

Meeting our full potential...

Sponsored by: The Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation and
The Center for Community Inclusion, LIU Post

The 10th Annual Conference on Best Practices in the Education of Children with Down Syndrome November 22 & 23, 2013

LIU Post

Hillwood Commons, 720 Northern Boulevard
Brookville, New York 11548

FRIDAY'S KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

David Egan
Self Advocate



John T McNaught
Virginia Department of Education



Helene Fallon
Long Island Parent Center



SATURDAY A DAY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

Kathleen Egan
David's Mom



Directions to LIU POST

From the West: L. I. Expressway to Exit 39 (Glen Cove Rd). Go North to Northern Blvd. (Route 25A). Turn right. Go 2 miles to L.I.U., Post Campus (Tilles Center) – West Gate. Turn right onto Post Lane, pass Tilles Ctr., to Hillwood Commons.

From the East: L. I. Expressway to Exit 41N (Rte. 107). North on 107, bear left at fork where 106 & 107 split. Turn left onto Northern Blvd. (Rte. 25A). At first light, turn left into L.I.U. (East Gate). Immediately turn right onto University Dr. At 2nd stop (West Gate), turn left onto Post Lane - follow directions above.

Meeting our full potential...

Friday, November 22nd

8:00 AM — Registration ~ Refreshments will be served

9:00 AM — Keynotes Begin...

"Imagining the PossAbilities" by David Egan, Self Advocate

"I'm Determined" by John T McNaught, M.Ed, Co-Director T/TAC @ JMU I'm Determined Project

"Self Determination" by Helene Fallon, M.Ed., Director of the Long Island Parent Center and Long Island Communities of Practice

Session One

11:00–12:00

1. Think College/Project Search — Naomi Brickel,
Project Coordinator, Hudson Valley Special Education Parent Center & Transition Resource Center
Program Director at Westchester Institute For Human Development
2. Strengthening Reading Comprehension Skills through Fluency Building of Core Language Components
Kimberly Nix Berens, Ph.D., BCBA-D
3. Off to the Right Start: Important Issues for the Early Years — Kathleen Feeley, PhD, BCBA

Box Lunch (*Hillwood Commons*) 12:00–12:45

Session Two

12:45–1:45

1. Self Directing Your CSS Adult Services — Valerie DeClara, Visions of Independence and Choice (VIC),
CSS Support Broker
2. APProaching Language Through iPad Technology — Lorianne Hoenninger, MS, ATP
3. Guess what? It works for us too—Using Applied Behavior Analysis to Meet the Needs of Children with Down Syndrome — Sara Bauer & Nicole Neil

Session Three

2:00–3:00

1. Addressing Challenging Behaviors — Sanja Cale, PhD, BCBA-D
2. School District Panel
3. Meeting the Communicative Needs of Children with Down Syndrome — Kathleen M. Feeley, PhD, BCBA

Meeting our full potential...

Saturday, November 23rd

A great opportunity for families of children with Down syndrome and the professionals who serve them. While parents and professionals attend informative workshops, children with and without Down syndrome will be engaged in educational activities, come together for lunch, and have an afternoon of recreational activities organized by LIU Post's athletes. This is a great opportunity for families to connect, and it provides children with and without Down syndrome an opportunity to build relationships with other children with Down syndrome and their siblings.

PARENTS AND PROFESSIONALS

- Kathleen Egan "A Parent's Perspective"
- Valerie DeClara "Student run IEP Meetings and The IEP Team"
Believe they can and they do! Self Advocacy begins here!
- Kathleen M. Feeley "Looking Back and Moving Forward—10 Years of Change"
- Siblings of Children with Down Syndrome "We have a few things to say"

Breakout Sessions

- Diane Ripple, "Creating Visuals that Enhance Learning" and "Strategies for Making Peer Connections at Home and School"
- Randy Young, "AT in the IEP"
- Kathleen M. Feeley, "Your Child's Behavior — It's More Important Than You Think"
- Facilitated by Mike Hoffman, D.A.D. "Tips for Changing Perceptions"
- Nicki Pombier Berger "Nothing About Us Without Us"

SIBLINGS AND CHILDREN/INDIVIDUALS WITH DOWN SYNDROME

Morning Program

- Creative Arts, Literacy Project, and Making Music
- Sibling Empowerment Sessions — Lead by a Denise Mussler, NYS Certified School Counselor ~ Siblings will meet in small groups to discuss the triumphs and challenges of being a sister/brother to someone who has Down syndrome.



Pizza Lunch at the Pratt Center

Afternoon Program

- "Dancing with the Stars" Lead by LIU Post's Dance Team
- "Sports, Sports, Sports" Lead by LIU Post's Athletes



Keynote Speakers

David Egan is an eager advocate for people with special abilities. Born in Madison, WI in 1977, he now lives in the Washington DC area and enjoys being close to Congress to be the voice of those who are not as lucky as he is. David is the oldest of 4 children and is proud to have a competitive job at Booz Allen Hamilton as a staff employee in the Distribution Center on the McLean Campus since 1998. He is involved with Down syndrome associations across the country; first to be elected to serve on the national board of Down Syndrome Affiliates In Action (DSAIA), the Down Syndrome Association of N. Virginia and as an ambassador for the National Down Syndrome Society. Special Olympics plays a big part in his life in his role as an athlete and a Global Messenger. David has been involved in community outreach starting in 1999 where he volunteered at the Special Olympics World Games in North Carolina and in 2011 at the World Games in Athens Greece. In 2010, he testified for the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee, which convened a series of hearings to examine how to improve employment opportunities for people with intellectual disabilities. He also participated in the historical event at the United Nations, where he spoke about the rights of people with disabilities on World Down Syndrome Day 03.21.12 (www.davideganadvocacy.com)

John T McNaught, M.Ed has been working in special education for the past 15 years. His undergraduate degree is from the University of Richmond and his Masters from James Madison University (JMU). Starting his career at a residential wilderness school for at-risk and youth with emotional disabilities, John was also a high school special educator and supervised a community work-study program for students with disabilities. One of the first in Virginia to implement student-directed IEP meetings, he worked diligently to bring students' voices to the forefront. For 8 years, John has worked at the Virginia Dept. of Education's Training and Technical Assistance Center at JMU, focusing on transition and positive behavior supports. A founding member of the Virginia's "I'm Determined Project" he has served as State Coordinator for the past 5 years. Since, "I'm Determined" has grown from 9 pilot schools to over 60 school divisions in Virginia and over 30 states nationally. Recently, John became the co-director of the Virginia Dept. of Education's Region 5 Training and Technical Assistance Center.

Helene Fallon, M.Ed. has a background in social work and education with extensive training in education and improving outcomes for children and young adults with disabilities. She is the parent of two children with special needs. Working nationally as a professional development specialist, she conducts trainings on many topics, always focusing on collaboration and effective communication in education.

Kathleen Egan, Ph.D is the proud mother of David who was born in 1977 with Down syndrome, the oldest of four children. As a professional, Kathleen earned her Ph.D in Education at the University of Wisconsin, in Madison in 1980 and her undergraduate degree at the Universite Catholique de Louvain in Belgium. Kathleen has been a trail blazer: she has created new entities such as the Bethlehem University on the West Bank (1973), and the National Virtual Translation Center in Washington DC (2003). In 1979, Kathleen and her husband John, both graduate students at the time, pursued having David in a mainstream setting and he was the first child with a disability at the newly founded Early Childhood Program at the Waisman Center and later on in a competitive job in 1996. She is currently an LMI employee working as a government Program Manager of Human Language Technology (HLT) with expertise in various foreign languages. The Egan family is involved in supporting the Down syndrome associations, the ARC and the Special Olympics movement. Kathleen is a Global Messenger mentor and has participated as a delegate or a companion to David in national and international events. Kathleen's focus has always been about innovation and improving human performance. Her son David keeps amazing her and he has taught her to believe that challenges are opportunities for new discoveries and accomplishments.

Featured Speakers...



Naomi Brickel works at Westchester Institute for Human Development, in Valhalla, New York where she directs the Hudson Valley Special Education Parent Center and the Transition Resource Center. She works with parents, professionals, and young adults with disabilities so that they can navigate disabilities services including special education and the adult service systems more meaningfully and collaboratively, and is responsible for the implementation of two capacity-building transition initiatives aimed at post-secondary education and employment for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She has played an active role in New York State policy development in all of these areas and is appointed to the NYSED's Commissioner's Advisory Panel. Naomi was a co-author of a NYSED Training curriculum, and also served as a Parent Transition Advocate for the Model Transition Program in the City School District of New Rochelle, where she provided intensive outreach and support to students ages 18-21, and their families, to assist in the difficult transition from school services to adult services. She is the mother of six children and has navigated the special education process successfully for four of them in New Rochelle where she lives and currently serves on the Board of Education.

Featured Speakers...



Kathleen Feeley, PhD, BCBA is an Associate Professor at LIU Post and the founding director of the Center for Community Inclusion. Her research addresses the early communicative needs of children with developmental disabilities as well as strategies to address challenging behavior. She has recently co authored the book "Augmentative and Alternative Communication for Learners with Moderate to Severe Disabilities" (Brookes Publishing Co.) and provides technical assistance to school districts as they include children with Down syndrome.



Sara Bauer, As the director of a Sunday recreation program for teenagers with Autism and Down syndrome, Sara first became aware of the importance of behavior analysis. Her experiences coordinating this program sparked her interest in behavior analytic interventions for learners with developmental disabilities. Under the supervision of Dr. Emily Jones in the Learning Processes and Behavior Analysis doctoral program at Queens College and the Graduate Center, CUNY, Sara continued to gain clinical experience with children with autism, but began to observe the dearth of options for young learners with Down syndrome. Since then, Sara's research has concentrated on examining behavior analytic interventions to address characteristic weaknesses associated with the Down syndrome behavioral phenotype (a pattern of strengths and weaknesses specific to the disorder). Sara has conducted successful studies addressing weaknesses in verbal imitation and requesting skills in toddlers with Down syndrome. Given the promising results of her research focusing on communication impairments, Sara hopes to implement behavior analytic interventions to address other critical areas of weakness such as exploratory motor skill development. Sara's research has been published in a number of peer reviewed journals.



Nicole Neil holds her M.A. from Brock University and has over six years of professional experience working with individuals with developmental disabilities. Nicole Neil's research interests have been focused on the assessment and treatment of problem behavior in children with developmental disabilities. As a graduate student of the City University of New York's Doctoral Program in Psychology, and under the supervision of Dr. Emily Jones, Nicole is currently involved in projects investigating applied behavior analytic assessment and intervention for decreasing repetitive and compulsive problem behaviors, for increasing communication and language, and for increasing short-term memory in young children with Down syndrome. During her masters, Nicole evaluated the effects of a intervention for anxiety in children with developmental disabilities. Nicole developed a children's workbook to accompany the intervention manual and has presented the results of these studies at international conferences including the International Meeting for Autism Research 2011.



Diane Ripple, M.A. has been a professional developer on Long Island and Surrounding areas since 1996. She started her own company, Consulting That Makes A Difference, Inc., a small company that provides professional development in inclusive education, co-teaching, differentiated instruction, paraprofessional training, community building and family coaching services. CMDI has been supporting and collaborating with schools, organizations, individuals and families to create and foster meaningful educational and recreational experiences for people with disabilities.



Valerie DeClara is the parent of three young men one of whom has Autism. Her previous work as an education advocate and her current position as a Start Up/ Support Broker with OPWDD Consolidate Support Services lead her to develop a VISION OF INDEPENDENCE AND CHOICE. Her company, named after her vision, is founded on the belief that all individuals do best when they are encouraged to follow their vision and live independent lives with choice.



Marisa Paravani is a young woman who is Self Determined. Marisa graduated high school after participating in collaborative classes. She has gone on to explore working in retail fashion and works with young children in a community program. She recently received her driver's permit and soon will be exploring a driver's education class. Marisa utilizes OPWDD's Consolidated Support Services (CSS) program to self-direct her services. She enjoys socializing with friends in her community, going to the gym and doing volunteer work. When asked about CSS Marisa says "I feel this is a great opportunity to interact with new people and I love CSS!"

More Featured Speakers...



Lorianne Hoenninger, MS, ATP has been involved in the field of education for 25 years, as an educator and evaluator of children with special needs, as an adjunct professor, and as a technology specialist working with local school districts. Dually certified in both elementary and special education, she is one of a select group of practitioners across the country to earn certification as an Assistive Technology Practitioner through RESNA. Ms. Hoenninger has presented at numerous conferences locally and nationally. She writes for a variety of trade publications, and is president of the New York State Technology and Media Division of the Council of Exceptional Children.

Sanja Cale, PhD, BCBA-D is an Assistant Professor at SUNY Old Westbury. She currently teaches in the School of Education, and her teaching includes applied behavior analysis, teaching learners with exceptionalities, autism spectrum disorders, interventions for individuals with disabilities, and research methods. Her research focuses on expanding pro-social alternatives to dealing with challenging behaviors in individuals with disabilities. She has extensive experience in providing support services to their families, and training and supervision to professional staff in public school settings throughout Long Island.



Kimberly Nix Berens, Ph.D., BCBA-D is a Founding Director of Fit Learning and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst at the doctoral level. Her work centers on using behavior analysis to transform the learning abilities of a wide-range of children, including those who are struggling, average, gifted, learning disabled, or on the autism spectrum. Dr. Berens currently owns and oversees Fit Learning locations in Northern Nevada, Southern Oregon, and Locust Valley, New York, and she is in the process of opening her first Manhattan location. Dr. Berens and her team have developed a powerful system of instruction that combines precision teaching, direct instruction, curriculum-based measurement, and relational frame theory. This system consistently produces over one year's growth in 40 hours of instruction. Her learning programs target areas such as basic classroom readiness, phonemic awareness, reading fluency, reading comprehension, language-based comprehension, basic and advanced mathematics, grammar, and expressive writing. Dr. Berens is also an experienced educational researcher who has published and presented extensively on science-based approaches to education and learning.

Randy Young, MS Ed., Education Outreach Specialist for LIPC, Administrator for TRAIID, Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities
An educator for over 20 years, has dedicated her life's work to improving outcomes for all children in our society. Randy's extensive research on Down syndrome, best practices in special education coupled with her career experience motivates her to work with parents and teachers to seek the best educational outcomes for all students. Randy is the Education Outreach Specialist for LIPC (the Long Island Parent Center) and she administrates the TRAIID (Technology Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities) Program. These grant funded programs by NYSCQC, NYSED and USDOE provide technical assistance to families and schools with a direct goal of improving outcomes for students. She is the proud parent of three wonderful children; Randy's youngest daughter Sarah has Down syndrome.



Nicki Pombier Berger is an oral historian, writer, and parent. She has a Master of Arts in Oral History from Columbia University, where she was a graduate fellow in the Future of Disability Studies Group. The centerpiece of her graduate thesis, [Nothing About Us Without Us](#), is a multimedia online collection of stories from self-advocates with Down syndrome. Nicki came to this subject in 2012, when her son was diagnosed with Down syndrome at birth. Nicki is currently collaborating with self-advocate David Egan to continue to expand the work she began with her thesis, providing more opportunities for individuals with Down syndrome to share their own stories. More at www.nickipombierberger.com.

Breakout sessions...

Think College/Project Search — Naomi Brickel This session will present innovative programs for students in transition, including school to work programs such as Project SEARCH, and inclusive post-secondary program options such as Think College, and will highlight the necessary skills for effective school to adult transition for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Off to the Right Start: Important Issues for the Early Years — Kathleen M. Feeley Navigating the early intervention and preschool world can be challenging for families and service providers. Having information regarding the full range of options can help individuals make the right decisions. An overview of placement options, intervention approaches, and preview of important decision points will prepare families to take the right choice as they proceed through this very important time.

Strengthening Reading Comprehension Skills through Fluency Building of Core Language Components — Kimberly Nix Berens, Ph.D., BCBA-D
A common misunderstanding in education involves the belief that comprehension is exclusive to reading. Educators expect learners to read with understanding, attend to details in text, and make inferences and predictions regarding reading content. Traditional strategies for improving comprehension skills typically involve providing learners with opportunities to read passages and answer questions. However, these strategies are largely ineffective with many kinds of learners, particularly for those with preexisting language delays. The current workshop will provide an overview of comprehension as an index of core language ability. The critical language skills required for comprehension will be identified and effective strategies for building these skills to fluency - a measure of mastery that targets accuracy plus speed - will be offered.

Breakout sessions...

Self Directing Your CSS Adult Services — Valerie DeClara

How to OPEN the OPWDD FRONT DOOR... This workshop will address the role of the Transition Coordinator during the high school years, the role of the parent and the student during the high school years, and provide an overview of Person Centered Planning, and Consolidated Support Services. Marisa who is a successful young woman with Down syndrome will be sharing her success story.

APProaching Language Through iPad Technology — Lorianne Hoenninger, MS, ATP

Using an iPad to expand and augment communication can be a daunting task. During this introductory presentation, we will explore the top 5 iPad apps for supporting expressive language development. Participants will learn about the communicative functions of AAC, the importance of performing a language inventory, and the basic principles of successful AAC implementation. Being able to communicate is a right, not a privilege.

Guess what? It works for us too-Using Applied Behavior Analysis to Meet the Needs of Children with Down Syndrome — Sara Bauer &

Nicole Neil Interventions adhering to the principles of applied behavior analysis have long been demonstrated effective with children with diverse disabilities. In the past two decades, their use with individuals with autism has been common place resulting in a large evidence based of effective interventions designed to target specific deficits that have led to enhanced outcomes. Unfortunately, despite similar published guidelines, intervention with individuals with Down syndrome has not progressed in the same manner. This workshop will begin with a rationale for using applied behavior analytic interventions and will proceed with demonstrations of interventions that will enhance outcomes for children with Down syndrome.

Addressing Challenging Behaviors — Sanja Cale, PhD, BCBA-D This workshop will begin with an overview of the functional behavior assessment process and then proceed with several strategies that directly address challenging behavior commonly seen in children with Down syndrome. The strategies presented will be preventative in nature and easily implemented within home, school and community settings.

School District Panel — School district personnel have been invited to the conference to share with us strategies for successfully educating children with Down syndrome in their local schools.

Meeting the Communicative Needs of Children with Down Syndrome — Kathleen M. Feeley Having recently co authored the book, "Augmentative Communication for Individuals with Moderate to Severe Disabilities" published by Paul H. Brookes Publishing, Dr. Feeley will provide procedures for enhancing the communication skills of children with Down syndrome. Strategies that can be implemented within home, school, and community settings will be presented.

Nothing About Us Without Us: A storytelling opportunity for individuals with Down syndrome and their friends, family members, and fans —

Nicki Pombier Berger Everyone has a story to tell, but oftentimes, stories about people with disabilities are told by others. How can individuals with Down syndrome tell the stories of their own lives in ways that challenge stereotypes and correct misinformation?

Strategies for Enhancing Learning through Visual Supports and Making Peer Connections — Diane Ripple Come explore two topics that are vital in enhancing the lives of children with Down Syndrome across all settings. Visual supports can increase a child's learning both at home and at school, whether it is providing opportunities for independence in daily living skills or teaching academic skills. Additionally, making meaningful peer connections at home and school can enrich the lives of children with Down Syndrome. Creating opportunities for peer connections with the necessary supports and strategies is key. During this hands-on, interactive workshop, you will learning strategies for home and school related to these two very important topics.

AT in the IEP — Randy Young This workshop explores what "AT" assistive technology is and provides an overview of the role that AT plays in a student's "IEP" Individualized Educational Plan. We will examine what questions should be considered in the assessment process. Resources will be provided to assist participants in furthering their understanding of AT. This interactive workshop will demo the iPad.

Your Child's Behavior — It's More Important than You Think — Kathleen M. Feeley Children with Down syndrome have long been described as having specific behavioral characteristics. In far too many cases, these behaviors have prevented individuals with Down syndrome from important opportunities to learn, play and work alongside their typical peers. This workshop will address the importance of systematic implementation of evidence based strategies that will enhance outcomes for children with Down syndrome.

Tips for Changing Perceptions — Mike Hoffman, D.A.D. Mike Hoffman, the President of the Down Syndrome Advocacy Foundation will be sharing tips for change, father of Matt, a high school sophomore. Mike and his family have paved the way for other families with Down syndrome in this region and have done so by changing the perceptions of others so that their son Matthew was afforded equal opportunities.

Best Practices in the Education of Children with Down Syndrome Conference Schedule and Registration

Registration Fee Friday Conference

- \$85 Professionals
 \$60 Parents/Students

*Lunch included. Those with dietary restrictions are kindly asked to bring their own food.

Registration Fee Saturday Conference

- \$60 Professionals
 \$35 Parents/Students
 \$15 Per Child/Individual with a disability

DSAF members for the 2013 calendar year receive a 10% discount

Please indicate the Friday workshops you would like to attend:

Session One (11:00—12:00)	Session Two (12:45—1:45)	Session Three (2:00—3:00)
<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Think College/Project Search <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Strengthening Reading Comprehension Skills <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Off to the Right Start: Important Issues for the Early Years	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Self Directing Your CSS Adult Services <input type="checkbox"/> 2. APPROaching Language Through iPad Technology <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Addressing Challenging Behaviors <input type="checkbox"/> 2. School District Panel <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Meeting the Communicative Needs of Children with Down Syndrome

Saturday	<input type="checkbox"/> Number adults _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Number Children/Individuals with Down Syndrome _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Number siblings/friends _____
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On both days of the conference, for a nominal fee, families can enroll their children (with & without Down syndrome) 12 months and older in our Building Blocks Play Group which will last the length of the conference
*****Must Reserve a spot by calling 516-299-3812 no later than November 15th ****No walk-ins******

**Financial Assistance is available for a limited number of families —
 Large groups eligible for group rates —**

If you are traveling, we will have a block of rooms available at the Executive Inn Woodbury
 Phone 516-921-8500, ask for the Conference on Down Syndrome - Address: 8030 Jericho Turnpike
 Woodbury, New York 11797 (for the reserved group rate you must respond by November 7th)

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

E-mail Address _____

Payment ___ Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ We accept purchase orders.

Check (Checks payable to Long Island University) Total _____

Credit Card # _____ Three/four digit security code _____

Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Please fax or mail by November 20, 2013

Fax: 516.299.4167

Or Mail to LIU Post —College of Education and Information Technology

Attention: Grace Gazzo

720 Northern Blvd, Brookville, NY 11548