie, PA

Conni Wells, United Advocates for Families and Children, TN

Conni is the founder of the Florida Institute for Family Involvement (FIFI) and the Axis Group I, LLC, a consulting group focused upon providing insight assistance, and support to families, professionals and their communities. She currently serves as the Chief Officer of the National Center for Organizational Development and Sustainability at the United Advocates for Families and Children out of Sacramento, CA. As the parent and grandparent of children and young adults with special needs, her experiences over the past 23 years has offered a wide array of opportunities to participate in the planning, development, and implementation of services for populations with special needs.

Sandy Zelno, School Reform Associate, Education Law Center, PA