

LTLDCOLL EGE PLAN NING & TR ANSITION CONFERE NCE 2022

Let's Talk LD

**IN-PERSON 2022 Postsecondary Planning & Transition Conference
for Neurodivergent Youth/Young Adults**

Saturday, October 1, 2022

08:30 AM - 04:30 PM

**Community-Building and Activism to Strengthen Self-Determination:
Closing Equity, Opportunity, and Achievement Gaps
for Neurodivergent Youth and Young Adults**

Those of us working to advance social justice and equity for neurodivergent youth and young adults often consider what 'inclusive' educational settings and workplaces should look like. Understanding, honoring, and celebrating the lived experiences of neurodivergent individuals are necessary first steps in addressing the very real barriers that make it difficult for these individuals to access experiences and opportunities that would improve post-secondary outcomes and create the conditions for the attainment of autonomy, competence, and relatedness which are so crucial to creating a life defined by self-sufficiency and independence.

– KD Harris, Co-Founder & Executive Director, Let's Talk LD

OVERVIEW OF CONFERENCE, CONFERENCE SCHEDULE, Saturday 10/01/22

GEN=General Programming, YYA=Youth/Young Adult Programming, *Livestreamed

Block	Speaker	Topic
08:30 AM - 09:00 AM	KD Harris, Janet Barakat, Kevin J. Tyrrell, Rebecca Beam, Kelly Privitt	*Welcome Address/Intro Keynote Speaker (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)
09:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Chris Arroyo	*Anti-Bullying for Adults (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)
10:00 AM - 10:15 AM	Break	Sensory Break
BLOCK 1: 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM		
GEN 1A	Hadassah Foster	ITPs and PCP – It’s not just Gobbledygook: How to Use Person-Center Planning to Improve Your IEP
GEN 1B	Serena Manjur, Alison Sisco, and Roberta Lomeli	Synergy of Three: A Triforce Development of Support for Transition Resources
GEN 1C	Dr. Gwen Palafox	*Embracing Your Influence: Doing Good and Avoiding Evil (also LIVE-STREAMED)
GEN 1D	Regional Centers Panel/Presentation: Representative, San Gabriel/Pomona Regional Center (SG/PRC); Representative, East Los Angeles Regional Center (ELARC);	Navigating Regional Center Programs and Services
GEN 1E	Chris Arroyo (presenter appearing LIVE via Zoom; Audience LIVE; Room Ambassador appearing LIVE)	Part 1: The Arc of Advocacy/Self-Determination

Block	Speaker	Topic
BLOCK 1: 10:15 AM - 11:00 AM (continued)		
GEN 1F	Desiree Boykin, Daniel Gilman, Thomas Iland, Aidan Harris Tyrrell, Erin Harris Tyrrell, Luna Nombrano Larsen, Ben VanHook	*ttdTalks Disability Identity Development, Self-Advocacy, Community-Building, and Self-Determination (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)
YYA 01	Youth/Young Adult Programming by ABILITY FIRST: AbilityFirst	Special Programming
11:00 AM - 11:15 AM	Break	Sensory Break
Block 2: 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM		
GEN 2A	Noah Nemitoff-Bresler (confirmed)	How To Give Your Student Agency in the College Planning and Application Process
GEN 2B	Janet Barakat	Virtual Resource Mapping
GEN 2C	Eric Endlich (facilitator), Daniel Gillman, Thomas Iland, Luna Nombrano Larsen, Ben VanHook, Wesley Witherspoon	*TALK: Why Belonging and Dis/ability Acceptance Matter (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)
GEN 2D	Cindy Z. Hansen	Challenging the Assumptions of Giftedness & Twice-Exceptionalities: Reframing, and Celebrating Neurodiversity
GEN 2E	Chris Arroyo (presenter appearing LIVE via Zoom; Audience LIVE; Room Ambassador appearing LIVE)	Part 2: Regional Center Self-Determination as a vehicle to achieve general self-determination
YYA 02	Youth/Young Adult Programming by ABILITY FIRST: AbilityFirst	Special Programming
12:00 PM - 12:45 PM	Lunch/Resource Fair	Lunch/Resource Fair

Block	Speaker	Topic
Block 3: 12:45 PM - 01:30 PM		
GEN 3A	Rebecca Beam/Hilary Kokenda	*Neurodiverse Hiring DE&I Best Practices in the Talent Management and Recruitment Space (also Live-Streamed and Spanish Translated)
GEN 3B	Dr. Daniel Franklin and KD Harris	A Conversation: Why Self-Determination is a Critical Element of Positive Mental Health and Post-Secondary Success
GEN 3C	Deja Duong	Setting Goals, Promoting Academic Success, and Creating Opportunities for Neurodivergent Youth and Young Adults
GEN 3D	Chris Arroyo (presenter appearing LIVE via Zoom; Audience LIVE; Room Ambassador appearing LIVE)	Supported Decision Making
GEN 3E	Educational Leaders from the University of Southern California's Kortschak Center for Learning & Creativity and Saint Monica Preparatory	*A Conversation: Helping Students Successfully Navigate the Journey from High School to College through School/College/Community Partnerships (also LIVE-STREAMED)
YYA 03	Youth/Young Adult Programming by ABILITY FIRST: AbilityFirst	Special Programming
01:30 PM - 01:45 PM	BREAK	Sensory Break
01:45 PM - 02:45 PM - ALL CONFERENCE	David Hogg	*Keynote Address (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)

Block	Speaker	Topic
02:45 PM - 03:00 PM	BREAK	Sensory Break
03:00 PM - 03:45 PM	Araceli Gonzalez	*Let's Talk DEI: Demystifying Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for the Neurodiverse Community (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)
03:00 PM - 03:45 PM YYA 04	Youth/Young Adult Programming by ABILITY FIRST: Janet Barakat	I'm Graduating, and I Don't Know What I Want To Do-Learning About Your SPIN
03:45 PM - 04:00 PM - GEN	KD Harris, Kevin J. Tyrrell, Rebecca Beam, Kelly Privitt, Janet Barakat	*Wrap-Up and Closing Address (also LIVE-STREAMED and Spanish Translated)
04:00 PM - 04:30 PM - GEN	Resource Fair	Final Opportunity to Visit the Resource Fair

INSTITUTE and CONFERENCE PRESENTERS

[Christofer Arroyo](#), B.A. | Regional Manager, State Council on Developmental Disabilities (Los Angeles)

[Janet Barakat](#), M.Ed., M.Ed. | Instructional Specialist and Certified Transition Specialist

Rebecca Beam | CEO, Zavikon

[Desiree Boykin](#) | Consumer Advocate, South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC)

[Lydia XZ Brown, Esq.](#) | Policy Counsel with the Privacy and Consumer Data Project at the Center for Democracy and Technology

Deja Duong, Regional Manager, College Connect

Dr. [Eric Endlich](#), Ph.D. | Founder, Top College Consultants

*[Dr. Erinn Fears Floyd](#), Ph.D. | CEO of Equity and Equity in Education, LLC

[Hadassah Foster](#), B.A., COPAA S.E.A.T. | Founding Partner at H&H Associates

Dr. [Dan Franklin](#), Ph.D. | Founder, President and Clinical Director, Franklin Educational Services

*[Daniel Gillman](#), B.S. | Georgia Institute of Technology Analytics M.S. (candidate '24)

[Araceli González](#), B.S. | Ability First, Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Projects Manager

Dr. [Cindy Z. Hansen](#), Ed.D. | Educational Therapist/Gifted/Twice-Exceptional Education Consultant

[KD Harris](#), M.A., Doctoral Student | Co-Founder and Executive Director, Let's Talk LD

*[Aidan Harris-Tyrrell](#), B.S. | Co-Founder, Let's Talk LD

*[Erin Harris-Tyrrell](#), M.A. | Project Manager, Zavikon; Co-Founder, Let's Talk LD

[David Hogg](#) | Co-Founder and Board Member, March for Our Lives

[Thomas Iland](#), CHPC, AS | Owner, Come To Life Coaching

[Hilary Kokenda](#), B.S. | Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, Zavikon

[Roberta Lomeli](#) | Transition School to Career Specialist, Los Angeles County Office of Education

[Julie Loppacher](#), M.Ed., Doctoral Student | Director of the Kortschak Center for Learning and Creativity, USC

Nicole Mackey | Associate Director of College to Career, Ability First

[Serena Manjur](#), M.Ed. | Education Specialist at Los Angeles County Office of Education

Dr. Yvonne McNeal | Dean of Faculty, Saint Monica Preparatory

*[Luna Nombrano Larsen](#), M.A., MLIS Student | Program Manager, CalPoly (San Luis Obispo)

[Dr. Kim Miller](#), Ph.D. | Director of College Counseling, Bridges Academy

[Noah Nemitoff-Bresler](#), B.S. | Founder and CEO, Tutor Connection LLC

Yolanda Oleniacz, M.F.T. | Academic Support Coordinator, Saint Monica Preparatory

[Dr. Gwennyth Palafox](#) | Founder and CEO, Meaningful Growth

[Kelly Privitt](#) | Sr. Director of Quality & Data Management / Program Director of College to Career, Ability First

*[Dr. Ann Simun](#), Psy.D. | Clinical Neuropsychologist, Simun Assessment Group PC

*[James Spellman](#), M.A., M.A. | Principal, Saint Monica Preparatory

*[Kevin J. Tyrrell](#), M.S.U.A.D., AIA, LEED AP | Co-Founder, Let's Talk LD

[Alison Sisco](#), M.Ed. | Special Education Paraprofessional

[Judi Uttal](#), MSAI, MBA | President, Orange County Asperger's Support Group

[Ben VanHook](#), B.A., M.P.P. Candidate ('23) | Programs and Outreach Associate, Organization for Autism Research

[Wesley Witherspoon](#) | Project Coordinator, USC University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

*Let's Talk LD Advisory Board Member

YOUR CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS

[KD Harris](#), M.A., Co-Founder/Executive Director, Let's Talk LD (a Social Impact Non-Profit)



KD Harris has served for the past 35 years as a scholar-practitioner-activist with a practice centered around the advancement of social and educational justice for marginalized learners. KD is the Co-Founder/Executive Director of the social impact non-profit, Let's Talk LD. Let's Talk LD provides student advocacy, parent education, and professional training and development services designed to improve outcomes for individuals who are neurodiverse. In addition, Let's Talk LD produces one of only a few full-day annual post-secondary transition conferences in the nation that is designed and produced specifically for neurodivergent learners.

As a parent of two neurodivergent adult children and the wife of a neurodivergent man, KD recognizes how critically important post-secondary attainment is for individuals with hidden disabilities. Her activism and passions lie in improving postsecondary education, employment, and civic engagement outcomes for those who are neurodivergent. KD completed two bachelor's degrees at the University of Southern California, graduate work in Education Policy at the University of Southern California, and graduated magna cum laude with a master's degree in Media & Communications Psychology from Touro University Worldwide. A passionate scholar-practitioner-activist, KD is currently pursuing doctoral studies in Educational Leadership at California State Polytechnic University Pomona. Her research interests include Youth Participatory Action Research (Y-PAR), the Social-Affective Development and Disability Identity Formation of ND Individuals, College and Career Planning/Transition of ND Individuals, and Post-Secondary Civic Engagement of ND Individuals.

Janet Barakat, M.Ed - Special Education, M.Ed. - Secondary Transition, Council for Exceptional Children Certified Transition Specialist



Janet Barakat is committed to educating students, colleagues, families, and the community through establishing strong connections. She holds a Master's Degree in Special Education, Secondary Transition from the University of Kansas (2018), a Master's Degree in Special Education from Azusa Pacific University (2007), and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Marketing from California State University, Fullerton (1980). She became an educator in 2007. She taught 6th-8th grade special education mathematics, science, and reading until 2014. She held the position of Special Education Department Chair from 2009-2014. In 2014 she became a Transition Specialist and developed a secondary transition program for students with disabilities in grades six through twelve. She has served as a professional development speaker, training teachers, administrators, and paraprofessionals on secondary transition, writing standards-based Individual Education Plans, Non-violent Crisis Intervention Prevention, and Behavior Intervention Plans. She is the Practitioner-at-Large for the Division for Career Development and Transition (DCDT) Board. She is a Cadre member of the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network (CAPTAIN). She has also taken an active role in the community, developing interagency partnerships. In July 2019, she took a position as a Program Specialist for a Special Education Local Plan Area. In this role, she works with 14 school districts to provide policy, guidance, and training to their district staff. Janet firmly believes that success in education is about building relationships.