

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



Jed Baker, PhD

Director of the Social Skills Training Project

Jed Baker, Ph.D. is the director of the Social Skills Training Project, an organization serving individuals with autism and social communication problems. He is on the professional advisory board of Autism Today, ASPEN, ANSWER, YAI, the Kelberman Center and several other autism organizations. In addition, he writes, lectures, and provides training internationally on the topic of social skills training and managing challenging behaviors. He is an award winning author of 7 books, including Social Skills Training for Children and Adolescents with Aspergers Syndrome and Social Communication Problems; Preparing for Life: The Complete Handbook for the Transition to Adulthood for Those with Autism and Aspergers Syndrome; The Social Skills Picture Book; The Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond; No More Meltdowns: Positive Strategies for Managing and Preventing Out-of-Control Behavior; No More Victims: Protecting those with Autism from Cyber Bullying, Internet Predators & Scams; and Overcoming Anxiety in Children and Teens. His work has also been featured on ABC World News, Nightline, Fox News, the CBS Early Show, and the Discovery Health Channel.



Dani Bowman

Founder & Chief Creative Officer of Power Light Animation Studios

Dani Bowman founded her company, Powerlight-Studios at age 11. Now 20, she has worked professionally in the animation industry since 14, premiering 4 award winning animated short films at San-Diego Comic-Con each year for the past 4 years, that include voice overs of Joe Mantegna, Tom Kenny (Sponge Bob), and Stella Ritter in her projects, as well as other voice actors on the autism spectrum. Knowing the special talents of people with autism, Dani employs others on the spectrum at Power Light Animation Studios as musicians, artists, and voice

actors. Dani's combined her six passions, Autism Advocacy, Public Speaking, Animation, Illustration, Fine and Visual Arts, and Teaching Animation to young adults on the spectrum and other disabilities in hopes to inspire them to follow their dreams.

Since age 15, Dani has taught summer animation camps around the country, both with Joey Travolta's Inclusion Films camps, and expanding out on her own to show others that anything is possible. Her contributions to the autism community have been acknowledged widely including as the first American with Autism honored at Anna Kennedy's "Wear It for Autism" event in London in October 2014, and the Temple Grandin Award from Future Horizons in 2012.

Additionally, Dani enjoys speaking about autism and the need for self sufficiency and employment. Among other speaking engagements, she was the keynote speaker at Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALICON) 2014, and was the closing keynote speaker at APSE on June 2015 in Philadelphia.



Daniel Openden, PhD, BCBA-D

President and CEO of the Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center

Dr. Daniel Openden became SARRC's President and CEO in July 2013, after having served as Vice President and Clinical Services Director since 2007. He earned his doctoral degree in special education, disability, and risk studies at UC Santa Barbara. Danny's first pivotal encounter with autism occurred when he was a college senior working as a second-grade aide with a girl with autism in a mainstream classroom. Attending school with her every day (while he took college classes at night), forever changed Danny's perspective about what's possible for people with ASD: "That experience led me to believe that kids with autism can be educated in the same environments as anybody else and integrated with the rest of the community." Since then, Danny has worked extensively with families and children with ASD on both federal and state funded research projects. He has also provided consulting and training for school districts across the country, published peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, and presented research at regional, state, and national conventions. He credits taking acting lessons as a child and playing in small television roles until he was 14 with giving him the confidence to become a talented presenter and leader. He and his wife Erica have two young sons. The Phoenix Business Journal in 2011 named Danny one of Phoenix's "Forty Under 40" up-and-coming community leaders.



Richard Rosenberg, PhD

Lead Vocational Coordinator, Career Connection, Whittier Union High School District

Richard received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in Behavioral Disabilities and Educational Administration. Richard has had over 30 years of teaching and administrative experience as well as being a faculty member at California State University, Los Angeles. Currently, Richard is the Vocational and Training Coordinator for Whittier Union High School District's (WUHSD) Career Connection. He was identified as the WUHSD Teacher of the Year for the 2009-2010 school year. Richard's special education administrative position coordinates vocational and career support for all students with special education needs for 6 high schools and 2 continuation schools and provides technical assistance for adult agency providers, supported employment and supported living services. Richard has worked for a number of years with Interagency Systems Change grants linking Education, Rehabilitation and Developmental Disabilities services at local, state and national levels.

OTHER DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS

Shahla Ala'i-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). NTAP is a service, training and research program working in cooperation with several global partners, with applied anthropologists, and with Easter Seals North Texas. Shahla teaches classes on ethics, autism intervention, parent training, applied research methods, and behavior change techniques. Shahla served on the governing board of the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) and as a subject matter expert on supervision and ethics. She has published and presented research on ethics in early intervention, play and social skills, change agent training, conditioned reinforcement, and evidence-based practice. In 2012, she was awarded an Onassis Foundation Fellowship for her work with families and was also the recipient of the "Fessor Graham" award, UNT's most cherished teaching award. She is currently collaborating on a book that explores the role of spirituality and science when parents are making decisions for their children with autism.

Robin Bailor, MEd

Lead Montessori Teacher, St. Mary Children's House

Robin Bailor is the lead Montessori teacher at St. Mary Children's House where she has worked since 2003. During

this time she has worked with a large variety of children. Prior to working at St. Mary, Mrs. Bailor taught in Oklahoma City school system and several small private schools. Mrs. Bailor has participated in developing curriculum with the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, and has worked as an adjunct instructor at Oklahoma City University. Mrs. Bailor received her Bachelor of Science degree in SPED from Phillips University in 1985. After her time at Phillips she received her Montessori 3-6 credential from the American Montessori Society in 1985. After teaching for several years she then obtained her Montessori 6 -9 credential and a M.Ed. from University of Central Oklahoma in Special Education.

Sarah Baker, MA, CCC-SLP

Owner, Baker Speech Clinic

Sarah is owner of Baker Speech Clinic, a private practice in south Oklahoma City. She graduated from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center 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.

Carolyn Cantwell, MSE

Special Education Teacher, Jenks West Elementary

Carolyn Cantwell has been in education for 34 years. The last 28 years has been spent teaching special education for pre-K through 5th grade. She currently teaches the developmental three year old program at Jenks Public Schools. In addition, Carolyn mentor's new teachers and provides leadership and resources for her building's Behavior Intervention Strategy Team. Carolyn has a passion for understanding and helping teachers, students and their families with behavioral challenges.

Lindsey Paden Cargill, MA, CCC-SLP

Therapy Manager of Helping Hands Center for Special Needs and Trainer for the Center for AAC and Autism
Lindsey Paden Cargill, M.A., CCC-SLP is a speech-language pathologist and Therapy Manager at Helping Hands Center for Special Needs in Columbus, Ohio. HHC serves approximately 65 children using high-tech AAC devices. She serves her caseload on an interdisciplinary therapy and education team by providing direct service and consultation. She is also a trainer for the Center for AAC & Autism's Language Acquisition through Motor Planning (LAMP) program. As a trainer she provides consultation and training for children with autism, their families and providers across the United States. Lindsey has extensive presenting experience at workshops across the US and UK as well as at regional, national and international conferences.

Amanda Cothern, MS**Graduate Research Associate, Human Development & Family Science, Oklahoma State University**

Amanda Cothern is a Graduate Research Associate in the Human Development Family Science department at Oklahoma State University. Ms. Cothern has 12 years of professional experience working with individuals with intellectual disabilities (ID). Her dissertation research focuses on employment opportunities and outcomes for individuals with ID in Oklahoma.

Rene' Daman, MS, PT**Director of the Oklahoma Autism Network, Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities and Autism University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

Rene' is the co-director of the Oklahoma Autism Network in the Tolbert Center for Developmental Disabilities and Autism. She has been with the Tolbert Center in the Department of Rehabilitation Science since 1999. Rene' has worked with families and their children with disabilities, including autism since 1993. She is the co-principal investigator for the ConnectedKids program, a parent training program for parents of young children with autism. Rene' chairs the Oklahoma Family and Interagency Autism Council, is a member of the Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel for Developmental Disabilities, and serves on the Developmental Disabilities Services Advisory Committee for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. She provides services to children and their families through the ConnectedKids program, through a contract with Norman Public Schools and through collaboration with the Department of Rehabilitation Services and Goodwill Industries in Tulsa helping high school students with autism find employment after graduation. She provides training through OAN for families and professionals.

Aria Dean, MEd, BCBA**ABA Case Manager, Autism Treatment Program, Easter Seals North Texas**

Aria graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Master of Special Education with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA). Aria has worked as an early childhood special educator for Norman Public Schools. She led an autism specific preschool program where she utilized ABA principles to facilitate programming. Currently, Aria is an ABA case manager for the Autism Treatment Program of Easter Seals North Texas where she develops and supervises comprehensive programs for children with autism and their families.

Angela Donley**Autism Family Support Partner, Oklahoma Family Network**

Angela Donley married her high school sweetheart Steve, and has 1 son, Jackson, who is 10 and in fourth grade. She is the Oklahoma Family Network Autism Coordinator. Her son was diagnosed with autism at the age of 20 months and she had a wonderful supporting parent through OFN and is now glad to be working there and paying some of that support back. Angela is a 2012 graduate of Partners in Policymaking and also a LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) Fellow in the family discipline. She works with the Oklahoma Autism Center

providing the parent perspective for professional trainings and programs. She also serves as Vice Chair on the Interagency Coordinating Council for Early Childhood Intervention, as the family voice for school aged children on the DDS Policy Advisory Committee, and sits on the Oklahoma Family and Interagency Autism Council and the Oklahoma Combating Autism Leadership Team.

Doris Erhart, BA

Leadership & Transition Coordinator, Oklahoma Family Network

Doris Erhart has over 15 years experience in the field of developmental disabilities, working with families, self-advocates and agency staff in the development of projects and programs. She has been involved at the local, state and national level in the areas of advocacy and systems change. Doris is a co-founder and past President of the Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma. She was also a founding Board member of the Down Syndrome Affiliates in Action. In 2010, she was the recipient of the National Down Syndrome Society's National Policy Champion Award. She is currently a member of the OK Department of Human Services Citizens Advisory Panel on Disabilities. Doris works with various organizations on a part-time basis, including the Oklahoma Family Network. Prior to her work in the field of disabilities, Doris was employed by the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. She received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from the University of Central Oklahoma. Doris resides in Oklahoma City with her husband, Mike and son, Aaron, who has Down syndrome.

Wanda Felty

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

Wanda Felty is mother of three daughters. Her middle daughter, Kayla, has a developmental disability and complex medical condition. Kayla graduated from Noble High School and continues to live at home. Wanda is the Leadership and Advocacy Coordinator for the Center for Learning and Leadership, Oklahoma's University Center of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at OU Health Sciences Center and Core Faculty for the Oklahoma LEND Program. She coordinates the quarterly DDS Waiting List Meeting helping families connect with state agency administration and legislators. She serves on the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, appointed by the past three Oklahoma Speakers of the House of Representatives, representing a parent of a child with special needs. Additionally, she represents the family perspective on many state agency advisory boards, committees and task force. In 2013, Wanda was appointed by Governor Mary Fallin to serve on the newly created Governor's Blue Ribbon Panel as Vice Chair. The Blue Ribbon Panel was created to address the long DDS Waiting List for waiver services and the disability service system to find and recommend changes to improve services and supports. She and her husband started the first national "r" Word Campaign, www.therword.org and they are owners of PhotoPros of Oklahoma, A Special Touch Portraits. She and her husband are both accredited with "Special Kids Photography of America."

Kathy Gary, MEd

Kathy Gary earned her BA in Exercise Physiology from The College of Saint Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota, and later

went on to earn her MEd from the University of Minnesota Duluth. After working as a certified athletic trainer for a few years, she decided to pursue a new challenge and earned her Master of Nursing degree from the University of Minnesota. Kathy worked as a registered nurse at Abbott Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis, and gained experience in the fields of cardiology, organ transplant, and postpartum/newborn care prior to moving to Oklahoma. She is married and currently a stay-at-home parent to four wonderful children, including her son, Henry, who was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder at age two. She is very excited to be participating in this year's conference and sharing her parent perspective regarding school transition and creating appropriate learning opportunities for her child.

Sandy Ingraham, JD, MSW

Attorney-at-Law

Sandy completed undergraduate work in English Literature and Philosophy at Central State University in Edmond, Oklahoma, earning a Bachelor of Arts in both fields. She did post graduate work in Philosophy, Social Work and Law, earning a Master of Social Work (with highest honors) and a Juris Doctorate Degree (with honors) from the University of Oklahoma. Current professional activities for Sandy include practicing law as a sole practitioner and maintaining an active practice as a social policy consultant. She consults and trains in Oklahoma and throughout the nation on advocacy, legislative process, lobbying, legal issues, dispute mediation, needs and asset assessment, community capacity building, addressing poverty, strategic planning, policy development and creative financing for social programs. As a consultant, Sandy actively promotes a service delivery philosophy that emphasizes early intervention and prevention, provides comprehensive services based on needs, and makes the best use of resources through effective practices like integrated funding and community decision-making. She watched and lobbied the Oklahoma legislature for more than three decades. She documented a variety of social concerns through more than one hundred research projects, assessments, publications and articles. In addition to lecturing as a guest at various universities, Sandy taught graduate level classes for fifteen years at the University of Oklahoma, Graduate College of Social Work. As an attorney, Sandy spends most of her time in the areas of adoption and estate planning. Sandy combines her legal skills with her knowledge of social policy and programs in several areas, including facilitating special needs adoptions, creating trusts to help protect and provide for people with disabilities, estate planning for non-traditional families and protecting children being raised by their grandparents. Sandy is legal counsel for several state, national and international charitable, non-profit organizations. Sandy is the recipient of numerous awards and honors as a result of advocacy and program development on behalf of women, children, older citizens, non-traditional families, those who are mentally ill, people with disabilities, people who are homeless and those who are poor.

Jennifer Jones, PhD

Assistant Professor of Human Development & 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 intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families through research, teaching, and community engagement. She currently serves on the Oklahoma Advisory Committee on Services to Persons with Developmental Disabilities and co-leads the National Core Indicators project

for Oklahoma. She knows first-hand the unique joys and challenges of parenting a young adult with an intellectual disability and the hard work of developing a sustainable system of support.

Kami Gallus, PhD, LMFT

Associate Professor of Human Development & Family Science, Oklahoma State University

Dr. Kami Gallus is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Associate Professor of Human Development and Family Science at Oklahoma State University. Her research and clinical work is focused on exploring systemic factors of growth and resilience following stressful life event and traumas throughout the life span. Most recently, her work focuses on exploring quality of life and family resilience among individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Through her professional work and personal relationships with individuals with disabilities and their families she has first-hand experience of the reciprocal benefits of inclusion.

Kim Kittelson, MS

Building Principal, Jenks West Elementary

Kim Kittelson has been in education for 19 years. She spent 15 years working as a speech language pathologist and district special education coordinator dealing with severe communication issues and assistive technology, as well as behavior issues. Kim has spent the last 4 years as a building principal and helps to oversee and monitor special education programming and staffing at Jenks West Elementary. Kim is a proponent of helping teachers and staff identify strategies and materials to help all students succeed to their full potential.

Julie Lackey

Founder, LeadLearnLive

Julie is honored to be the parent of a son with Asperger's Syndrome. Her passion is advocating and working to overcome obstacles that pertain to those with disabilities similar to what her son is challenged with. She has worked with school systems to implement social skills programs for students with Asperger's Syndrome/High Functioning Autism beginning at the 6th grade level through High School. The programs she originated, based off of Dr. Jed Baker's model programs, currently run at 4 school sites in Owasso, OK (Peer Connections) as well as other high schools in the Tulsa metro area. She co-leads a support group for mothers of kids with Asperger's/High Functioning Autism in the greater Tulsa area. She received the 2012 Outstanding Board Member of the year from the Autism Center of Tulsa as well as the 2013 Parent Advocate of the Year from TARC. She founded Lead Learn Live, which has a mission of putting in place Comprehensive Transition Programs in 4 year colleges for students with disabilities in Oklahoma. When she is not serving as wife, mother and community advocate, you can find Julie at MATRIX Architects and Engineers in the position of Sr. Associate and Director of Interior Design.

Catrina C. Litzenburg, PhD

Psychology Fellow

Catrina is currently completing her second year as a postdoctoral fellow in pediatric psychology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), where she provides clinical service in behavioral sleep medicine under the supervision of Theodore L. Wagener, Ph.D. She is originally from Michigan, and earned her B.S. in psychology from Western Michigan University. Katrina completed her graduate training in clinical health psychology at the University of Kansas. She completed her pre-doctoral internship in clinical psychology at OUHSC where she specialized in pediatric/clinical child psychology as well as primary care psychology.

Jennifer Moyano, OTR/L

Putnam City Schools

Jennifer Moyano has served children with autism and their families as an occupational therapist for 17 years through early intervention, school-based, home-based and clinical services. She has provided training to families, service providers, and teachers as the Training and Outreach Coordinator for the Oklahoma Autism Network at OUHSC. During her time with the Oklahoma Autism Network she assisted in the development of integrated community programs including recreational athletics, preschool play groups, and faith-based children's ministries. Jennifer currently works as an occupational therapist in the Putnam City School District with student ages 3-21.

Alicia Re Cruz,

PhD

Department of Anthropology, University of North Texas

Since 1986, Alicia Re Cruz has worked in the area of migration. Her professional career started with Maya peasants in the Yucatan and the cultural transformation associated with Maya migration towards Cancun. She is the author of *The Two Milpas of Chan Kom* (1996) and the video producer of an ethnographic documentary, *The Maya Dreams of Chan Kom* (2006), which analyzes the political, socio-economic and cultural effects of Maya migration to Cancun.

Currently, Re Cruz focuses on transnational migration, particularly in reference to the Latino immigrants. She has devoted the last two decades to the multi-dimensional cultural phenomenon of migration, either trans-local, in reference to rural-urban indigenous migration or trans-national in reference to migration across borders. Among the anthropological studies related to transnational migration, Alicia Re Cruz is the author of *Migrant Women Crossing Borders* (1998), *Taquerías, Laundromats and Protestant Churches, the Landmarks of the Hispanic Barrios in Denton* (2005), *When Immigrants Root and Transnational Communities Grow* (2005). In 1999, she started the Immigration Resource Council for Conflict Resolution a program aimed at dealing and solving issues and problems emerging from cultural clashes and misunderstandings. She was the director of this program until 2002. She has continued her professional career weaving anthropological theory and praxis. For instance, she has participated as a professor in a Bilingual Education program, teaching public school teachers how to utilize basic anthropological concepts and methods in their classrooms. The focus on applied work has brought her to explore the area of Legal Anthropology because of her applied work with VAWA (Violence against Women Act) and Human Trafficking programs. In addition, Alicia Re Cruz has adventured in numerous interdisciplinary arenas; the most current include collaborations in the area of autism treatment and on inter-cultural education in Europe and the US.

Marilyn L. Sampilo, PhD**Psychology Fellow**

Marilyn is currently completing her second year as a postdoctoral fellow in pediatric psychology at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center (OUHSC), where she provides clinical service in behavioral sleep medicine under the supervision of Theodore L. Wagener, Ph.D. She is originally from Maryland, and earned her B.A. in psychology from the University of Miami in Florida. Marilyn completed her graduate training in clinical child psychology at the University of Kansas. She completed her pre-doctoral internship in pediatric psychology at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia where she also completed training in pediatric behavioral sleep medicine.

Elizabeth Strickland, MS, RD, LD**Founder of ASD Nutrition Seminars & Consulting**

Elizabeth Strickland is a Registered Dietitian specializing in integrative nutrition therapy for infants, children, and young adults with developmental disorders, chronic illnesses, and special health care needs. Elizabeth's area of expertise includes Autism Spectrum Disorder, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, and other related conditions. She has over 30 years of experience ranging from providing medical nutrition therapy, staffing pediatric specialty clinics, mentoring dietitians, and presenting seminars.

Elizabeth is the founder of ASD Nutrition Seminars & Consulting, a nutrition consulting firm that serves families, professionals, educational systems, private organizations, and government programs. Elizabeth is also a published author; the title of her book is "Eating for Autism ... The 10-Step Nutrition Plan to Help Treat Your Child's Autism, Asperger's, or ADHD". Elizabeth earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Dietetics from Louisiana State University and a Master of Science degree in Nutrition from the University of Georgia.

Erin Taylor, PhD**Adult Advocacy Training Coordinator**

Erin Taylor is the mother to five children. She coordinates the Partners in Policymaking program at the Oklahoma Developmental Disabilities Council.

Kathy Thompson

Kathy Thompson has a MS in Speech Pathology, practicing for 15 years in Oklahoma before pursuing her Ph.D. work in 2004. She is the mom of 6; her youngest son was diagnosed with classic autism at the age of 4. After this diagnosis, she began exploring educational and community resources to help integrate him with his peers and to develop his full potential. He is now 13 and thriving in all areas of school, home, and community. Kathy also spent many years as the Chair for the Oklahoma Autism Piece Walk and was the Chair of the Walk Now for Autism Speaks in the years prior. She lives in Oklahoma City with her husband, children and an array of animals!

Lori Wathen**Region 3 Coordinator, Sooner SUCCESS, University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center**

Lori Wathen is currently employed at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. She is the Region 3 Coordinator for Sooner SUCCESS, who provides resources and information to families that are raising a child with special needs. Lori is married to Brian Wathen and they live in Norman, Oklahoma. They are the proud parents of a son Reis, who was born with Down syndrome. Lori is a 2010-2011 LEND, Leadership and Education in Neurodevelopment Disabilities, Fellow graduate representing Parent/Family issues. She currently serves as a member of the IDEA-B Advisory Panel, Special Education Resolution Center Advisory Board, ABLE Tech Statewide Consumer Advisory Council, Moore Schools Transition Team and Down Syndrome Association of Central Oklahoma Board of Directors.