

# Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

## PRESENTERS

In compliance with ASHA's Continuing Education Board's Requirements, OSHA requires program planners and instructional personnel to disclose information regarding any relevant financial and non-financial relationships related to course content prior to and during course planning. [Click here to view disclosures for this year's presenters.](#)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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**Peter Gerhardt, EdD**

**Executive Director, EPIC School, Paramus, NJ**

<http://www.epicschool.org/>

Dr. Gerhardt has more than 35 year's experience utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in support of adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorders in educational, employment, residential and community-based settings. He is the author or co-author on a number of articles and chapters on the needs of adolescents and adults with ASD and has presented nationally and internationally on this topic. Dr. Gerhardt serves as Chairman of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research and is on numerous professional advisory boards including the Cambridge Center for Behavioral Studies. He received his doctorate from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey's Graduate School of Education.



**Samuel L. Odom, PhD**

**Director, Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute**

**Professor, UNC-Chapel Hill School of Education**

<http://fpg.unc.edu/>

Dr. Odom is Principal Investigator of the National Professional Development Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, Project AFIRM, The Efficacy Study of Elementary Learners with Autism (TESELA) Project, and the Center on Secondary Education for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders. He is the author or co-author of more than 150 journal articles or chapters and editor or co-editor of ten books on early childhood intervention and developmental disabilities. His current research is addressing treatment efficacy for children and youth with ASD, early intervention for toddlers with disabilities and their families, and professional development for teachers of children and youth with ASD. In 2013, he received the Arnold Lucius Gesell Prize awarded for career achievement in research on social inclusion and child development by the Theodor Hellbrugge Foundation, Munich, Germany, and in 2016 he received an honorary doctoral degree from Stockholm University, Sweden.

## OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS



**Sarah Baker, MS CCC-SLP**

**Owner, Baker Speech Clinic, Oklahoma City, OK**

<http://www.bakerspeechclinic.com>

Sarah is owner of Baker Speech Clinic, a private practice in south Oklahoma City. She graduated from OUHSC with her Masters of Speech-Language Pathology in 2000. She is an active member of the Oklahoma Speech-Language-Hearing Association having served as vice-president, president, and private practice chairperson. Specializing in pediatric communication disorders, Sarah has worked in a variety of settings including the public school system, SoonerStart early intervention, university clinics, and private practice. She specializes in Childhood Apraxia of Speech and autism spectrum disorders. Sarah is an adjunct professor for the OCCC SLPA program, teaching the autism class. She lives in the Bridge Creek area with her husband and 13 year old son, Ian. She has two grown daughters and two 2 ½ year old grandchildren.



**Wanda Felty**

**Community Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator, Center for Learning and Leadership, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

<https://www.ouhsc.edu/thecenter/>

Wanda Felty is the Community Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator for the Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma's federally recognized University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities. She also services as Core Faculty in Family discipline for the Oklahoma LEND program.

Wanda is the mother to three daughter's one of which has multiple disabilities including autism spectrum disorder. She is a local, state and national leader in family advocacy.

She was appointed by Gov. Mary Fallin to serve on the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities and appointed by the Speaker of the House to serve on the Oklahoma Commission for Children and Youth.



**Nancy Marchand-Martella, PhD, BCBA-D**  
**Professor and Department Chair, Department of Educational Psychology, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma**  
<http://www.ou.edu/education.html>

Dr. Marchand-Martella is the Chair of Educational Psychology and Professor of Special Education, teaching classes in academic remediation with a focus on reading, writing, spelling, and mathematics interventions. She has more than 30 years of experience working with at-risk populations and more than 180 professional publications credited to her name. She is a board certified behavior analyst and an author of *Multiple Meaning Vocabulary* published by Sopris West/Cambium Learning and an SRA/McGraw-Hill author of *Lesson Connections and Core Lesson Connections* for Reading Mastery Signature Edition and adolescent literacy program *Read to Achieve*. She is co-author of the newly revised digital, print, and project-based *SRA FLEX Literacy* that is used in all 50 states plus three territories.



**Ron Martella, PhD, BCBA-D**  
**Professor, Department of Educational Psychology, Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education, University of Oklahoma**  
<http://www.ou.edu/education.html>

Dr. Martella is a Professor of Special Education, teaching classes in behavior management and research methodology. He is a board-certified behavior analyst and has served as a School Wide Positive Behavior Support (SWPBS) coach and Leadership Team member. He also provides technical assistance to numerous states and districts on SWPBS/behavior management for students with or without disabilities. Dr. Martella has more than 170 professional publications and is an SRA/McGraw-Hill author of *Lesson Connections and Core Lesson Connections* for Reading Mastery Signature Edition and adolescent literacy program *Read to Achieve*. He is co-author of the newly revised digital, print, and project-based *SRA FLEX Literacy* that is used in all 50 states plus three territories.



**Cathy Pratt, PhD, BCBA-D**  
**Director, Indiana Resource Center for Autism, Bloomington, IN**  
<https://www.iidc.indiana.edu/pages/irca>

IRCA is a statewide program that works to build local capacity for families and professionals to address the needs of individuals on the autism spectrum across the lifespan. This is done through training, consultations, coaching, research, and information development and dissemination.

Dr. Pratt coordinates the Autism Special Interest Group (SIG) through the Association of University Centers on Disability (AUCD). Dr. Pratt serves on numerous Advisory Boards, including the Advisory Boards of Maap Services, Inc., the Temple Grandin/Eustacia Cutler Autism Fund and the College Internship Program. In the past, she served on the Board of the national Autism Society and is the Immediate Past Chair.

Dr. Pratt also serves on the Panel of Professional Advisors for the Autism Society and is currently involved in their strategic planning. Dr. Pratt is co-chair of NATTAP (Network of Autism Training and Technical Assistance Programs). In addition, she is a member of the National Autism Leadership Collaboration. She also served as a member of the expert working group on services and as a member of the public review committee for the Research Roadmap of the Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee and in 2010 was invited to the White House to provide feedback on the president's initiatives on autism spectrum disorders.

Dr. Pratt has been honored by the Autism Society with the Individual Achievement Award, with the 2005 Princeton Fellowship Award, and with various awards through NYFAC (New York Families for Autistic Children, Inc.), including recognition from the United States House of Representatives. In 2008, Dr. Pratt was awarded with the Distinguished Service Award by the Indiana Council of Administrators of Special Education. She writes and presents internationally on the following topics: autism spectrum disorders, functional behavior assessment/positive behavior supports, applied behavior analysis, instructional approaches, evidence-based practices, systems change, and policy. Prior to pursuing her doctorate at Indiana University, Dr. Pratt worked as a classroom teacher for students across the autism spectrum and with other disabilities.

**Cory Sutton, Sergeant**  
**University of Oklahoma Police Department, Norman, OK**



Cory Sutton is a Sergeant with The University of Oklahoma Police Department in Norman, OK. Cory has served with OUPD for 11+ years and the Norman Police Department for 8 years. Cory and his wife, Traci Sutton, are the parents of 14-year-old twin girls who are diagnosed with Phelan-McDermid Syndrome. While not on the autism spectrum, Phelan-McDermid Syndrome shares many characteristics of ASD. Cory and Traci have developed, and been teaching, a class for law enforcement and first responders on ways to handle contacts with individuals on the autism spectrum. The class has been offered since 2011 and has been taught across the state. The University of Oklahoma Police Department has supported the class and continues to send Cory to new trainings to learn more about autism and ways to interact, care for, and handle calls for service with individuals on the spectrum. Cory and Traci are continuously updating the class as new information and stories come forward.



**Ann Trudgeon, BA**

**Director, Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council**

<http://www.okddc.ok.gov/>

Ann Trudgeon is the Director of the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council, a small, federally-funded state agency that advocates for and with persons with developmental disabilities.

Ann has been employed by the Council since 1989. During her tenure, the Council has invested millions of dollars in innovative projects that have helped Oklahomans with disabilities to become more independent and inclusive members of their communities. Ann is also a trainer with Oklahoma Partners in Policymaking and the Oklahoma Youth Leadership Forum, advocacy training classes that teach advocacy skills to persons with disabilities and their family members.



**Judith Ursitti**

**Director State Government Affairs, Autism Speaks**

[www.autismspeaks.org](http://www.autismspeaks.org)

Judith has over a decade of experience in tax accounting, but became heavily involved in autism advocacy when her son Jack was diagnosed with autism in 2005. Since that time, she has participated in the passage of autism insurance reform legislation in more than a dozen states, testifying at numerous hearings and working with stakeholders and legislators across the country.

Before joining the Autism Speaks government relations team, she volunteered as advocacy chair for the organization's New England and North Texas chapters, chaired the inaugural Dallas Fort Worth Walk Now for Autism Speaks and served as a member of the Parent Advisory Council for Autism Speaks 100-Day Kit. Judith was awarded the Margaret L. Bauman, M.D. Award for Excellence within the Autism Community in 2009.

Judith holds a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from Georgia College and State University and is a Certified Public Accountant. She and her husband Andy live in Dover, Massachusetts and are parents to two children, Amy and Jack.