



Parents, Professionals & Students
Navigate the Maze of Learning Disabilities & Attention Issues
Planning for the Future Begins by Age 14

Life after High School Transition Conference
&
Post-Secondary Resource Expo

Saturday, May 13, 2017

NJHA Conference & Event Center
760 Alexander Road, Princeton

KEYNOTE: LeDerick Horne

Poet, Advocate, & Motivational Speaker

Conference Schedule

8:00-8:45	Registration, Breakfast & Resource Expo Open
8:45-10:00	Session 1
10:00-10:30	Resource Expo
10:30-11:45	Session 2
11:45-1:00	Lunch, Keynote, & Resource Expo
1:00-2:15	Session 3
2:15-2:45	Resource Expo
2:45-4:00	Session 4
4:00	Certificates*

*Certificates for 6 Professional Development Units will be available (NJ Provider Identification #568).

Special thank you to DDNJ for their support.



8:00-8:45—Registration, Breakfast, Resource Expo Open

8:45-10:00 Session 1

Workshop A: Transition from School to Adult Life: Regulations and Best Practices - Freeman

This workshop will provide a detailed explanation of the federal and state requirements for implementing the transition components of an IEP. Included will be best practices associated with successful transition planning including age-appropriate transition assessments, measurable postsecondary goals, and a coordinated set of activities; when to implement the various components; and how to make the transition process meaningful and effective for students with disabilities. Strategies to promote student self-advocacy and interagency linkages will also be addressed.

Workshop B: Assistive Technology Supports for Transition - Krass

Did you know that many assistive technologies used by K-12 students with learning disabilities are also great supports for life after high school? These include supports for reading, writing, math, note taking, remembering, and getting organized. This workshop explores a wide range of assistive technologies for students with learning disabilities transitioning to work, college, and community settings, including those for Chromebooks, iPads/tablets, smart phones, and computers. Self-advocacy and funding issues will also be addressed.

Workshop C: Choosing the College Entrance Exam – ACT, SAT or None – Morris

This workshop will help students and parents learn the differences between the various college entrance exams, which one to choose, preparation for the tests, or choosing none as there are many non-test paths to college and career. The new ruling as of Jan. 1, 2017 regarding SAT accommodations will be mentioned.

Workshop D: Strategies for Success After High School – Aptaker & Friedman

This workshop will focus on the “7 Ss” of successful transition planning for students with learning disabilities: Setting timelines, developing Self-awareness, Sizing up your options, Setting achievable goals, practicing Self-advocacy, strategies for Self-Accommodation, and finding Supports.

10:00-10:30 Networking & Resource Expo

10:30-11:45 Session 2

Workshop E: How Do I Know If This Teen Is Ready for College? - Tuckman

It can be a big jump going from high school to college. Many parents worry that their teens aren't ready yet for it. We will discuss how teens and parents can work together to figure out whether the teen is ready for the greater demands and freedom of college—and if not, how to work towards that goal.

Workshop F: True Grit: Building Resiliency in Students with Learning Challenges- Scully

Participants will gain knowledge of resiliency techniques. Tools and resources will be provided that educators and parents can use immediately to build students' resiliency.

Workshop G: The Value of Coaching for Parents and Students - Goldrich

A Professional Coach helps people stay attached to their purpose, gather resources, and maintain momentum. A coach helps a person learn helpful ways to think about challenges and to trust in your thoughts. Coaches don't tell you what to do; yet they help you see what you want to do. Coaching helps people with ADHD and other learning issues to develop tips, tools, strategies and to get support to address the complex issues they face.

Workshop H: Successful Transition from High School to College for Students with LD - Presutti & Jewett

Transition to college begins by giving students strategies to use in high school. It is important to know the differences between special education services in high school and college. Students need to know how they learn and apply this knowledge to find the post-secondary setting with the right support services. Finally, students need to know how technology is an effective tool to learn more efficiently. Successful strategies used at both the Regional Center at Fairleigh Dickinson University and Mitchell College will be shared. Questions to ask when visiting colleges will be provided.

11:45-1:00 Lunch, Keynote, Networking & Resource Expo
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Keynote: Empowering Students with Hidden Disabilities: A Path to Pride and Success - Horne

LeDerick Horne is co-author of a book by the same title published in 2016, which is stated to be “the definitive compendium on learning disabilities and other hidden disabilities”. The book supports educators and families to help students become successful adults who are proud of the unique way their minds work. LeDerick is this year’s recipient of LDA of America’s Harrison Sylvester Award, which honors and recognizes an adult with learning disabilities who has shown a strong dedication and commitment to advancing the issues of adults with learning disabilities.

1:00-2:15 Session 3

Workshop I: Transitioning from Teen to Adulthood - Civita

The session will focus on emerging young adults with learning differences as they mature into adults who want to attend college, enter the work force, and have a flourishing social life. Through the use of case studies the presenter will share research and best practices in supporting young adults through this transitional time. An emphasis will be placed on the skills, services, and opportunities that are necessary for young adults with learning differences to achieve independence.

Workshop J: Colleges with Superior Support for Students with Disabilities – Tinkler

Listserve and other internet information provide us with widely circulated recycled college lists for students with disabilities. These sources have frequent errors and omissions and often based on the experience of one or a very small number of students. This session will provide you with a CONFIRMED database compilation of colleges providing superior support and arranged by disability type. Discussion includes self-advocacy and personal responsibility vs. what a college offers, plus disclosure and application strategies.

Workshop K: Career Internships that Lead to Employment - Soltes

Advancing Opportunities will discuss internships that serve as professional development and experience that catapult a college student’s career and assist in broadening job opportunities. Technology and supports increase students’ abilities not only in postsecondary education and training, but in the workplace. Internships must be relevant and mentors a good match. Diversity and inclusion objectives are included in corporate pipeline strategies and college career services may be helpful, but the bottom line is that the student will need to find the right internship. In this session, presenter will provide participants with key aspects of a good internship and how to prepare for career success. Student testimonies included in presentation.

Workshop L: Preparing for Adulthood – Do You Need to Know about DDD Services? - Meltzer

This workshop will help parents and professionals understand the qualifications for the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) services. A step-by-step guide to assist families in the DDD application process will be provided. Included will be the types of services DDD provides including, but not limited to: Community Care Waivers, Residential Services, Funding for Family Caregivers, and Supported Employment Services.

2:15-2:45 Networking & Resource Expo

2:45-4:00 Session 4

Workshop M: Transition to College and Employment - Executive Functioning Challenges - Feinman

The transition to college and the workforce can be overwhelming for young adults, and even more so for those with executive functioning deficits. The development of executive functioning skills is critical for success in college and employment. This presentation will focus on the differences in skill set expectation between secondary and postsecondary education and employment. Skill development related to being a successful student and employee with a focus on executive functioning skills will be delineated.

Workshop N: Remember the Soft Skills – the (Not So Easy) Steps to Success - Ofmani

As we prepare students for transition, much emphasis is put on academics and trade related skills. However, what makes an employee successful? More and more employers are putting emphasis on hiring individuals with the right soft skills set. For example, it's important to remember about "professionalism" and "positive" thinking!

Workshop O: Life After High School - Adults Who Made It – Barnes

Hear personal experiences from a panel of successful adults regarding their experiences with learning disabilities and/or attention issues. The panelists will share who or what made a difference in their lives as they went through high school and beyond.

Workshop P: Navigating the Gap Year Option - Bull

This session will define the gap year option, outline the overall benefits and latest research, and specifically address why a gap year is particularly effective and beneficial for students with learning differences. The different types of gap year program options will also be covered as well as current available resources. Sample student scenarios will illustrate typical gap years.

4:00 Certificates for Professional Development for six hours will be available in your last session when you turn in your conference feedback sheet.

LDANJ does not endorse or recommend any method, treatment, or product; evaluation or remedial center, program, or persons for children and adults with learning disabilities. It does however, endeavor to inform, believing that you have the right to know what is available to assist those who have a learning disability to reach their full potential.

SPEAKERS

Sharon Aptaker began her career as a special education teacher before moving to the Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs where she managed the Learning Resource Center - Central region and was a member of the "Dare to Dream" planning team. Anxious to work directly with students again, Sharon became a Learning Disabilities Teacher Consultant in 2007. She is currently an LDTC at Monroe Township High School.

Liz Barnes is one of the founding parents of the grassroots movement, Decoding Dyslexia-NJ, and has been heavily involved in their growth nationally and with dyslexia-related legislation. In addition to her efforts for the dyslexia community, Ms. Barnes has a background in marketing and is currently doing consulting work for several companies. Ms. Barnes is a mother of two kids (son at college, daughter in 9th grade) and both her daughter and husband are dyslexic.

Holly Bull is president of the Center for Interim Programs, founded in 1980 as the first independent gap year counseling service of its kind in the US. Holly combines personal experience from her two gap years before and during college with twenty-six years of professional expertise as a gap year counselor. She has placed over a thousand students in programs worldwide, has been a keynote or panel speaker for NACAC, HECA, IECA, and the USA Gap Year Fairs, and has a BA in Anthropology from UVA and a Masters in Education from Harvard's Graduate School of Education.

John Civita, M.S. Ed., is the Director of Winston *Transitions*, a program that provides an extension to the Winston Preparatory School educational experience building academic skills, while developing life and work readiness. Part of Winston Preparatory School for over 13 years, John has worked with a variety of learning styles, with an expertise in executive functioning difficulties and non-verbal learning disabilities.

Samantha Feinman, M.S. Ed., TSHH, has presented research, workshops and professional development seminars and webinars at various national conferences, colleges, high schools and SEPTAs. As Director of New Frontiers in Learning, Samantha believes that building a strong academic and social skills foundation, coupled with the development of executive functioning skills, are the keys to success for our students in high school, college and beyond. Samantha sits on the board of CHADD of Nassau County.

Bill Freeman is the CSPD Coordinator at the NJDOE, Office of Special Education Professional Development, where he develops and provides training and other forms of assistance to improve the educational services provided to students. Prior to joining the NJDOE, Bill was a teacher, case manager, school administrator, and director of an adult supported employment agency where he focused on assisting individuals with disabilities to be successfully employed in the community.

Erica Friedman is an employee of the Monroe Township Public Schools for 15 years and currently is the District Transition Coordinator and a Structured Learning Experience Educator at the High School. She has been a Resource Room and ICR teacher at the high school as well. Prior to working in Monroe, Ms. Friedman taught in Cedar Grove, NJ for 7 years. She is a graduate of Slippery Rock University certified to teach both Elementary and Special Education.

Cindy Goldrich is a Mental Health Counselor and Board Certified ADHD Coach. She specializes in providing education, coaching and support for parents, educators and mental health professionals to help children with ADHD and Executive Function Deficits succeed at home, in school, and in life. Additionally, she trains professionals to become ADHD Parent Coaches. Author of **8 Keys to Parenting Children with ADHD**, based on her nationally offered workshop series, *Calm and Connected: Parenting Children with ADHD*©.

LeDerick Horne, B.A. is a successful spoken word poet, playwright, motivational speaker, entrepreneur, author, and advocate for people with disabilities who has been recognized across the country. In addition to his work with various organizations, including Eye to Eye, LeDerick has been involved with a variety of projects demonstrating his advocacy work. Samples of his projects are as follows: LeDerick has spoken at various Dare to Dream conferences, sponsored by the NJ Department of Education; he is featured in the PBS documentary called "Being You", produced by Road Trip Nation and backed by The Oak Foundation and Understood; and the recently co-authored text, "Empowering Students with Hidden Disabilities: A Path to Pride and Success".

Jacqueline Jewett is an expert in understanding learning disabilities. She is the Director of Individualized Services at Mitchell College and Director of the Thames Academy's educational and co-curricular living/learning programs. She directs Mitchell's Bentsen Learning Center. As a consultant and advocate for 25 years, Jacqueline has devoted her career to servicing students with learning disabilities.

Adam Krass has over 25 years of experience providing assistive technology services to children and adults with disabilities in school, work and home settings, including evaluations, training, customization, and integration support. Adam is an adjunct professor at Kean University in Union, NJ, and a board member of NJCART, the NJ Coalition for the Advancement of Assistive and Rehabilitation Technology. His latest publication, "The Teacher's Technology Toolkit: Pre-Writing and Idea Organization" is available on Amazon.com.

Andrew Meltzer is a special education and special needs attorney at Sussan, Greenwald, and Wesler, Andrew Meltzer. As a former classified student who conquered his learning differences, Andrew helps special needs students attain the success in school and life they are capable of through his advocacy. Andrew knows on a deeply personal level the challenges families of children with special needs encounter. His unique personal and professional experience in special education law makes him a natural and effective advocate for his clients.

Susan Morris is currently the Director of Education and Principal of The Bridge Academy, a private New Jersey State Department of Education Approved school and an Orton Gillingham Academy Approved School. The Bridge Academy serves students ages 8-18 who are average to very bright with dyslexia, language based learning disabilities, and/or dysgraphia, dyscalculia and ADD. Ms. Morris oversees all of the academic program as well as the transition program where over 87% of our alumni have pursued college degrees.

Vicki Ofmani is the supervisor and coordinator of Structured Learning Experiences for The Forum School, Waldwick, NJ. She has worked for more than 30 years as both a teacher of students with ASD and other related neurological disorders in both public and private schools and as an LDT-C in public schools. Vicki is a founding member and on the Board of Trustees for the Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation.

William N. Presutti is the Director of the Regional Center for Learning Disabilities, Florham Campus, Fairleigh Dickinson University and an Adjunct Instructor in the Learning Disabilities Program. Bill has extensive experience working with students with learning disabilities in New Jersey as a former School District Superintendent, Principal, Director of Special Services and teacher. Bill holds a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Scranton and an M.S. in Special Education from Central Connecticut State University.

Jennifer L. Scully is the Assistant Head of School for Postsecondary Studies at Maplebrook School and is in charge of the Institute for Collegiate and Career Studies program. Ms. Scully has served as the President of the International Association of Special Education as well as the 9th Biennial Conference Chair. She has an expertise in the acquisition of social skills in adolescents, building resilience in students and an advocate for character education and has spoken at national and international conferences on these topics. She has published a handbook on the subject for teachers, parents and administrators entitled, *The Power of Social Skills in Character Development: Helping Diverse Learners Succeed*.

Linda Soltes holds a Master of Science in Organizational Management and Leadership and a Professional Certification in Online Learning and Teaching. Her expertise and understanding of student abilities and higher education opportunities enables her to help students in their pursuit of college, careers and independence. Prior to joining Advancing Opportunities Ms. Soltes was employed as a Educational Program Advisor for ETS, and served as liaison to business, government, and education leaders. Her work included the establishment of scholarships, internships and the delivery of formative assessments and technology to advance education.

Allen Tinkler, a combination LDTC-guidance counselor for over 30 years, is one of a handful of nationally recognized consultants on college selection and transition issues for students with special needs. To date he has personally visited approximately 400 colleges throughout the country. He is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (and NJ and NY state affiliates) and the Association on Higher Education and Disability (and NJ and NY state affiliates).

Ari Tuckman, PsyD, MBA, has given more than 300 presentations and routinely earns excellent reviews for his ability to make complicated information understandable and useful. He is the author of three books: "Understand Your Brain, Get More Done", "More Attention, Less Deficit" and "Integrative Treatment for Adult ADHD". His "More Attention, Less Deficit" podcast has more than 100 episodes and has had almost 2,000,000 downloads. He is in private practice in West Chester, PA.

Life After High School Conference & Post-Secondary Expo
NJHA Conference & Event Center, 760 Alexander Road, Princeton, New Jersey 08543

Please use Google Maps or Waze from your location.

There is a small parking lot on one side of the building and a large parking lot on the other.

Questions on day of conference? Call 732-991-9107

Registration Form



Professional Job _____

Professional

Parent

LD Adult

Student

Conference Fees

Early Bird thru April 15

LDA members: \$25

Non-members: \$50

Membership & registration: \$75

Students: \$25

After April 15

LDA members: \$50

Non-members: \$75

Membership & registration: \$100

Students: \$25

Area(s) of interest: Preschool K-5 6-8 9-12 Post-Secondary Adult

Name _____

School/Agency _____

Questions after deadline, call or email:

info@ldanj.org or 732-645-2738

Address _____

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Please choose your workshops.

Indicate #1 and # 2 choices for each session.

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Session 1 Workshop _____ Workshop _____

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