

2017 Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

Presenters



Barry M. Prizant, Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Director, Childhood Communication Services
Adjunct Professor, Brown University

Dr. Barry Prizant is recognized as one of the world's leading scholars in autism spectrum disorders and communication disabilities, with more than 40 years experience as a researcher and international consultant for individuals with ASD and related disabilities. He is a certified Speech-Language Pathologist, an Adjunct Professor at Brown University, and Director of Childhood Communication Services, a private practice. Formerly, he was a Professor of Communication

Disorders at Emerson College and Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the Brown University Medical School. Publications include four books, 130 chapters and articles and *The SCERTS Model* manuals, an educational approach now being implemented in more than a dozen countries. Barry has presented more than 800 seminars and keynote addresses internationally, included featured presentations at the United Nations in 2013 and 2017 for World Autism Awareness Day. For more than 20 years, he has co-developed and co-facilitated an annual retreat weekend for parents of family members on the autism spectrum. Barry has received many honors including the 2014 Honors of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, their highest honor, 2005 Princeton University-Eden Career Award in autism, and the 2013 Divine Neurotypical Award of GRASP (Global Regional Asperger Syndrome Partnership). He also is a performing percussionist with a special interest in the positive impact of the arts on quality of life for persons with disabilities. His most recent book is *Uniquely Human: A Different Way of Seeing Autism* (Simon & Schuster, 2015).

Kari Dunn Buron, MS
Autism Education Specialist

Kari taught in the K-12 public school system with students on the autism spectrum for 30+ years and was a founding member of the MN Autism Project. She developed an Autism Spectrum Disorders Certificate program for educators at Hamline University in St. Paul, MN and is on the Advisory Board for the Autism Society of Trinidad and Tobago; Life College in MN and the Autism Society of MN. In 2003, Kari received a Self-designed Fellowship that allowed her to spend a year interviewing and working internationally with a



number of scientists and researchers in the area of Neuroscience, Social Cognition, Education and Autism with a focus on challenging behaviors. Kari has presented her work both nationally and internationally and in 2012, she was inducted into the Illinois State University Department of Education Hall of Fame.

Kari is the co-author of *The Incredible 5-Point Scale (Revised Edition)* and *Social Behavior and Self-Management*. She is the author of *When My Worries Get Too Big, (Revised Edition and winner of the 2013 Mom's Choice Award)*, *Adalyn's Clare*, *A 5 Could Make Me Lose Control* and *A 5 is Against the Law!* (2008 ASA literary award winner). Kari is the co-editor of a textbook for educators titled *Learners on the Autism Spectrum: Preparing Highly Qualified Educators* (2009 ASA literary award winner) Her most recent project is The Social Times Curriculum, a curriculum for teachers working with students who struggle with social understanding and challenging behavior.



The Howell Family

Recognized as the 2017 Special Olympics State Family of the Year, the Howell family has prided itself on living life outside the box. Always pushing the limits of what life has to offer, the Howell's have chosen to approach challenges directly. With 16 year old triplets boys on the autism spectrum and a fiery 12 year old daughter to rule them all, the Howell's are a divergent family at best.

Duane Howell is a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) fellow who served as the Family Facilitator for the Child Study Center's JumpStart Clinic and the Family Partner for Center for Learning and Leadership's 360 center. Duane currently is focusing on an advocacy role for his family as he has traded his professional role to focus on his role at home. Danielle Howell is an educator with over 15 years of classroom teaching experience. Danielle has benefitted many districts with her passion for teaching accompanied by her specialties in reading recovery and ESL.

Duane and Danielle are committed to championing their efforts to further the awareness of Autism and the challenges it poses to families. Both members of the Oklahoma Healthcare Authorities' MATF (Member Advisory Task Force), they are at the forefront to assist with change through advisement. The Howell family consists of Duane, Danielle, Jacob, Keegan, Harrison, and Libby.