

PRESENTERS – 2013 Oklahoma Statewide Autism Conference

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:

Temple Grandin, PhD

Professor of Animal Science, Colorado State University

Dr. Grandin is a professor of Animal Science and a person with autism. She did not talk until the age of 4. She received a BA in 1970 from Franklin University and a MS in 1975 from Arizona State University. She then received her PhD from the University of Illinois in 1989. She was featured in the Emmy Award winning movie Temple Grandin and named one of Time Magazine's most interesting people in 2010.

Brenda Smith Myles, PhD

Consultant with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) and the Ziggurat Group

Brenda Smith Myles Ph.D., a consultant with the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) and the Ziggurat Group, is the recipient of the Autism Society of America's Outstanding Professional Award, the Princeton Fellowship Award, and the Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Developmental Disabilities Burton Blatt Humanitarian Award. Brenda has made over 1000 presentations all over the world and written more than 200 articles and books on ASD. In addition, she served as the co-chair of the National ASD Teacher Standards Committee; was on the National Institute of Mental Health's Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee's Strategic Planning Consortium; and collaborated with the National Professional Center on Autism Spectrum Disorders, National Autism Center, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services who identified evidenced based practices for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and served as Project Director for the Texas Autism Resource Guide for Teachers (TARGET). Myles is also on the executive boards of several organizations, including the Scientific Council of the Organization for Autism Research (SCORE) and ASTEP – Asperger Syndrome Training and Education Program. Further, in the latest survey conducted by the University of Texas, she was acknowledged as the second most productive applied researcher in ASD in the world.

Ann Turnbull, EdD

Co-Director, Beach Center on Disability,

Professor, Department of Special Education,

Senior Scientist, Schiefelbusch Institute for Life Span Studies

Dr. Ann Turnbull has been a professor, researcher, and advocate for individuals with disabilities, their families, and service providers for four decades. She has authored 32 books and over 250 articles and chapters. In 1999, she was selected as one of 36 individuals who have “changed the course of history for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the 20th century.” In 1990, she receives the “International leadership Award” from the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation. Her greatest learning has come from her son, Jay Turnbull (196-2009), who she has always called her “best professor” about the needs of individuals with significant disabilities over the lifespan. Given Ann’s family role, she seeks to be a bridge between the “daily reality” of the disability world and the “academic reality” of the university world.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS:

Shahla Alai-Rosales, PhD, BCBA-D

Associate Professor, Department of Behavior Analysis, University of North Texas

Shahla Alai-Rosales received her B.S. from Southern Illinois University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Kansas. She is an Associate Professor in the Department of Behavior Analysis at the University of North Texas, where she established the North Texas Autism Project (NTAP), a service, training and research program serving children with autism in the community. Shahla teaches classes in the areas of ethics, autism intervention, parent training, applied research, and behavior change techniques. She serves on the governing board of the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB). In 2012, she was awarded an Onassis Foundation Fellowship for her work with families and was the recipient of the “Fessor Grahm” award, UNT’s most cherished teaching award.

Gary Albright

Employment Specialist II, Autism Spectrum Disorder Transition Services Pilot & Transitional Work Adjustment Instructor, Goodwill Industries of Tulsa

Gary Albright has serviced individuals with various disabilities throughout his career. Gary attended Northeast State University where he studied sociology and psychology. Gary was employed at Tulsa Children’s Medical Center in the Department of Nursing serving as a Childcare Specialist II and as the Executive Secretary to the Director of Nursing. Experience included areas of Mental Health, Physical

Rehabilitation, and Pediatrics. One area of specialization was socialization into the community, working on the TBI/Spinal Injury Specialization Program. Currently, Gary is employed with Goodwill Industries of Tulsa where he works as a Certified Employment Training Specialist II working with supported workers, and with young adults as the instructor for the Work Adjustment Transitional Program and the Autism Spectrum Disorder Transition Services Program.

Nicole R. Andrews, PhD

Clinical Psychologist, Today's Therapy Solutions

Nicole R. Andrews, Ph.D. received her doctorate in clinical psychology from Oklahoma State University and completed a two-year postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Ontario. Dr. Andrews specializes in the assessment of cognitive, academic, behavioral and emotional difficulties associated with medical and developmental disorders, including autism, prenatal drug exposure, pediatric cancer, epilepsy and stroke. Children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders form a majority of her clinical practice at Today's Therapy Solutions.

Lorraine Auchter, OTR/L,

Director, Sensational Kids, Inc.

Lorraine Auchter graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2000 and after passing the national certification exam, became an occupational therapist that same year. As an occupational therapist, she has worked in a variety of settings, including hospitals, homes, schools, and private clinic. Lorraine opened Sensational Kids, Inc. in January of 2003 and the company has grown from only one occupational therapist to a staff of occupational therapists, speech-language therapists, psychologist, and support staff totaling 24 at present. Lorraine has provided numerous presentations around the state on Sensory Processing and other topics related to children. In addition, Lorraine regularly participates at the University of Oklahoma, Health Science Center as a guest lecturer. Lorraine has been on a variety of committees and boards related to childhood services.

Annie Baghdayan, PhD, BCBA

Oklahoma Autism Network

Dr. Baghdayan received her PhD in Special Education from the University of Oklahoma in 2012, with an emphasis on Autism and Inclusion. She has worked in school, home and clinical settings with individuals with various disabilities for over a decade. Her focus is on individuals with ASD, and she continues to work with young children with ASD, their parents, and professionals. She is nationally

board-certified behavior analyst and a member of the Association for Behavior Analysis International and Council for Exceptional Children.

Dee Blose, MEd

Executive Director, Youth & Family Services

Dee Blose has a master's degree in education from University of Central Oklahoma. She is the Executive Director at Youth & Family Services, Inc. and has been there for 20 years. She is the parent of young man, age 23, with autism. She is Chairman of the Board of Autism Oklahoma.org. She is a former adjunct professor at OUHSC as Family Faculty. She has been a trainer, speaker and advocate for children with disabilities for 20 years. She has developed extensive innovative programs for children and young adults with autism, including the group Bee's Knees.

Kayla A. Bower, JD

Executive Director Oklahoma Disability Law Center, Inc.

Kayla A. Bower is the executive director and senior litigation attorney for the Oklahoma Disability Law Center, Inc. The center is the federally funded protection and advocacy system for people with disabilities in Oklahoma. Ms. Bower graduated from the University of Oklahoma School of Law in 1979. She is licensed to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals and the Federal District Court for the Western District of Oklahoma. She is a member of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America and the Oklahoma Bar Association.

Rene Daman, PT, MS

Director, Oklahoma Autism Network

Rene' is the director of the Oklahoma Autism Network at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is the co-principal investigator of the ConnectedKids Program. She has been with the Department of Rehabilitation Science since 1999 and has worked with families and their children with disabilities, including autism since 1993 through early intervention, school-based services, and in clinical settings.

Beth DeGrace, PhD, OTR/L, FAOTA

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, College of Allied Health, OUHSC

Beth DeGrace joined the in 2001 and teaches entry level (MOT/DPT) and post professional (DSc, PhD) students. Her research program has focused on factors supporting family health in families raising

children with autism. Beth has presented nationally and internationally on the findings of her research and has published findings in peer reviewed journals.

Stuart Godfrey, MS

Mr. Godfrey is a Child Developmental Specialist with SoonerStart in Cleveland County. In 2009 Cleveland County SoonerStart began offering the Early Foundations model located at NorthHaven Church's Mother's Day out program.

**Josh Hargis, BS in Agriculture Education, Animal Science
Founder, Program Director for AgVocates for Exceptional Individuals**

Josh Hargis received his degrees in Agriculture Education and Animal Science from Oklahoma State University in 2003. After a decade of teaching high school Agriculture in a fully inclusive classroom; Josh will be receiving his MEd in Special Education from the University of Central Oklahoma in December. Josh has worked with families across Oklahoma and Texas using animals to teach self-advocacy while shaping character and work ethic.

**Mark L. Holmes, JD
Holmes, Holmes & Neisent**

Mark L. Holmes is a member of the firm, Holmes, Holmes and Neisent, P.L.L.C in Oklahoma City Oklahoma. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in accounting from the University of Oklahoma in 1985. He became a Certified Public Account in 1986. He received his Juris Doctorate from the University of Oklahoma in 1993, graduating with Honors. Mark's law practice focuses on estate planning, estate and trust administration and issues of incapacity with seniors and persons with disabilities. More specifically, his practice involves Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney, Probate and Trust Administration, Medicaid Planning, Incapacity Planning, Guardianships and Avoiding Guardianships, Special and Supplemental Needs Trusts, Nursing Home Decisions and IRA and Beneficiary Designation Planning.

**Duane Howell
Family Consultant, Community Outreach for AgVocates for Exceptional Individuals**

Duane Howell is an advocate for children with special healthcare needs and their families. As a parent of 4 children, 3 with a multitude of Neurological and Physical disabilities, Duane knows firsthand the added challenges of raising children with unique needs. From a deep and rich family dynamic to his

youth and family background, Duane utilizes his hands-on experience in all facets of social needs and advocacy and believes completely in the AgVocates mission to promote the cognitive, social and physical development of children with disabilities through daily care and the exhibition of livestock. With a flock of advocacy avenues, Duane is also the director of the Oklahoma State Fathers Network, the Family Advocate for Full Circle Developmental Center, and is a LEND Fellow.

Jennifer Jones, PhD

Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University

Dr. Jennifer Jones is an Assistant Professor of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. Her work is dedicated to improving the lives of persons with developmental disabilities and their families through research, teaching, and community engagement. She knows first-hand the unique joys and challenges of parenting a child with a developmental disability and the hard work of striving for family resilience.

Tamara S. Kasper MS/CCC-SLP, BCBA

Speech-Language Pathologist, Board Certified Behavior Analyst, Director Center for Autism Treatment

Tamara Kasper MS, CCC-SLP, BCBA is a pediatric SLP who has devoted her 23 year career to promoting functional communication and social interaction skills in children with autism. Under the mentorship of Dr. Vincent Carbone, Tamara became a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She is past recipient of WISHA's Clinical Achievement Award.

Ashley Kimbrell, MS Ed

Zarrow Center for Learning, University of Oklahoma

Ashley has a Masters degree in Special Education from University of Central Oklahoma with certificate in Applied Behavior Analysis and a Bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education from Northwestern Oklahoma State University. Ashley is currently pursuing national certification for Board Certified Behavior Analyst (CBCBA). Besides being involved in helping parents utilize applied behavioral techniques in the home, Ashley has had the pleasure of educating colleagues in behavioral interventions within the school environment across the state. Her spare time is spent advocating for families with children who have autism as well as supporting her family in athletic events.

Adam Larsen, BFA

Documentary Filmmaker

Adam Larsen is an artist, projection designer and filmmaker. He has designed video projections for nearly 100 stage productions both in the United States and abroad. As a cinematographer, he has shot numerous television pilots (from cooking shows to programs on extreme sports), independent films and commercials. He also produced, shot and edited two short films for TEACCH, North Carolina's state autism program, and two films for the Organization for Autism Research (OAR). Larsen holds a bachelor of fine arts degree in cinematography from the North Carolina School of the Arts. Neurotypical is his first documentary.

Melinda Lauffenburger, MS
Executive Director, AutismOklahoma.org

Melinda Lauffenburger received her Bachelor's and Master's degree in Business Science from Oklahoma State University. She has managed and operated Trinity Management Group since 1998 and provided business consulting. Ten years ago, in May 2002, Melinda and another parent started a parent support group in Edmond, after the Lauffenburger's oldest daughter, Joy, was diagnosed with autism. The parent group has transformed itself multiple times and is now known as AutismOklahoma.org, where Melinda serves as Executive Director. AutismOklahoma.org provides support and education assistance for families affected by autism through support group branches in Yukon, Edmond, Stillwater, OKC and Muskogee. The group also provides model summer experiences for kids and young adults who have autism including Camp Noggin, Summer Advance: Get Ready for College, Summer Advance: Let's go on vacation, Big Swanky Art Camp, and Comic Camp. AutismOklahoma.org also hosts the PieceWalk, a day of togetherness for families and friends to promote autism awareness.

Major Tracie Lewis,
Tulsa Police Department

Major Tracie Lewis is a 25 year veteran of the Tulsa Police Department. She has a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and is an Adjunct Professor at Tulsa Community College. She has been a personal safety instructor for 20 years in addition to being a former SWAT Team Commander, former Hostage Negotiator for 10 years, and a mental health advocate.

Kelli Marshall MS, CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist, Today's Therapy Solutions

Kelli Marshall, MS, CCC-SLP is a licensed speech-language pathologist and co-owner of Today's Therapy Solutions. Kelli has over 10 years of experience working with children with Autism Spectrum

Disorders and her areas of expertise, related to ASD, include developing and expanding functional communication systems and social skills instruction. She has served as a member of an interdisciplinary ASD assessment team and has trained others in the team process. Kelli also continues to work in the public school and private practice setting.

Bonnie McBride, PhD, BCBA-D

Dr. McBride is an Associate Professor in the Department of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She completed her doctoral work at the University of Washington, one of the National Institute of Health's Centers of Excellence in Autism. In addition to her faculty position, she is a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) core faculty in ASD, teaches ASD content in other graduate programs on campus and provides professional development to educators and other professionals throughout the state. Dr. McBride's research interests have focused on effective treatment and intervention for young children with ASD. She is the Principal Investigator of two recently funded efficacy trials of an early intensive behavioral intervention model. She is a current CDC Ambassador for the Act Early Campaign to raise awareness about the importance of early identification of autism and related disorders.

Lori Metcalf, EdS, NCSP

Zarrow Center for Learning, University of Oklahoma

Lori has a specialist degree in Educational Psychology with an emphasis in school psychology, as well as a Masters in Psychometrics from Oklahoma State University. Additionally, she has completed courses from the University of Central Oklahoma to become a board certified behavior analyst (CBCBA) and is working toward completion of her hours for certification. She is also currently obtaining a Doctorate in Special Education at the University of Oklahoma with an emphasis in autism and behavior. She has extensive experience in the area of behavioral interventions in school settings that utilize applied behavioral techniques. However, her greatest experience comes from being a parent of a son with significant autism and the joys and tribulations that having a child with autism entails.

Jennifer Sollars Miller,

Co-Founder and Program Director, Autism Center of Tulsa

Michelle Wilkerson and Jennifer Sollars Miller co-founded the Autism Center of Tulsa in 2005 out of a need for support and information for families affected by autism. When they began their sons, both affected by autism, were in elementary school. As their boys got older and were going into 7th grade, they worried, as all parents do, about the challenges that middle school brings, like puberty, bullying

and the ability to “make it socially.” They recognized the need for social support and began looking for a way to get the non-disabled students involved. Peers with Purpose started as a pilot program at Jenks Middle School in 2011. By the end of eighth grade there were 50 active non-disabled peers who participated in the PWP meetings and activities. Now freshmen, the PWP pilot class members plan to take PWP to the high school with them and continue on through graduation.

Liz Moore, MEd

Ms. Moore is the Project Coordinator for the Early Foundations: Autism Model and Outreach Project, model site (EF). She has worked with children with ASD for 9 years. Ms. Moore provides training and technical assistance to programs interested in implementing the EF model.

Mary Ogle

President and CEO, A New Leaf, Inc.

Mary Ogle serves as President and CEO of A New Leaf Inc. She has been a non-profit executive for over 18 years. She holds a Master’s Degree in Comparative Politics and a Bachelor’s degree in Psychology. Her expertise includes non-profit board management, financial development, and implementing strategic growth.

Michael Owens

Advocate

Michael Owens is on the Autism Spectrum with Asperger’s. He is a former program participant and graduate from Berryhill High School. Michael is a former member of the Drama Club, and participated in three school productions. Michael enjoys acting, playing the piano and guitar. Michael has taught himself to play by ear. Michael has attended Tulsa Technology Center at the Riverside Campus in Jenks. He studied 3D Design & Animation. This year, Michael had the opportunity to attend the Autism Spectrum Disorder Transition Services Program at Goodwill Industries of Tulsa for students with Asperger’s. Michael states it has been very helpful in many ways. Before attending, Michael lacked the social skills and cues to communicate effectively and recognize his own potential. Michael states that since he has been attending this program, those skills have improved with the help of the instructors and the technology used in class.

Pam Ramming, MS

Ms. Ramming has been a Child Development Specialist with SoonerStart Canadian County for over 20 years. She coordinates the Early Foundations at Mustang Child Development Center as part of Canadian County SoonerStart. This site is located in an early care and learning environment.

Jenifer Randle,
Youth Advocacy & Training Coordinator
Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council

Jenifer Randle is the Youth Advocacy and Training Coordinator for the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Special Education and taught students with disabilities for fourteen years. Currently pursuing her Master's Degree in Transition Education and Services, Jenifer has also become a credentialed trainer for Person Centered Thinking, training others in Person Centered Thinking skills throughout the state as well as training youth and young adults' advocacy skills.

Jacob Singer, MA, BCBA
Oklahoma Autism Network

Jake joined the Oklahoma Autism Network as a lead behavior analyst in 2011. Jake has worked with a wide variety of populations and age ranges, including providing intensive behavioral intervention for young children with autism.

Julie Smith, MS, OTR/L
Assistant Director, Oklahoma Autism Network

Julie is the assistant director of the Oklahoma Autism Network at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is co-principal investigator of the research project – ConnectedKids: Training Parents to Use Developmental and Behavioral Strategies with their Child with Autism Spectrum Disorder, as well as co-principal investigator for the research project - Oklahoma Autism Needs Assessment Survey. Julie has completed training and reliability in the use of the Screening Tool for Autism in Two-Year Olds (STAT), NCAST Parent-Child Interaction Feeding and Teaching Scales, and Coaching Families and Colleagues in Early Childhood.

Tom Wattman, BS Psychology

Tom graduated from Central High School 1997. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology from St. Gregory's University, Shawnee in 2006.

Ginger Wells, MSW**Oklahoma Autism Network**

Ginger joined the Oklahoma Autism Network in October, 2011. Currently she is the Project Coordinator for the ConnectedKids Research Project. Ginger has worked with families touched by disability for the past 24 years through the SoonerStart Early Intervention Program as a Transition Resource Coordinator and the Oklahoma Infant Transition Program as a social worker in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. Ginger has also worked as the Parent Aide Coordinator and parent group leader with the Parents Assistance Center, Social Worker with Child Protective Services through the Oklahoma Department of Human Services, and caseworker at the United Methodist Children's Home.

Michelle Wilkerson,**Co-Founder and Program Director, Autism Center of Tulsa**

Michelle Wilkerson and Jennifer Sollars Miller co-founded the Autism Center of Tulsa in 2005 out of a need for support and information for families affected by autism. When they began their sons, both affected by autism, were in elementary school. As their boys got older and were going into 7th grade, they worried, as all parents do, about the challenges that middle school brings, like puberty, bullying and the ability to "make it socially." They recognized the need for social support and began looking for a way to get the non-disabled students involved. Peers with Purpose started as a pilot program at Jenks Middle School in 2011. By the end of eighth grade there were 50 active non-disabled peers who participated in the PWP meetings and activities. Now freshmen, the PWP pilot class members plan to take PWP to the high school with them and continue on through graduation.

Kacey Vierling, MS**Graduate Research Assistant of Human Development and Family Science, Oklahoma State University**

Kacey Vierling is a doctoral student of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. She earned her Bachelors of Science in Nutrition and her Masters of Science in Human Development and Family Science. Her interest regarding Autism Spectrum Disorders has expanded while working with Dr. Jennifer Jones on a research grant from Autism Oklahoma. Kacey plans to continue conducting applied research with adolescents with developmental disabilities and their families.