



1 in 5

Parents, Educators, Adults, Professionals, & Students<sup>14+</sup>

## **Life in High School and Beyond Conference & Resource Expo**

Information on Learning Disabilities, Attention Issues, and Related Disorders

**Saturday, May 11, 2019 The College of New Jersey (TCNJ)**

Full brochure and mail-in registration at [www.LDANJ.org-Events](http://www.LDANJ.org-Events). Credit card registration [www.LDANJspring2019.eventbrite.com](http://www.LDANJspring2019.eventbrite.com).  
Early registration by May 1: Students \$25, Members \$25, Non-members \$50. Questions? 732-645-2738 or [info@LDANJ.org](mailto:info@LDANJ.org).

**8:00-8:45 Registration, Breakfast, & Resource Expo Open**

**8:45-10:00 Session A**

Workshop 1: DBT Skills: Emotional and Behavioral Regulation for Students-Bobchin

Workshop 2: The Gap Year Advantage-Bull

Workshop 3: Empowering Teachers, Students and Parents Using Microsoft Office Learning Tools-Chernetz

Workshop 4: Overcoming Learning Disability Barriers One Jet Pack at a Time-Diedrich

Workshop 5: Choosing the College Entrance Exam ACT, SAT or None-Morris

Workshop 6: Critical Legal Requirements of Transition Planning-Fingles

Workshop 7: Preparing Students to be Work Ready-Tomasetti

Workshop 8: The Successful Transition from High School to College-Hebert

**10:00-10:45 Networking & Resource Expo**

**10:45-12:00 Session B**

Workshop 1: Helping Our Late Bloomers Bloom: The Transition to Adulthood-Hughes

Workshop 2: Anxiety and Learning Disabilities-Salzman

Workshop 3: More Than Academics: The Other Skills Needed for Success in College-Arent

Workshop 4: Determining the Appropriate Placement-H. Freeman

Workshop 5: It's Complicated! Understanding Learning Challenges-Glass

Workshop 6: 10 Qualities Employers Look for in Job Candidates-Winston

Workshop 7: The Absent-Minded Professor: Executive Functioning, College and Common Sense-Murphy

Workshop 8: College Prep: Ready, Set, Learn-Endlich

Workshop 9: Left My IEP/SP in High School. Now What?-Kruh

**12:00- 12:45 Lunch-Awards-Networking-Resource Expo**

**12:45-2:00 Session C**

Workshop 1: Transformational Neurocognitive Skills for Life in High School and Beyond- Rudin & Kelly

Workshop 2: Applying to College with LD: A Top 10 List-Maxman

Workshop 3: LD Myths Can Impact Success in School and the Workplace-McGaw & McHale-Small

Workshop 4: Special Education and Transition is Not Limited to Classroom Work!-Kempski

Workshop 5: Navigating Disability Services in College: Strategies for Success - Morris-Wood

Workshop 6: Dyslexia - High School Students' Perspectives - YES! Program Ambassadors

Workshop 7: Employment is a Path, Not a Detour-Reed & Phillips

Workshop 8: Knowing the Resources: The Keys to a Smooth Transition-Ford

**2:00-2:45 Resource Expo & Networking**

**2:45-4:00 Session D**

Workshop 1: Labels Are for Soup Cans-Community Access Unlimited

Workshop 2: Proven Techniques to Increase Learning and Manage Attention-Elrom

Workshop 3: Navigating the College Maze-Meltzer

Workshop 4: Dyslexia Handbook-Tellier

Workshop 5: My Road from Struggling Student to Successful Special Education Teacher-Kramer

Workshop 6: Colleges with Superior Supports for Students with Disabilities (LD, ADHD, ASD, etc.)-Tinkler

**Workshop 7: Navigating the Unwritten Rules of the Workplace-Maher**

**Workshop 8: Transitioning to College & Employment with Executive Function Challenges-Feinman**

**4:00 Certificates for 5 Professional Development hours distributed (NJ Provider Identification #568)**

NJEA Professional Endorsement



**Parents, Educators, Adults, Professionals & Students<sup>14+</sup>**  
**Information on Learning Disabilities,**  
**Attention Issues & Related Disorders**

## **Life in High School and Beyond Conference & Resource Expo**

**Saturday, May 11, 2019**

**The College of New Jersey (TCNJ), Education Building**  
**2000 Pennington Road, Ewing**

---

### **Conference Schedule**

8:00-8:45	Registration, Breakfast & Resource Expo Open
8:45-10:00	Session A
10:00-10:45	Resource Expo
10:45-12:00	Session B
12:00-12:45	Lunch - Awards – Networking - Resource Expo
12:45-2:00	Session C
2:00-2:45	Resource Expo
2:45-4:00	Session D
4:00	Certificates*

\*Certificates for 5 Professional Development Units (NJ Provider Identification #568)

**Special thank you to DDNJ for their support.**



***Disclaimer:** LDANJ does not endorse or recommend any method, treatment, or product; evaluation or remedial center, program, or persons for children and adults with learning disabilities. It does however, endeavor to inform,*

*believing that you have the right to know what is available to assist those who have a learning disability to reach their full potential.*

**8:00-8:45—Registration, Breakfast, Resource Expo Open**

**8:45-10:00 Session A**

**Workshop 1: DBT Skills: Emotional and Behavioral Regulation for Students-Bobchin**

Participants will learn how DBT Skills are beneficial for high school and college students by targeting emotions and behaviors that stand in their way. DBT Skills increase awareness, decrease extreme emotions, provide balance in interpersonal relationships, reduce stress/anxiety, improve mood and activate effective behaviors.

**Workshop 2: The Gap Year Advantage-Bull**

This workshop outlines the many benefits of taking a gap year before or during college, especially for students with learning differences, as well as some of the potential challenges involved. It covers the variety of program experiences available and highlights current research on gap year students' performance in college. Sample student scenarios illustrate how a gap year can be structured to match students' varied interests with program options, and a list of resources is provided for researching and vetting program options.

**Workshop 3: Empowering Teachers, Students and Parents Using Microsoft Office Learning Tools-Chernetz**

The session will demonstrate modern, relevant tools that leverage the Universal Design for Learning (UDL) principles to embed features that support a full spectrum of learners. These tools and techniques allow you to address the needs of ALL students including 504's and IEP students with a single platform that reduces stigma, complexity and cost by embedding tools within the mainstream product.

**Workshop 4: Overcoming Learning Disability Barriers One Jet Pack at a Time-Diedrich**

Learning disabilities should not be a barrier to success! Dr. Diedrich will address how to overcome this barrier. Dr. Diedrich has multiple learning disabilities and will discuss his academic journey while addressing self-advocacy, building on failures, overcoming imposter syndrome, and finding jet packs to help you fly over barriers. The techniques covered in this presentation will help students transition from high school to college and excel at work.

**Workshop 5: Choosing the College Entrance Exam – ACT, SAT or None – Morris**

This workshop will help students, parents, educators and professionals learn the differences between the various college entrance exams, which one to choose, preparation for the tests, or choosing none as there are many non-test paths to college and career. The new ruling as of Jan. 1, 2017 regarding SAT accommodations will be mentioned.

**Workshop 6: Critical Legal Requirements of Transition Planning-Fingles**

This workshop will focus upon the rights of students with disabilities to receive intensive, coordinated services from their school districts to facilitate their transition from school to post-school activities, which includes both work and higher education. Consideration will be given to students' academic needs as well as nonacademic areas such as behavior, social functioning, communication, executive functioning, self-advocacy, and independent living skills.

**Workshop 7: Preparing Students to be Work Ready-Tomasetti**

Both anecdotal and statistical information will be presented from vocational supervisors and students explaining what skills are necessary for success on the job. Participants will be educated through case studies as well as be given a blueprint to implement a similar program for their students.

**Workshop 8: The Successful Transition from High School to College-Hebert**

The process of transitioning to college from high school is discussed in regard to the differences between high school and college, issues to address as college approaches, assistive technology and its relevance to the transition, the role of metacognition, and support programs and their place in the transition.

**10:00-10:45 Networking & Resource Expo**

## **10:45-12:00 Session B**

### **Workshop 1: Helping Our Late Bloomers Bloom: The Transition to Adulthood-Hughes**

The developmental lag experienced by students with disabilities, means the challenges of college and independence can be overwhelming. Assessing readiness for independence is crucial. We will explore the options, how to prepare them for managing the demands of life, school, and disability management, and surviving the inevitable tough times.

### **Workshop 2: Anxiety and Learning Disabilities-Salzman**

Many adolescents and young adults struggle with anxiety and worry. Learning Disabilities may exacerbate the anxiety and worry. Additionally, the anxiety and worry may exacerbate the learning disability. This workshop will discuss the various anxiety disorders and strategies to help students better manage their anxiety and worry will be discussed.

### **Workshop 3: More Than Academics: The Other Skills Needed for Success in College-Arent**

This workshop is designed to outline the soft skills or non-academic skills necessary for students with learning challenges to be successful in college. It is more than study skills and advocacy. Participants will be given resources to help their students with the other things they need to build self-esteem and be successful on a college campus.

### **Workshop 4: Determining the Appropriate Placement-H. Freeman**

LRE refers to the setting where a child with a disability can receive an appropriate education designed to meet his or her educational needs, alongside peers without disabilities to the maximum extent appropriate. This session will explore factors to consider when determining the appropriate setting for the student, as well as alternative ways to access supports to enable the student to access and benefit from his or her instruction.

### **Workshop 5: It's Complicated! Understanding Learning Challenges-Glass**

All parents and professionals can untangle and support the "black box" that most kids are. Issues that impact learning are heterogeneous; learning differences are complicated and almost never occur in isolation; learning challenges do not start and stop at the classroom door; and most kids with learning challenges also struggle with low self-esteem, depression, and/or anxiety. They require and deserve an empathic "Learning and Wellness" approach.

### **Workshop 6: 10 Qualities Employers Look for in Job Candidates-Winston**

Transitioning to successful careers for young adults with disabilities is challenging and without support, many don't succeed. Learn how you can teach young adults good work values, how to accept criticism, and how to advocate for themselves. See how building skills in self-awareness, organizational skills and flexibility improves their success in the workplace. Hear how you can use role-playing, internships and social coaching to help adults with disabilities become successful employees.

### **Workshop 7: The Absent-Minded Professor: Executive Functioning, College and Common Sense-Murphy**

This workshop will focus on a review of executive functioning skills across the lifespan; with a particular focus on how these skills contribute to social and academic functioning in young adults. The impact of these behaviors on functional independence and the transition to college life as well as appropriate interventions will also be discussed.

### **Workshop 8: College Prep: Ready, Set, Learn-Endlich**

Students who learn differently can thrive in college if they're well-prepared and have carefully selected a program. We will talk about the skills needed for success in college – academic, social, emotional, and organizational. We will also give an overview of available services and supports, including college readiness and mentoring programs. Questions are welcome!

### **Workshop 9: Left My IEP/SP in High School. Now What? -Kruh**

Parents, adult caregivers, and professionals do a lot to support children and adolescents on the Spectrum or with LD. All the assessments, school setting modifications, prevention plans, services are provided for the students. But what happens beyond high school? This session examines how we can best help young adults transition to their next phase of life attentive, aware, and skillful so they are prepared to thrive in a world where the environment, the triggers, and the responses might all be about to change.

12:00-12:45 Lunch-Scholarship Awards-Networking & Resource Expo

12:45-2:00 Session

**Workshop 1: Transformational Neurocognitive Skills for Life in High School and Beyond- Rudin & Kelly**  
The goal of high school, college, and beyond is to prepare for the road, individuate, and follow your dream. Ideally, you will have a passion and turn it to meaningful purpose. The acquisition of Executive Function, Emotional Intelligence, Mindfulness, Resilience, Design Thinking, and Flow can make all the difference in successfully traveling your best and happiest path forward. It also can be a major differentiator in avoiding crashing and burning on those same paths.

**Workshop 2: Applying to College with LD: A Top 10 List-Maxman**  
What are the top 10 things to consider when students with LD apply to college? Topics will include standardized testing and test-optional schools, documentation and the role of the evaluation, whether or not to reveal an LD on a college application, self-advocacy, and more. Attendees will walk away with a checklist of what needs to be done for LD students to make sure that they are set up for success in college!

**Workshop 3: LD Myths Can Impact Success in School and the Workplace-McGaw & McHale Small**  
Individuals with learning disabilities often face many misperceptions that can lead to stigmatization and unfilled potential. By exposing these myths, LDA along with our partner organization IDA, our hope is to empower students, teaching professionals, parents and lawmakers to advance the standing of all who struggle to learn.

**Workshop 4: Special Education and Transition is Not Limited to Classroom Work! -Kempski**  
Eligible children from the age of 16, or even as early as 14, must be provided with a transition plan and transition services to assist them in moving into post-secondary education, training, employment or other post-secondary activity. Learning to navigate these services can be academic, but transition may also include other kinds of instruction, related services, community experiences, and provision of a functional vocational evaluation. Also, while some school districts routinely exit young adults from special education services when they complete the academic requirements for a high school diploma, some young adults are entitled to extensive vocational and community integration services from their school districts from the age of 18 to 21. Learn more about going beyond academics and how the Department of Vocational Rehabilitation Services helps with transition both in high school and beyond.

**Workshop 5: Navigating Disability Services in College: Strategies for Success - Morris-Wood**  
Within Higher Education, there is a concern regarding the performance and retention of students with learning differences. While these students are being accepted to colleges at an increasing rate, their participation, access and utilization of services appears to be decreasing. This presentation will delve into this dilemma by identifying common theories behind this discrepancy while providing an overview of post-secondary services and identifying strategies that students and parents can utilize as they transition to college.

**Workshop 6: Dyslexia - High School Students' Perspectives – YES! Program Ambassadors**  
High school students share their own unique journey from diagnosis to success in the classroom despite the day-to-day challenges of dyslexia. They discuss the characteristics of their dyslexia, common myths they encounter, accommodations and assistive technology they use, self-advocacy and their personal stories. Included is a brief simulation designed to allow attendees to experience what it feels like to be dyslexic as well as a Q&A session.

**Workshop 7: Employment is a Path, Not a Detour-Reed & Phillips**  
In 28 years of working with post-secondary individuals with LD, ADD, ADHD, language impairments, ASD and/or executive functioning deficits, a very clear learning for the presenters has been that, in planning for success for the individual, one must consider the desired and reasonable outcomes. Employment is not the defunct option, but the desired goal for achieving independence. Join us to examine the twists and turns encountered on the paths to employment.

**Workshop 8: Knowing the Resources and Services: The Keys to a Smooth Transition-Ford**

This session will provide a wide range of information about support resources and services as students transition to post-secondary options. Unlock your resources and services today!

**2:00-2:45 Networking & Resource Expo**

**2:45-4:00 Session D**

**Workshop 1: Labels Are for Soup Cans-Community Access Unlimited**

Jump Start Self-Advocacy, LLC, the consulting arm of Community Access Unlimited's Helping Hands group, created this presentation to educate the greater public about the dangers of classifying people with different abilities. These self-advocates provide straight from the source information to the audience about treating people with different abilities as equals. Listen up! Jump Start consultants want to share their knowledge with YOU!

**Workshop 2: Proven Techniques to Increase Learning and Manage Attention-Elrom**

How do ADHD and Executive Function Deficit impact learning and behavior? This session will highlight what makes following directions and consistency so challenging; why concepts like organization and time management seem to be learned, but not followed; how using rewards and punishments often create more problems than they solve; and learn why attention and discipline alone are not enough to improve performance and compliance. There will be time for questions.

**Workshop 3: Navigating the College Maze-Meltzer**

Attorney Andrew Meltzer will present on obtaining educational supports in the college setting.

**Workshop 4: Dyslexia Handbook-Tellier**

This workshop provides an overview of key parts included in the Dyslexia Handbook released last year by the New Jersey Department of Education and how to use it to your advantage! The handbook provides information, guidelines, and recommendations for best practices. Parents, educators and professionals need to know how Dyslexia impacts older students and what they can do.

**Workshop 5: My Road from Struggling Student to Successful Special Education Teacher-Kramer**

Brittany will share her experiences both in school and at home as a person with a Non-Verbal Learning Disability and how she ultimately became a second grade special education teacher. She would like to dispel myths and misconceptions that people may have. In addition, Brittany will talk about the importance of adult support in helping students persevere through their learning challenges to reach their goals.

**Workshop 6: Colleges with Superior Supports for Students with LD, ADHD, ASD, etc.-Tinkler**

Specialized college guides, listservs and other internet information provide us with widely circulated recycled college lists for students with disabilities. These sources have frequent errors and omissions and often based on the experience of one or a very small number of students. This session will provide you with lists of regional colleges confirmed to provide superior support and arranged by disability type. Discussion includes self-advocacy and personal responsibility, what colleges offer, disclosure, and application strategies.

**Workshop 7: Navigating the Unwritten Rules of the Workplace-Maher**

Navigating the workplace can be a struggle for many people. For those with LD, ADHD and/or ASD, it can be extremely difficult to thrive due to challenges with executive functioning, nonverbal communication and social skills. This session will address many obstacles those with LD, ADHD and/or ASD face daily. Having strategies in place to be able to observe and accommodate different situations and the unknown variables that occur daily are critical to a positive work experience.

**Workshop 8: Transitioning to College & Employment with Executive Function Challenges-Feinman**

The transition to college and the workforce can be overwhelming for young adults, and even more so for those with executive functioning deficits. The development of executive functioning skills is critical for success in college and employment. This presentation will focus on the differences in skill set expectation between secondary and

postsecondary education and employment. Skill development related to being a successful student and employee with a focus on executive functioning skills will be delineated.

## SPEAKERS

**Anne Arent** is a faculty member and administrator at Maplebrook School. She is an expert in preparing students with disabilities for a collegiate experience. Mrs. Arent is a mentor and certified life coach.

**Rikki Bobchin**, LCSW, specializes in providing evidence-based treatment and has been successfully using a DBT approach since 1999. As Director of the DBT Center of NJ, she established a comprehensive Dialectical Behavior Therapy program and provides training and consultation to DBT programs and community therapists. Rikki's areas of clinical focus include treating complex trauma, borderline personality disorder, anxiety and mood disorders, and in providing parent education.

**Holly Bull** Ed.M. is President of the Center for Interim Programs, founded in 1980 as the first independent gap year counseling service in the U.S. She is an expert in this unique field, drawing on her own two gap years and twenty-eight years working as a gap year counselor with over twenty-six hundred students. She has visited numerous programs worldwide and been a keynote and panel speaker for NACAC, HECA, IECA, Gap Year Association, and the USA Gap Year Fairs, as well as at high schools nationwide. Holly earned her Ed.M. from Harvard University.

**Jessica Chernetz** uses her expertise as a Community Development Specialist at Microsoft to connect Microsoft's technology to the local community. Her training as both a special education and elementary education teacher and active status as a Girl Scout for 26 years gave Jessica the background to excel in performing her job. Jessica has worked with various organizations to educate parents and professionals on the use of technology to improve accessibility to information and academic performance of students with learning disabilities.

**Community Access Unlimited** empowers its members to achieve self-determination and exercise their civil rights. Consultants of Jump Start Self-Advocacy, LLC bring over 20 years of experience in the self-advocacy movement. Each presenter has helped many individuals and organizations "jump-start" successful self-advocacy groups. Our presenters have conducted leadership training for self-advocates and professional workshops at countless local, state, and national conferences. They have networked with political and civil rights leaders across the nation and have testified before various legislative committees.

**Dr. Collin Diedrich** has a PhD in Molecular Virology and Microbiology from University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, a Certificate in Disability Legal Studies from University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and is a postdoctoral associate researching how HIV changes immunological responses to tuberculosis. Dr. Diedrich has multiple learning disabilities and is an advocate and professional speaker ([www.ldphd.org](http://www.ldphd.org)) for students who have learning disabilities. Dr. Diedrich is founder and president of reinstated LDA PA ([www.ldaofpennsylvania.org](http://www.ldaofpennsylvania.org)).

**Andrea Elrom** is an ADHD and executive function coach. In her NYC based practice, which includes workshops, individual and group sessions, Andrea emphasizes the use of empathy and understanding to help parents develop effective strategies for addressing their children's challenging behaviors. She also works with independent schools, using a strengths-based approach to help students develop their executive function skills. In her Calm and Connected workshop series, Andrea helps families improve the overall dynamics and quality of family life by building on a family's existing strengths. Andrea earned her Masters degree from New York University in Elementary Education and received her ADHD/Life Coach training through ADD Coach Academy.

**Eric Endlich**, Ph.D., founder of Top College Consultants, is passionate about helping teens with learning differences successfully transition from high school. He works with families nationwide to ease the stress of college admissions and ensure that students find the best-match schools. In addition to being an independent educational consultant, Dr. Endlich is a psychologist, professional writer/editor, former college instructor, and special needs parent.



**Samantha Feinman**, M.S. Ed., TSHH, has presented research, workshops and professional development seminars and webinars at various national conferences, colleges, high schools and SEPTAs. As Director of New Frontiers in Learning, Samantha believes that building a strong academic and social skills foundation, coupled with the development of executive functioning skills, are the keys to success for our students in high school, college and beyond. Samantha sits on the board of CHADD of Nassau County.

**Ira M. Fingles** has devoted his legal career of over 25 years to the representation of individuals with disabilities and their families. He has provided legal representation to individuals with disabilities in a variety of areas, including educational rights for children with disabilities, benefits and services for adults with disabilities, guardianship, and estate planning. He received his JD from Temple University School of Law and is a member of the Pennsylvania and New Jersey Bars.

**Lisa Ford** is the Director of the Family Institute at The Arc of New Jersey. In four short years, Lisa has made the Family Institute the “Go to Place” for information. Prior to her role as Director, Lisa worked as a Navigator for The Arc’s Planning for Adult Life Program, which helps students transition out of their educational entitlement and into the adult world. Before joining The Arc, Lisa taught for 17 years both in the classroom and as a Special Education Itinerant Teacher in New York. She holds a BS in Education and an MS in Special Education from Wagner College.

**Hillary D. Freeman**, Esq. is a national speaker and attorney who solely advocates for individuals with special needs. Hillary advocates for clients in special education and Section 504 issues, higher education issues, guardianship, estate planning and adult services. She was named a Rising Star<sup>SM</sup> by Super Lawyers & Magazine; has been honored with Robin Sims Trailblazer Award in 2015 and has presented at the United Nations for World Autism Awareness Day. She holds a JD from Widener University School of Law and practices in both Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

**Anne Glass** has been an ardent advocate for students with learning differences throughout her career as a learning specialist. As Head of School at Purnell, a boarding school for girls with learning challenges, Anne established the Learning & Wellness Program to optimize access to curriculum and engagement for all learners. Previously, Anne was a Learning Specialist at The Chapin School in Manhattan and an adjunct lecturer at CUNY Hunter College and Teachers College, Columbia University. Anne is an alumna of Wellesley College and earned a MA in Reading and an Ed.M. in Learning Disabilities from Teachers College. She was awarded a fellowship to the Neuroscience of Reading Institute at MIT to study the brain bases of reading development and disability and implications for early identification and intervention. Anne is the recipient of the 2019 Sam Kirk Educator of the Year Award from the Learning Disability Association of America.

**Mary Hebert** is the Campus Director of the Regional Center for Learning Disabilities on the Florham campus. She has been with the program since 2013, serving as the academic counselor prior to assuming the campus director position. Dr. Hebert has been a professor of undergraduate and graduate Psychology for 14 years including teaching adjunct classes for the FDU Psychology program as well as a summer seminar for educators on the social and emotional needs of students with learning differences.

**Dr. Ruth Hughes**, PhD., has been a leader in the field of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder. During her tenure as the CEO of CHADD, she instituted the widely recognized Parent to Parent Training Program, and Teacher to Teacher, a training program on ADHD for teachers. Semiretired, she continues to present, train and write about ADHD. Her passion is finding ways to help young people with ADHD transition to adulthood. Her son with ADHD and LD has been and continues to be her inspiration and teacher. Now an adult, he is thriving.

**Matthew Kelly** completed his undergraduate studies at Brown University (Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude) before earning his PhD and MPH in Sociomedical Sciences and History from Columbia University. In addition to his scholarly work, he actively writes for the stage, and his plays have been nominated for several awards. For the past decade, Matthew has worked closely with Dr. Rudin to help children and young adults find their best and happiest paths forward.

**Christopher Kempski** is the transition coordinator for the NJ Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services (DVRS) covering Somerset and Hunterdon counties. He holds multiple graduate degrees along with doctoral education. He is well versed in psychotherapy, rehabilitation, and mental health services. His background as an educator and work in disability services with students with LD, ADHD, as well as various learning disorders brings a new light to navigating the transition curve. Christopher believes in preparing a student for vocational success!

**Brittany Kramer** is presently a second grade special education teacher in Montclair. She chose this career because of her personal connection to the experience of going through school with learning disabilities. She states that she would not be who she is today were it not for the sensitive, compassionate teachers who supported her in her journey. Brittany is currently seeking a Dyslexia reading specialty, but her end goal is to be in private practice counseling children and adolescents with learning disabilities, high functioning Autism and executive function issues.

**Miral Kruh, Psy.D.** earned graduate degrees in Theological Studies and Clinical Psychology and has spent her career supporting people with learning differences. She has trained on a number of topics related to personal and community wellness and development. Dr. Kruh joined the College Internship Program (CIP) in 2016. As the Director of CIP Berkshire in Massachusetts, she leads with a “whole-person-in-community” approach by helping young adults achieve their academic, career, and independent living goals for long-term well-being and success.

**Dana Maher** is the owner of Dana Maher Coaching, which provides coaching and consulting services for adults and students with expertise in executive functioning. Dana is also the founder of Sapphire Bridge, which partners with companies to providing executive coaching, consulting, and training services. Sapphire Bridge focuses on successfully navigating corporate and higher education environments, with special expertise in STEM fields and industries. Dana teaches and mentors others to become coaches at the ADD Coach Academy.

**Sherri Maxman**, aka The College Maven, has visited over 200 colleges (and counting) to learn more about everything they have to offer to students with and without LDs. She is a Professional Member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association and a member of the Learning Disabilities Association of America. She works with students on the college application process and speaks to groups of parents about college and the LD student.

**Beth McGaw** currently serves as the Board President for the Learning Disabilities Association of America. She is an avid advocate all individuals impacted by learning and attention issues in school and in the workplace. Her journey started with her youngest son after his formal diagnosis at an early age but continues with her clients as an Educational Consultant in Dallas, TX.

**Monica McHale-Small, Ph.D.** currently serves as the Board 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President for the Learning Disabilities Association of America. Monica retired from public education after twenty-seven years of service in Pennsylvania beginning her career as a school psychologist and ending as a superintendent. She is the parent of four adult children with learning difficulties. She brings both her professional and personal experiences with learning disabilities to her professional work.

**Andrew Meltzer** is a special education attorney with Sussan, Greenwald & Wesler. Mr. Meltzer knows on a deeply personal level the challenges families of children with special needs encounter because he was a classified student with learning differences. Mr. Meltzer’s goal is to help students with special needs attain the success in school and life they are capable of. His unique personal insights and professional experiences in special education law makes him a natural and effective advocate for his clients.

**Susan Morris** is currently the Director of Education and Principal of The Bridge Academy, a private New Jersey State Department of Education Approved school and an Orton-Gillingham Academy Approved School. The Bridge Academy serves students ages 8-18 who are average to very bright with dyslexia, language-based learning disabilities, and/or dysgraphia, dyscalculia and ADD. Ms. Morris oversees the academic program as well as the transition program from which over 87% of alumni have pursued college degrees.

**Alexander Morris-Wood** is the Assistant Director of Admissions, Pre-Enrollment Transition Coordinator and Director of Navigator PREP at Beacon College in Leesburg, FL. A member of Florida AHEAD, his goal at Beacon is to help students with learning differences and their parents prepare for the transition to college by developing unique programming that focuses on social-emotional and executive functioning skills. Alexander has a BA in History and an MS in Mental Health Counseling.

**Hilary Murphy** is a licensed clinical psychologist and formally trained neuropsychologist with a specialization in the neuropsychological assessment of neurodevelopmental and neuro-medical disorders. She has extensive experience evaluating individuals across the lifespan. Dr. Murphy has participated in interdisciplinary treatment teams in both medical and educational contexts to treat clients presenting with a variety of neurological, neurodevelopmental, and psychological needs. Her training in school psychology provides a unique perspective in collaborating with educators and parents.

**Jen Phillips** is the Associate Director of OPTIONS Transitions to Independence at the Brehm Preparatory School. Jen has worked since 1998 in vocational counseling, career development and transition to work, designing and implementing numerous employability curricula, including OPTIONS' community-based Internship Program. Along with Char Reed, Jen has created and implemented programs, supervised and mentored staff, helped students to achieve independence, and presented at state and national conferences regularly since 2012.

**Char Reed** began teaching students with learning disabilities in 1974, giving her extensive understanding of the skills necessary for students to find success in their adult lives. Char is Director of OPTIONS Transitions to Independence at the Brehm Preparatory School. Along with Jen Phillips, Char has created and implemented programs, supervised and mentored staff, helped students achieve independence, and presented at state and national conferences regularly since 2012.

**Stephen Rudin, MD**, is an experiential and collaborative mentoring pioneer, thought-leader and author. The founder of Peak Year, EFCNY, and Individual U. LLC, Stephen works with individuals in high school and beyond in finding and successfully navigating their best and happiest paths forward. He is a mentor and facilitator for intergenerational collaboration and the experiential acquisition of transformational neurocognitive skills. Stephen received his MD degree from Case Western Reserve University, but is not in the practice of medicine.

**Debra G. Salzman, Ph.D.** is a Licensed Psychologist in New Jersey and has been with Behavior Therapy Associates for over 25 years. Dr. Salzman has extensive experience in the assessment and treatment of children, adolescents and adults. Dr. Salzman has conducted numerous workshops on the topics of behavior therapy with children, adolescents, and families.

**Heather Tellier** has worked in the field for over 20 years as a special education teacher and then a Learning Disability Teacher Consultant (LDT/C). She now contributes to the Dyslexia Initiative at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ) and is also the Director of the TCNJ Student Evaluation Clinic.

**Allen Tinkler**, a combination LDTC-guidance counselor for over 30 years, is one of a handful of nationally recognized consultants on college selection and transition issues for students with special needs. To date he has personally visited approximately 400 colleges throughout the country. He is a member of the National Association for College Admission Counseling (and NJ and NY state affiliates) and the Association on Higher Education and Disability (and NJ and NY state affiliates).

**John Tomasetti** has been an integral part of Maplebrook School for more than 25 years. He is an expert in experiential learning and work readiness. Mr. Tomasetti has been a teacher and is an administrator and a certified life coach.

**Priya Winston** is a licensed social worker and lead instructor at Transitions, a college and career support program for young adults with Autism and LD. Diagnosed with learning differences herself, Priya is uniquely equipped to provide her students firsthand, personalized supports on how to succeed at college and in the workplace, a topic she recently presented in Brazil. She is working on her PhD in Social Work at SUNY Albany.

**The YES! Program** is a peer-to-peer mentoring program sponsored by Learning Ally, a leading provider of human-narrated audio books. With New Jersey being one of four hubs around the country, the YES! Program aims to provide students with self-advocacy skills and strategies to navigate the challenges their dyslexia presents inside and outside of the classroom. YES! Ambassadors take their message of hope and perseverance on the road year-round, attending various conferences and events across the country.