

**LET'S TALK LD IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE SUMMIT VIEW SCHOOL  
COLLEGE PLANNING AND TRANSITION CONFERENCE  
FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES**

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2018**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS BIOS**

**Kris Anderson, M.A., Vice Principal | *St. Mary's Academy***

Kris currently serves as Vice Principal at St. Mary's Academy in Inglewood. Prior to this he served as Dean of Students at St. Monica Catholic High School in Santa Monica working with the Administrative Council to support curricular and co-curricular initiatives and to help shape the school's vision. Beyond his time at St. Monica, Kris has worked at three different Catholic secondary schools as a Social Studies teacher, student moderator, and coach. Kris received his Master's degree from Loyola Marymount University in Catholic School Administration and is completing a doctorate degree in Educational Leadership for Social Justice from LMU.

**Araksya Arutyunyan, Psy.D., Learning Disabilities Specialist | *LA Mission College*  
and Neurodiversity Specialist | *Moorpark College***

Dr. Arutyunyan wears a few hats within the CA Community College system, but all focused on her passion and expertise of serving students with disabilities. She is a Learning Disabilities Specialist, who tests and tailors accommodations for students who struggle with learning. She also trains LD Specialist candidates for the CCCCO and is the liaison between the CCCCO and psychological test publishers. As a neurodiversity specialist. Dr. Arutyunyan also provides individual social skills coaching to students on the Autism Spectrum. In her free time, Dr. Arutyunyan loves to watch movies, travel, and try interesting foods.

**Bonnie Auerbach, Ph.D., Clinical Director | *Advanced L.A. (The Help Group)***

Dr. Auerbach has spent over twenty years at The Help Group working with children, teens, and adults with autism spectrum disorder and other special needs. She earned her Bachelor's degree in Sociology from Long Island University in New York and a PhD in Clinical Psychology from the California School of Professional Psychology. Dr. Auerbach's professional background includes overseeing The Help Group's Project Six Residential Program, where she helped adults with developmental disabilities build the skills needed to live more independently; supervising therapists in The Help Group's school programs on the Sherman Oaks campus; and participating in the doctoral intern Training Committee.

**Janet Barakat, M. Ed., M. Ed. Secondary Transition, Transition Specialist | *Pomona Unified School District SELPA***

Janet Barakat worked in the business world as a Sales Representative for Hallmark Cards, but always knew deep down, she wanted to be a teacher. So, in the midst of raising three children and being a wife, she decided to go back to school to pursue her passion. Janet graduated from Azusa Pacific in 2007 with her teaching credentials in General Education and Special Education and a Masters Degree in Special Education. Her first teaching assignment was at Marshall Middle School in Pomona, CA. where she taught Mathematics, Science, and Reading. During Janet's time there she was the Special Education Department Chair from 2009-2014. In 2014 Janet began her job as a Transition Specialist for Pomona Unified. In August 2018, Janet graduated from the University of Kansas with a second Masters Degree in Secondary Transition. She is currently developing/implementing a Secondary Transition program for mild/moderate student's grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>.

**Keri Borzello, M.P.A., Head of Schools, *Summit View Schools (Valley Glen and Culver City)***

Keri Borzello has worked at a variety of independent schools throughout California, including Pinewood School, Campbell Hall, and Westmark School. Borzello is currently the Head of School at Summit View in Los Angeles, which serves students with learning differences and/or ADHD. In her two decades in education, she has held a wide variety of positions - classroom teacher, coach, student advisor, elementary principal, Admissions Director, Director of Marketing and Communications, Director of Auxiliary Programs, and Assistant Director of Development. In 2011, she was a graduate of the prestigious National Association of Independent School Fellowship Program for Aspiring School Heads, in 2012 received a certificate in fundraising from UCLA, in 2018 received a certificate in leadership from Harvard, and has presented globally.

**Ashley Burrell, M.S., CRC, QRP, Senior Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Student Services | *Department of Rehabilitation***

Ashley Burrell is a Sr. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor with the Department of Rehabilitation. In her five years with the department she has worked with special groups such as the Transition Partnership Program, We Can Work and Supported Employment. Recently, she was selected to work with the Student Services program that is geared towards serving students between 16-21. She completed her B.S. in Rehabilitation Services and her M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling both at Cal State Los Angeles. She is a RSA Scholar and passionate about helping others identify and reach their employment goals.

**Catherine Calhoun, M.Ed., Director of the Student Disability Resource Center | *Claremont Colleges Services***

The Director of the Student Disability Resource Center for The Claremont Colleges Services, Catherine Calhoun has 15 years of experience in higher education disability services. A graduate of the University of Arkansas, Catherine holds a Masters in Higher Education, Student Development and Adult Education. Previous to The Claremont Colleges Ms. Calhoun served as Assistant Director of Student Support Services at Cascadia College in Washington State, Accommodations Coordinator at the University of Arkansas and Manager of the Alternative Media Production Lab at the University of Arkansas. As a former student with a disability Catherine understands firsthand the barriers students face on campus and is dedicated to helping students remove barriers and achieve their academic goals.

**Alexis Casillas, J.D., Disability Rights Litigator and Principal | *Law Offices of Alexis Casillas***

Alexis Casillas has been committed to special education advocacy since her brother was first diagnosed with autism. While studying at Columbia Law School, she volunteered for numerous organizations and with the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission and the Department of Health and Human Services. In her final year of law school at Standard, she participated in YELP, a clinic devoted providing free legal assistance to low-income special-needs students. Alexis's law career includes work at the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office and an externship on the Ninth Circuit. She now practices disability rights law, where her firsthand experience with the emotions her clients confront every day informs her approach to cases.

**Logan Clark, Scholar, *Pasadena City College***

Logan Clark attends Pasadena City College. He will graduate from PCC later this year with plans to transfer to UCLA. Logan is a youth leader and an athlete. Logan chose to study Sociology because he has always had a deep and abiding desire to help other people. He is also studying Child Development because he loves working with children.

**Asia B. Clarkson aka *DJ AsiaC*, B.S. (Candidate, 2020) Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation (Sound and Audio; Technology) | University of Southern California and DJ & Social Media Correspondent | *Let's Talk LD***

Asia Clarkson, is a Junior at the University of Southern California studying Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation in the Iovine and Young Academy with minors in American Pop Culture and Popular Music Studies. She is a member of both Scope, a coding club on campus, and the National Society of Black Engineers. If she's not studying or at meetings, you can find her managing *Big Ant*, a radio show started by myself and a couple of my Academy colleagues.

**Laura Czajkowski, M.S., Learning Disabilities Specialist | *Center for Accessible Education, University of California Los Angeles***

Laura Czajkowski is originally from Huntington Beach, CA. She attended California Lutheran University, where she obtained a B.A. in Psychology in 2012 and a M.S. in Counseling and Guidance with a specialization in College Student Personnel in 2015. Prior to working at UCLA, Laura was a Counselor for 2 years in Disability Accommodations & Support Services at California State University, Channel Islands. While Laura loves working with students with disabilities, she will always say her "first love" was found in Housing as she has over 3 years of experience in Residence Life, Housing, and Student Conduct.

**Rachel De Bruin, M.A., Transition Coordinator | *Connecting Waters Charter Schools* and Founder | *Ability-Centered Educational Services***

Rachel De Bruin has worked in special education (as a teacher and administrator) for over 15 years. From early in her career, Rachel often felt frustrated by a special education system that is very disability and deficit-centric – that is, students' disabilities, inabilities, and weaknesses consumed most of the educational focus while their abilities and interests are generally ignored. Yet, in her experience and research, Rachel found that ability-centered and transition-focused education has the greatest potential to launch students into successful and meaningful post-secondary life outcomes. As a result, Rachel has devoted her career to building transition systems that are legally defensible and meaningful. Rachel currently works as the Transition Coordinator for Connecting Waters Charter Schools as well as Founder of the non-profit organization, Ability Centered Educational Services (ACES).

**Rachel Fisher, M.A., Executive Director | *Franklin Educational Services***

Rachel Fisher, MA, is the Executive Director of Franklin Educational Services, Inc. In her role of Executive Director, Rachel provides families with educational consulting, parent coaching, and school placement advice. She collaborates with numerous clinicians and Los Angeles schools to coordinate individualized educational support for students at school and at home. Rachel has worked with children, teens, and young adults for nearly 20 years and is an active volunteer at her children's schools.

**Daniel Gilman, B.S. (Candidate, 2022), Scholar | University of Southern California Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences**

Daniel is a Bachelor of Science Candidate in Applied and Computational Mathematics within USC's Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences (class of 2022). He graduated from Tarbut V' Torah High School in Irvine, California last spring. His course of study includes the traditional calculus courses, linear algebra, probability, statistics, and mathematical modeling. His passions include college football and watching The Amazing Race.

**Loren R. Grossman, M.S., J.D., Ed.D., Educational Advocate and Independent College Counselor | *The Educational Advocacy Office of Dr. L.R. Grossman***

Dr. Loren R. Grossman has been in private practice as a lay educational advocate representing pre-K-12 children with special needs, including the gifted, highly gifted, and twice exceptional, since 1999. In 2010, she earned her college counseling certificate from UCLA Extension in order to expand her practice to include students transitioning out of high school, as well as college transfers. She earned her AB in Sociology from UC Berkeley, her MS in Health Science (Health Statistics and Research) from CSU Northridge, her JD from University of Memphis (TN), and her EdD from USC.

**Elizabeth C. Hamblet, M.S., Learning Specialist | *Columbia University***

Elizabeth C. Hamblet, a learning consultant working with students in Columbia University's disability services office, has worked at the college level for almost two decades. In addition to working as a college consultant, she is a nationally-requested speaker who educates professionals, parents, and students about how to prepare students with disabilities for success at college. Hamblet is the author of [From High School to College: Steps to Success for Students With Disabilities](#), and her work has appeared in numerous journals and online platforms, including [Understood.org](#). Explore her site, [www.LDadvisory.com](http://www.LDadvisory.com), and connect with her at [www.facebook.com/LDadvisory](https://www.facebook.com/LDadvisory) or Twitter [@echamblet](#).

**Aidan Harris, B.S. (Candidate, 2020), Scholar | University of Southern California Iovine and Young Academy and Co-Founder | *Let's Talk LD***

I am a designer, with an interest in exploring how Interaction Design and User Interface Design can shape and improve the ways that we live our daily lives. Inventiveness and innovation have always been a driving force for me. Ever since I was a young child, making and designing have been important parts of my life. When other kids were drawing monsters and cartoons, I was conceiving, drawing and constructing mechanical apparatuses, world building, and giving life to inventions derived from my wildest imaginings. As a Twice-Exceptional scholar, I long ago realized that I am driven to create, because it allows me to summon the very best parts of who I am, to solve a problem or to understand how someone may experience the world. I am currently pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in Arts, Technology and the Business of Innovation at the University of Southern California's Iovine and Young Academy. I am also a Co-Founder of Let's Talk LD and serve as a consultant on all aspects of their digital media strategy.

**Erin Harris, B.A., M.A. (Candidate, 2019), Scholar | Pitzer College and Claremont Graduate University and Co-Founder | *Let's Talk LD***

My collective experiences have instilled in me a world view, consciousness and commitment to advance social justice, intercultural understanding, and environmental responsibility. I recently (2018) completed my Bachelor of Arts in Environmental Analysis, with an emphasis in Sustainability and the Built Environment at Pitzer College. I am currently in the second year of my graduate degree studies at Claremont Graduate University, as a candidate in the School of Education's Community-Engaged Social Change track of the Masters of Arts program because I feel that the interdisciplinary potential in this track is exponential. I believe that both my undergraduate and my graduate degree work will provide an excellent foundation for me to pursue my interest in being a social impact entrepreneur. As a twice-exceptional scholar, I believe that I bring unique insights and experiences to my work as an advocate within, and Co-Founder of, the Let's Talk LD organization. I serve in all aspects of Let's Talk LD's business operations and assist in the management of the social media operation.

**KD Harris, M.A., Co-Founder and Executive Director | *Let's Talk LD***

As an educator, media psychologist, and organizational development (OD) consultant by profession, my work embodies core values that center around coalition-building, acceptance, collaboration, transparency, and valuing differences. I serve as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of Let's Talk LD, a 501(c)(3) Social Impact Nonprofit Corporation serving young people with learning disabilities, that I guided from Start-Up to the Growth and Development stage of its current business life cycle. I am a competent and seasoned social impact entrepreneur with demonstrated leadership and substantive understanding of both the operational side and the strategic side of business. My complex work as an advocate, training and development professional, and coach is particularly well-suited to service in this role. In addition to my practical business experience, I am a seasoned educational researcher, program developer, curriculum designer, and instructor. As much as I love my work, my greatest love is my two beautiful twice-exceptional (2e) children and my extraordinary husband of 34 years.

**Natasha Hikita, B.A., Scholar (Candidate, 2020) | Chapman University and Diplomat | *Eye To Eye National***

Natasha Hikita is an Eye to Eye Diplomat and a Psychology major at Chapman University. She has a passion for learning and helping others, which has led her to pursue a career in Occupational Therapy Research. Natasha works in Chapman's Affect Regulation & Health Laboratory and with researchers and medical professionals at the Children's Hospital of Orange County and the University of California Irvine Medical Center. Natasha was one of fifteen undergraduate students selected for Chapman's Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship program. She conducted an independent study on the relationship between adult behaviors, demographics, and physiology in the pediatric postoperative environment. She is an active member in the community volunteering for Eye to Eye, the Blind Children's Learning Center, and Century Villages at Cabrillo Homeless Shelter.

**Jan R. Kerchner, M.B.A., Certified Educational Planner (CEP) and CEO | *The College Blueprint, LLC***

Jan Kerchner founded The College Blueprint, LLC 18 years ago to provide a comprehensive resource for college-bound students challenged with learning differences. Jan consults with private schools and with public school districts including Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD). Each year, 800 students participate in the LBUSD SAT Prep and College Counseling Program. Additionally, she founded The Long Beach College Preparatory Academy, an academy of high performing, underserved students seeking to achieve their goals in higher education. Jan is a Certified Educational Planner and teaches a course in counseling students with learning differences for the University of California, San Diego Extension. Jan and her husband raised three children with AD/HD. All three have graduated from college, are launched in their own professional careers.

**Stephen Kinsey, M.S., Principal | *THG West (Culver City)***

Stephen Kinsey started his 17 year at The Help Group's school, THG West in Culver City where he is the Principal of the High School Bridge Program and the Vocational Education Program. Kinsey is passionate about working with young adults with special needs identify their post-secondary employment, education, and community goals and identify services and accommodations. He currently has an Education Specialist Instruction Credential and earned his M.S. in Special Education, Secondary Transition from the University of Kansas.

**Adam Lalor, Ph.D., Lead Educational Specialist | *Landmark College Institute for Research and Training***

Dr. Lalor received his Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the University of Connecticut. His work focuses on raising awareness of postsecondary opportunities for individuals with disabilities and including disability within the discourse of diversity. His recent work has focused on the development of disability related competencies for higher education administrators and the college search and application process for students with disabilities. Dr. Lalor is active in professional associations across K-16 education, and has served on the Board of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Division on Career Development and Transition (DCDT). He regularly presents at national conferences on the college search for students with disabilities, universal design for instruction, and disability-related professional development for higher education administrators.

**Dr. Crystal I. Lee, Psy.D., Clinical Psychologist and Owner | *LA Concierge Psychologist***

Dr. Crystal I. Lee is a clinical psychologist with a passion for supporting adolescents and emerging adults (18-29 year olds) transition to adulthood. She specializes in working with neurodiverse individuals, particularly emerging adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder or Attention Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder. In her private practice, LA Concierge Psychologist, Dr. Lee provides in-home therapy on the Westside of LA (Playa Vista up through Brentwood). She earned her doctorate in clinical psychology at Baylor University and her bachelor's degrees in psychology, sociology, and education at the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Grace Colman Losada, EdD, Vice President of Education | *Fusion Education Group***

Grace Losada holds an MA in Marital and Family Therapy from USD, and an EdD from USC in Educational Leadership with an emphasis in Educational Psychology. Grace has worked with diverse populations of students in various settings for over 20 years. She spent time as a clinician at Rady Children's Hospital, has been a Special Education teacher in public, private and homeschool settings, and was the co-founder of Kokua Mentoring, an Educational Therapy practice serving the Boca Raton, Florida community. Grace opened the first replication of Fusion Academy in West Los Angeles and served as Head of School for four fantastic years. She is now focused on supporting Fusionites across the country in their quest to engage students in an excellent education. She is deeply passionate about the power of collaboration between professionals in different fields, believing we are all stronger together.

**Barbara Marbach, Education and Advocacy Specialist | *Westside Regional Center***

**Mark Matsui, M.S., Director, Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) | *Rio Hondo College***

Mark Matsui has worked for more than 36 years serving students with disabilities in California's colleges and the universities. He is the current Director of the Disabled Students Programs & Services (DSPS) at Rio Hondo College in Whittier California and has worked extensively at Long Beach City College and California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has also served as the President of the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED), the nation's oldest professional organization of its kind, and is a Board member with the Asians and Pacific Islanders with Disabilities of California (APIDC).

**Marci Lerner Miller, J.D., Independent Educational Consultant | *Miller Advocacy Group***

Marci Lerner Miller, attorney and independent educational consultant at Miller Advocacy Group. Through Miller Advocacy Group, Marci Miller offers a continuum of advocacy and counseling services designed to prepare students with disabilities, learning differences, anxiety and chronic medical conditions for the successful transition to post-secondary life. Marci practiced litigation and employment law for many years before transitioning to special education law due to what she learned from the experience with her own children in the school system. Marci later received her Certificate in College Counseling with Distinction from UCLA, with a practicum in counseling students with learning disabilities. Marci is a member of The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) and the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA) with a Learning Disabilities (LD) designation. Miller Advocacy Group's practice areas include special education law and advocacy, post-secondary transition and vocational counseling, and college consulting.

**Jesse Monhaupt, B.A. (Candidate, 2020), Scholar | *California Lutheran University***

Jesse Monhaupt is an undergraduate at California Lutheran University. She is majoring in Education and minoring in Legal Studies, and will graduate in the Spring of 2020. Jesse specifically wants to teach kids with learning disabilities.

**David Montalvo, Department of Transition Services (DOTS) Teacher, James Monroe High School (Los Angeles Unified School District)**

**Vanessa Montgomery, M.Ed., Teacher | San Diego High School and Diplomat | *Eye To Eye National***

Vanessa Montgomery was an Eye to Eye Chapter Leader at UC Santa Cruz and has been an Eye to Eye Diplomat since 2011. Vanessa graduated from UC Santa Cruz in 2012 with a Bachelor's Degree in History. In 2016 Vanessa completed the Master's Credential Cohort Program in Special Education at the University of San Diego. Since graduating, Vanessa has worked at San Diego High where she created a transition class that became a club called the Caver Coffee Crew. The students serve coffee to teachers on campus which helps students with social skills, resume building, and preparing them to join the workforce. Vanessa recently received the Teacher of the Year award from San Diego High.

**Jonathan Mooney, B.A., Social Impact Entrepreneur, Author, and Advocate**

I'm a dyslexic writer, speaker, and do-gooder. I hold an honors degree from Brown University, am a Harry S. Truman Scholar for Public Service, and was a finalist for a Rhodes Scholarship. I am the author of two books, *Learning Outside the Lines* (Simon and Schuster, 2000) and *The Short Bus* (Henry Holt and Co., 2007) and am currently at work on my third, *Different: How to live, learn, and thrive outside the lines*. A serial social entrepreneur, I have created and co-founded a number of social impact initiatives including Eye-To-Eye, a national movement building organization for students with learning and attention differences; the Promo-Pathway, a program to prepare young people for employment in the creativity economy which Vice President Al Gore called "the most innovative training program for 21st century jobs in the country"; Streetcraft LA, an interest based learning network that helps formerly incarcerated young people build an education and life, on their strengths and talents which was recently featured in a Fast Company series on "world changing ideas and innovation"; and the Santa Monica Wellbeing Project, a bold idea for Santa Monica to become the first city in the world to measure wellbeing, which was named one of the five most innovative projects in the country by Bloomberg Philanthropies. I'm a widely sought after speaker on inclusion, disability rights, education and social impact and have presented in all 50 states, five countries, and numerous universities, including Harvard University, Columbia University, and The University of Pennsylvania.

**Veronica N. Norris, J.D., R.N., *Veronica N. Norris Education Law Attorney***

Veronica Norris, an attorney and registered nurse, has been providing legal services to students in Southern California for over 30 years. She is a former Commissioner of the California Curriculum Commission (advisory to the State Board of Education) and worked on curricular matters, including universal access to curriculum for students with disabilities. She also served as Chair of the Health Subject Matter Committee of that Commission. Much of her work these days involves working with college, graduate schools, and doctoral students (including medical, law, and dental school students).

**Chloe O'Hare, B.A., Alumna of Landmark College and Lesley University and Regional Enrollment Specialist – West Coast | *Landmark College***

Chloe O'Hare is currently the Regional West Coast Enrollment Specialist for Landmark College. After graduating from high school in 2012, the San Francisco-native first attended a university in Canada, where she says she received very little support to help her meet academic challenges. O'Hare withdrew from the school and, while taking time off to consider next steps, learned about Landmark College. She visited the campus and says she was “excited to find a place where I could be myself and get the support I needed to succeed.” She earned her Associate Degree in Liberal Studies with a concentration in Psychology from Landmark College in 2016, and then transferred to Lesley University to get her B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Early Childhood Education.

**Sarah Valeria Salceda, M.P.D., Community Relations Specialist**

A seasoned advocate and communications professional, Valeria Salceda holds a Masters of Public Diplomacy from the University of Southern California and has worked on advocacy campaigns and initiatives for nonprofit organizations, small businesses, and large corporate businesses. Ms. Salceda joined South Central Los Angeles Regional Center (SCLARC) in 2017 as the community relations specialist and has since focused on bolstering the communication and collaboration between SCLARC and the communities affected by disparities, transition to higher education and jobs, and educating community partners on many other regional center services.

**Robert Salinas, B.S., Assistive Technology Coordinator | *California State University at Fresno***

Robert Salinas is the Assistive Technology Coordinator at CSU, Fresno's Services for Students with Disabilities. He has six years of experience working with Assistive Technology and Alternate Media in higher education, converting textbooks and other materials into Accessible Instructional Materials. Robert has a bachelor's degree in Information Systems from CSU, Fresno.

**Danielle Sheppard, M.S., LPCC, CESP  
Director, College to Career (C2C) Program and Coordinator, Uniquely Abled | *West Los Angeles College***

Danielle Sheppard is Coordinator of the College to Career program at West LA College where she oversees two specialized programs on campus, C2C and UA. The C2C program is a program funded by Department of Rehabilitation in partnership with the State Chancellor's Office; West is one of only eight community colleges in the state awarded the opportunity to have C2C on its campus. Danielle's professional history includes employment at the Department of Rehabilitation for 11 years. During her tenure with DOR one of her specialties included working with students with neurodiversity and learning differences.



**Stacey Shinnick, M.A., Transition Teacher/Career Coach | *Chatsworth Charter High School & Miller Career and Transition Center, Department of Transition Services, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)***

Stacey is a transition teacher and career coach who is leading the implementation of the California Career Innovations Work-Based Learning Initiative (CCI) within the Los Angeles Unified School District. Prior to working in Transition Services, she taught in Resource Specialist, Special Day, and Autism Programs. Stacey has a Masters in Special Education, is clinically trained in behavior intervention, and is currently working on her doctorate in Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy at Pepperdine University. She is passionate about helping students gain skills that will lead them to success in academics and life.

**Ann Simun, Psy.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist and Principal | *Neuropsychology Partners***

Dr. Ann Simun is a clinical neuropsychologist who has been working professionally with children since 1989. She currently runs a private clinical practice specializing in children (preschool through school age), teens, and young adults with learning, developmental, behavioral/emotional, and neurological challenges. She frequently speaks and trains at regional and national conferences; she previously taught at the graduate and undergraduate level at various universities in Southern California and her clinics are formal training sites for clinical neuropsychologists from a variety of universities (Pepperdine, USC, Alliant, TCS, etc.) including postdoctoral internship. The goal of her practice is to provide detailed, comprehensive and individualized reports on children/teens to help the intervention team (including parents, schools, medical and allied professionals) create integrated programs which maximize each client's potential.

**James Spellman, M.A. Principal | *St. Monica Catholic High School (Santa Monica)***

James Spellman is the Principal at Saint Monica's Catholic High School in Santa Monica and is formerly the Assistant Principal of Immaculate Heart High School & Middle School in Los Angeles, California. He is known for leading the professional development of all teachers and the improvement of academic and behavioral performance and enrichment education of all students, realizing systemic practices and the attainment of diverse student and faculty performance goals. Throughout his long career at several schools, he has instituted restorative justice practices to address student discipline, increased academic rigor by doubling the availability of AP courses, increased student enrichment programs and increased faculty involvement and collaboration, and reduced staff turnover, instituted safety and disaster programs, and actively collaborated on educational committees with students, parents and/or staff to continuously improve learning experiences and enhance home/school communications.

**Nick Standlea, M.B.A., Founder and President | *Test Prep Gurus***

Nick Standlea is the founder of Test Prep Gurus and a former Research Associate at the Quality of Life Research Center -- a think tank that studies education, motivation, and learning. He earned a perfect score on the SAT, is a published author, and a rabid fan of FC Barcelona.

**Tom L. Thompson, M.A., Principal Consultant | *TMLS Consulting***

Tom Thompson has an extensive background in higher education. Thompson has served as director of disability services offices at three universities - Harper College, Northern Illinois University, and California State University, Fullerton. Thompson has twice served on the Board of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), was a founding member of the Illinois-Iowa AHEAD chapter, and has presented at numerous conferences. Additionally, Thompson has held leadership roles as the former Chair of the Disabilities Advisory Committee of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (2004-2012) and as national co-chair of the Disability Knowledge Community of NASPA (professional Student Affairs organization). He is currently serving as a Disability Resources departmental consultant evaluator for AHEAD and NASPA. Thompson provides consultation, program development, strategic planning and external evaluations to higher education institutions focused on a variety of topics.

**Kevin J. Tyrrell, M.Arch., LEED AP, Co-Founder | *Let's Talk LD***

Kevin is a parent of two children with learning differences well into the college transition experience. As an architect, urban designer and owner/partner with QDG Architecture based in Los Angeles, he specializes in the design of environments that enhance learning in Pre-K through Higher Education settings throughout the State of California, including several buildings at LA Valley College. He credits his own experience with learning differences as giving him greater sensitivity to the need for flexible spaces that can support multiple learning modalities. His wife KD, an educator, also serves as an invaluable sounding board for design ideas before they are put to paper.

**Souzan Vanlerberg, M.S., Counselor | *California State University Northridge (CSUN)***

Souzan K. Vanlerberg (pronounced Suzanne) serves as a counselor in the Disability Resources office at California State University Northridge. She facilitates a social group for students registered with the disability office in aim to practice effective communication skills, conversational threading and a sense of belonging. She is also a part-time instructor for a freshman seminar class, however her passion is helping students with disabilities reach their optimal potential.

**Patrice Wheeler, BGS, ATP, ATACP, Assistive Technology Specialist | *California State University at Northridge***

Patrice Wheeler has been an Assistive Technology Specialist at CSUN for 10 years and has 20+ years' experience assessing and training students, faculty & staff on assistive technology, creating accessible formats for academic materials, and collaborating with campus IT for campus-wide access to assistive technology. Patrice is always on the lookout for new and emerging technologies or strategies that promote student success, both academically and professionally.

**Marvin Williams, M.S., Director | *Disability Resource Center, California State University at Stanislaus***

Marvin Williams is the Director of Disability Resource Services at Stanislaus State. He has worked in higher education for 15 years and in the disability community for the last 21 years in California, Delaware, Florida, and Iowa. He has a Master of Science in Biomedical Engineering from Iowa State University and his Assistive Technology Practitioner and Rehabilitation Engineering Technologist certifications from RESNA, the Rehabilitation Engineering and Assistive Technology Society of North America.

**Karen Wilson, Ph.D., Clinical Neuropsychologist | *West Los Angeles Neuropsychology* and Creator and Curator | *ChildNEXUS***

Dr. Karen Wilson is a Clinical Neuropsychologist, Professor at California State University, Dominguez Hills, Assistant Voluntary Clinical Professor in the Medical Psychology Assessment Center at UCLA, and she is the founder of ChildNEXUS.com. Dr. Wilson has extensive experience evaluating children, adolescents, and adults who present with neurodevelopmental, neurological, medical and psychiatric disorders. As a clinician, Dr. Wilson uses her in-depth understanding of brain-behavior relationships to help identify the causes of difficulties individuals are experiencing, and she utilizes comprehensive and evidence-based approaches to develop treatment plans tailored to each child, adolescent or adult.