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NCE 2021**

## **2021 College (and Career) Planning and Transition Conference for Individuals who are Neurodiverse**

### **Vimeo Livestream**

Saturday, October 2 | 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. PDT

### **Presenter's Virtual Reception**

Friday, October 1, 2021 | 5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. PDT

*KD Harris, Executive Director, Let's Talk LD and Conference Producer*

*Kevin J. Tyrrell, 2021 Annual Conference Co-Chair, Logistics and Operation*

*Erin Harris-Tyrrell, 2021 Annual Conference Co-Chair, Marketing and Outreach*

*Aidan Harris-Tyrrell, 2021 Annual Conference Co-Chair, UX/UI Design*

*Janet Barakat, Conference Operations*

*Kimberley Harris-Phillips, Data Analytics*

*Rebecca Beam, CEO, Zavikon, Conference Partner*

*Daniel Greenwood, Educational Consultant, Greenwood Educational Associates, Conference Partner*

### **Conference Theme**

*Self-Determination and Post-Secondary Transition: Persistence from College to Career*

Those of us working to advance social justice and equity for people who are neurodiverse often consider what 'inclusive' educational settings and workplaces should look like. Understanding, honoring, and celebrating the lived experiences of students who are neurodiverse are important first steps in addressing the very real barriers that make it difficult for these learners to access experiences and opportunities that would improve postsecondary outcomes.

In 2004, the Institute for Higher Education Policy concluded:

*"The inclusion of students with disabilities in elementary and secondary education has not automatically transferred to their inclusion in higher education. However, the inclusion of these students in elementary and secondary education has created three strong forces to include these students in higher education as well.*

- *First, inclusion of students with disabilities in elementary and secondary education is a clear precedent that creates an obvious expectation that they will be included at the next level of education.*
- *Second, in 1990, IDEA was amended explicitly to require that students with disabilities be provided with transition services to lead them to life beyond secondary school including higher education, independent living, and employment.*
- *Third, the inclusion of students with disabilities in elementary and secondary education has resulted in growing numbers of these students who have the appropriate secondary school diplomas and academic preparation to qualify for higher education" [Retrieved from *Higher Education Opportunities for Students with Disabilities: a Primer for Policymakers*].*

However, according to the National Center for Learning Disabilities "*Transitioning to Life After High School*" Report (2017),

- Less than half of students 17 or older (41%) with SLD reported playing "at least an equal part" in developing goals for their transition plan and/or IEP
- 29% had not met with school staff to develop a transition plan
- About half (55%) had IEPs that identified the need for postsecondary education accommodations
- 45% of parents of students with all types of disabilities reported that most goal-setting decisions were made by school staff
- Of the 1 in 9 undergraduates (11.1%) who disclosed any kind of disability to their college in 2011-2012, only 1 in 20 (4.8%) reported having learning disabilities even though it is the largest disability category for K-12 students [Retrieved from *Transitioning to Life After High School*].

According to the American Psychological Association *Factsheet on Disability & Socioeconomic Status* (2010),

Although the Americans with Disabilities Act assures equal opportunities in education and employment for people with disabilities and prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability, people with disabilities remain overrepresented among America's poor and undereducated. According to the U.S. Department of Labor's (2017) Office of Disability

Employment Policy, the labor force participation rate for people with disabilities (including physical, intellectual and developmental, sensory, and other disability categories) aged 16 and over is 20.1 percent as compared to 68.6 percent for people without disabilities of the same age. Disabilities among children and adults may affect the socioeconomic standing of entire families. In 2015, roughly 38,601,898 people in the United States had a disability ( U.S. Census Bureau, 2015).

We must consider how to develop meaningful and impactful college and career planning and transition "best practices" for learners who are neurodiverse. It is only then that we can re-make the system in a way that allows us to fully appreciate the complexities of our challenge and, in a serious way, finally address the systemic inequities that have undermined efforts to advance social justice and educational equity for ALL people who are neurodiverse.

This year's Let's Talk LD **2021 College (and Career) Planning and Transition Conference for Individuals who are Neurodiverse** seeks to raise awareness about how to implement best practices that are designed to mitigate the barriers to postsecondary success. We have challenged our speakers and attendees to consider with great seriousness the kind of consciousness-raising that must occur, both within and outside of the neurodiverse ecosystem, to create actionable means of addressing the complex issues faced by learners who are neurodiverse as they journey from college student access, through college student success, to career success and civic engagement.

As stakeholders in the Special Education ecosystem, we must engage in critical self-reflection and consider the role that we play in impeding the advancement of learners who are neurodiverse. If we are to fully consider the impact of these inequities, we must also consider how we might work collaboratively to identify and remedy educational and social injustices that undermine college access, college success, and career success for individuals who are neurodiverse.

## About the Let's Talk LD 2021 College (and Career) Planning and Transition Conference for Individuals who are Neurodiverse

### General Information and Policies

- The LET'S TALK LD **2021 Fall College (and Career) Planning and Transition Conference for Learners who are Neurodiverse** will take place on Saturday, October 2 via Vimeo Livestream. A Speakers' Virtual Reception, to include the Beacon Award Ceremony, will occur on Friday, October 1, 2021 between 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.
- The **2021 College (and Career) Planning and Transition Conference** is a one-day Conference with a full day of programming designed for individuals who have been diagnosed with AD/HD, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and/or a Specific Learning Disability
- The conference program can be found [here](#)
- Our **College (and Career) Planning and Transition Conference for Individuals who are Neurodiverse** is one of only a few full-day college conferences in the nation that is designed and produced specifically for learners who are neurodiverse and have an interest in postsecondary educational pursuits. The conference also features programming specifically for the family members, allies, and transition professionals who support individuals who are neurodiverse
- During this year's Conference, topics and discussions may include, but are not limited to:
  - *Social-Emotional Learning and College/Career Success*
  - *The college search and admissions application planning nuts and bolts*
  - *Evaluating available academic support and college success services in relation to need*
  - *Assessing college fit*
  - *Utilizing Assistive Technology and learning strategies to improve academic success*
  - *Exploring accommodations in college (the legal and practical realities)*
  - *Exploring college transition best practices at both the K-12 and the Post-Secondary Education (PSE) level*
  - *Addressing issues relating to a student's psychosocial readiness for the college transition and college success*
  - *Discovering what can be learned from current college students and career professionals who are neurodiverse*
  - *Developing the Independent Living Skills critical for managing college life and life after college*
  - *Parent education and student advocacy strategies centered on improving postsecondary transition success (education, employment, and civic engagement)*
  - *Engaging in career exploration and assessment*
  - *Conducting research on which type of careers are a good fit for your strengths*
  - *Exploring and selecting a career*
  - *Developing a career action plan and searching for a job*

## Submission Procedures and Policies

Please review the following policies and procedures very carefully. Failure to follow these policies will result in session submissions being removed from consideration.

- Submissions are open to special education advocates (all types), admission, transition, and independent education consulting professionals, and educational, clinical, and therapeutic professionals. All submitters need to manage their Submission through our Sessionize™ Portal.
- Submissions are accepted online through our portal located at <https://sessionize.com/college-conference-2021>
- The Submission system will open at 12:00 a.m. on August 9, 2021
- Submissions will be accepted between August 9, 2021, and September 5, 2021
- Submissions must arrive by the deadline on September 5, 2021 at 11:59 p.m. (unless you have made arrangements with our conference organizers for a proposal extension)
- Let's Talk LD accepts fully planned sessions consisting of one of the following formats: demonstration; symposium; working group roundtable; panel discussion; or workshop.
- All accepted presenters, chairs, and discussants are expected to register for and be present at the scheduled sessions for which you are registered. The initial schedule should be released by September 6; presenters must register by September 15, 2021 to be retained as a Conference speaker.
- Those submitting sessions acknowledge that Let's Talk LD may record, photograph, or otherwise broadcast sessions, activities, or events related to the Conference.

## Session Requirements

- A session submission is a fully planned session consisting of one of the following formats: lecture; demonstration/performance; symposium; working group roundtable; panel discussion; or workshop
- A lecture is an oral presentation intended to convey information or educate an audience about a particular subject or topic
- A demonstration/performance includes using, showing, or illustrating a particular technique, tool, or method to convey the value of an approach, technique, methodology, research, or finding
- A symposium creates an opportunity for a small-group interaction or interactive discussion among presenter(s) and discussants. This could include a town hall meeting or any other format designed to offer key points and stimulate vigorous conversation. Symposium presenters are expected to prepare a paper or commentary paper. There must be a minimum of four and no more than six participants. The symposium must be facilitated by a Chair and must include audience participation
- A working group roundtable is designed to bring individual researchers or practitioners together for discussions where there is a potential for new substantive gains and/or cooperation. The participants in the Symposium must be from different academic institutions or across different professional fields but working on a common set of issues, problems, or themes
- A workshop provides the presenter with an opportunity to share information or to discuss a problem, project, or shared interest.
- The Session Title should not exceed 20 words.
- A Session Abstract should be provided and should not exceed 150 words.
- A Session Summary should be provided that does not exceed 500 words. Please include the session objectives, an overview of the presentation, why you believe your session is of significance, and insights about the structure of the session.

Should you have any issues or questions regarding the submission process or general conference information, please email us at [cc2021callforpresenters@letstalkid.org](mailto:cc2021callforpresenters@letstalkid.org) or call us at 626.644.0740.

Thank you. We look forward to reviewing your submission.

**2021 Conference Partners**

*Zavikon*



*Greenwood  
Associates, Inc.*

**Career Counseling Experts**