Keynote Presentations

Children Learn Best When They Learn Together: Meeting the Needs of Young Children with ASD
Ilene Schwartz, Ph.D., Director, Haring Center for Applied Research and Training in Education Affiliate, Center on Human Development and Disability, University of Washington

The purpose of this presentation is review the characteristics of a high quality program for young children with ASD. Throughout the review, the presenter will provide examples of how evidence-base instructional strategies are best implemented into inclusive settings. She will suggest that since the primary deficit of ASD is a social communication deficit, that opportunities to interact with peers who demonstrate typical social communication skills is a key component to a high quality treatment program.

Reducing Anxiety-Related Behavior In the Classroom, Parts 1 & 2
Jessica Minahan, M.Ed, BCBA

With up to one in four children struggling with anxiety in this county, overwhelmed adults are in need of a new approach as well as an effective and easy-to-implement toolkit of strategies that work. Through the use of case studies, humorous stories, and examples of common challenging situations, participants will learn easy to implement preventive tools, strategies, and interventions for reducing anxiety, increasing self-regulation, work engagement, and self-monitoring.

Why I Hired a Workforce Nobody Else Would: Lessons Learned
Randy Lewis, Former Senior Vice-President of Walgreens

Randy Lewis will detail his experiences implementing major cultural and operating changes in the company’s Distribution Centers. The presentation will illustrate the benefits, obstacles, and lessons learned during the evolution to an open workforce, resulting in 20 percent of Distribution employees being people with disabilities today. As a consequence of the revolutionary program, employees - managers and workers - have reported benefits beyond the workplace in family and community relations. The experience is currently being successfully replicated by large companies across the nation.