

Special Education Summer Conference Bios

7:45 – 8:15 a.m. – Registration/Check-In

8:30 – 10:30 - Keynote

Keynote: *Maintaining Individualized Behavior Supports*

Class Description: In this session, Dr. Pinkelman will describe strategies for maintaining the effective implementation of individualized behavioral interventions. Particular attention will be given to contextual fit of interventions and common barriers and facilitators to implementation

Presenter: Sarah Pinkelman, Ph.D.

Bio: Dr. Pinkelman is currently an Assistant Professor in the Special Education Department at Utah State University. Dr. Pinkelman has 20 years of experience working with students with disabilities in school, home, and community settings. She earned her Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Oregon in 2014 under the mentorship of dr. Rob Horner and a M.S. in Behavioral Analysis from the University of North Texas in 2010 under the mentorship of Drs. Shahla Ala'l and Jesus Roasles-Ruiz. She is passionate about evidence-based practice in schools, prevention, effective implementation, and producing behavior change that has large-scale impact.

10:40 – 11:55 – Breakout Session 1

Title: –Function-based Approach to Designing the Instructional Environment – Administrator Session

Presenter: Sarah Pinkelman, Ph.D.

Bio: Dr. Pinkelman is currently an Assistant Professor in the Special Education Department at Utah State University. Dr. Pinkelman has 20 years of experience working with students with disabilities in school, home, and community settings. She earned her Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Oregon in 2014 under the mentorship of dr. Rob Horner and a M.S. in Behavioral Analysis from the University of North Texas in 2010 under the mentorship of Drs. Shahla Ala'l and Jesus Roasles-Ruiz. She is passionate about evidence-based practice in schools, prevention, effective implementation, and producing behavior change that has large-scale impact.

Title: Never Say Anything a Kid Can Say: Number Talks to Elicit Student Thinking – Elementary Focus

Presenter: Dr. Malia Hite

Bio: Dr. Malia Hite is the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Math Specialist for the Utah State Board of Education. She previously worked as the Special Education Math Specialist in Jordan School District. She completed her BA in mathematics at the University of California-Santa Barbara, her MAT in educational technology at National University, and her doctorate in educational leadership at George Fox University. Dr. Hite has spent more than 20 years in public education working in California, Oregon, Missouri, and now Utah; she taught math, music, technology, and English as a Second Language. She was a professor of education working in teacher preparation at Missouri Valley College. The most challenging and rewarding position of her career was in 2017 when Dr. Hite was the math team leader and teacher at a high school in the inner-city of St. Louis, MO.

Title: Dealing with Difficult Situations: Do's and Don'ts for Staying Calm, Keeping the Peace, Following the Law

Presenter: Melisa Genaux

Class Description: It is a fact of our jobs that IEP teams sometimes disagree. All of us have been in situations where we feel uncomfortable with a proposal for an IEP goal, accommodation, or placement. We sometimes face differences of opinions over assessment and classifications questions, as well. In this session, Melisa Genaux will provide a step-by-step process for dealing with difficult situations that will help teams to maintain working relationships and still adhere to the legal compliance process, while providing a free, appropriate, public education (FAPE) for all kids.

Bio: Melisa Genaux works with school districts across the country in the areas of behavior and classroom management, Autism Spectrum Disorders, social skills training, and special education legal/compliance issues. She presents at conferences and workshops for general education and special education teachers, school administrators, related services staff, and parents. In addition, she provides consultation services on individual student case management and district program development. She has served as a special education coordinator and supervisor, and as a consultant to the Utah State Office of Education. She has written and produced training videos for the education and law publishing company, LRP Publications, and is a speaker at the LRP Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Students with Disabilities.

Title: The Many Paths To Higher Education

Presenter: Richard Gonzalez, MBA

Class Description: Come join Richard to learn about strategies and identifying resources to support students with IEPs and/or 504s. He will share programs and initiatives that are currently in place within the Utah System of Higher Education. Further, he will share the college admissions process for students that need accommodations and will share a student success story.

Bio: Richard Gonzalez is the outreach coordinator for the Outreach & Access Department of the Utah System of Higher Education. He is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at the University of Utah and his research involves adult learner students. He is passionate about equitable access to higher education for students with IEPs and 504 in the state. He holds an MBA from Utah State University and an undergraduate degree in business with an emphasis in entrepreneurship. He proudly shares his story of graduating from an Alternative High School in Southern California (low income and first gen) and pursuing higher education as an adult learner/non-traditional student.

Title: Higher Order Thinking Strategies for Students with Severe Disabilities

Presenter(s): Jen Birrell, Jen Jarrard, Ami Shah, Ed.D

Bio(s): Jen Birrell - Jen has been in the field of Special Education for a little over 20 years as a paraeducator, teacher, mentor teacher and teacher specialist, working in Transition for the early part of her career and Elementary for the latter. She graduated from the University of Utah in 2007 with a

degree in Special Education. She graduated in 2014 with a Master's degree in Education, with an emphasis in Special Education.

Jen Jarrard - Jen has been an educator for more than 16 years as a paraeducator, teacher, and teacher specialist. She graduated from the University of Utah twice over; once in 2007 as an undergraduate with a license to teach students with severe to profound disabilities and the second in 2017 with a Master's in Education.

Ami Shah, Ed.D - Ami has worked in the field of Special Education for over 15 years mostly with students with significant disabilities. She moved from Connecticut 3 years ago and has since worked in the Special Education Department, Jordan School District. She now works as a placement/LRE review specialist.

Title: JSD UATT Basics: Referrals, Evaluations, AT Considerations, and Common Equipment

Presenter: Mark Gardner

Bio: Mark is an occupational therapist and the current UAT Team Lead for Jordan School District. He graduated from Brigham Young University with a Bachelor's Degree in Communication Disorders and eventually received his Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy from the University of Utah. As an OT, Mark has experience in hand therapy, school therapy, and now assistive technology. In his spare time, Mark enjoys spending time with his wife and two children, hiking, soccer, and laser engraving or anything else creative.

Title: Using Dynamic Assessment and Learning Potential to Differentiate Difference from Disorder

Presenter: Douglas B. Petersen, Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Bio: Dr. Petersen is an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology in the Department of Communication Disorders at Brigham Young University. His career began as a bilingual, school-based speech-language pathologist in the state of Utah, after which he worked as an SLP in California and in Washington. He returned to school to pursue his PhD with the intention of addressing real clinical problems that students face every day. His research is focused on helping all students, including those who are culturally and linguistically diverse, succeed in school. Dr. Petersen's research is centered on the principles of learning potential. He has developed and researched evidence-based narrative intervention procedures across all tiers of a multi-tiered system of support. He has also developed and researched valid, reliable, and efficient dynamic assessments of reading and language, as well as language progress monitoring tools that can be administered to all students across an entire school district. He has authored multiple peer-reviewed publications, and presents his research findings across the world. Dr. Petersen consults with Language Dynamic Group, which disseminates the free CUBED assessment, and also distributes Story Champs and the PEARL assessment.

Title: Understanding the Impact of Trauma on Student Learning

Presenter(s) : JSD Health and Wellness Department - McKinley Withers, Sharon Steadman, Holly Todd, Gayle Threet, Kevin Mossel, Alyssa Topham

Class Description: This session is an introduction to trauma, what it looks like in our students, and how it impacts their learning. This will also include a brief introduction to the overlap with special education classifications and trauma.

Title: Foundational Skills for Language – Preschool

Focus Presenter: Kimber Neddo, M.S., CCC-SLP

Class Description: The session will include an overview of the foundational skills that are need for young children to develop language. This will include a review of the importance of eye contact, joint attention, gestures, cause and effect play, imitation, sounds, facial expressions and turn-taking. You will learn effective strategies to teach the foundational skills needed for young children to start talking and using language.

Bio: Kimber has 20 years of experience working with young children with speech and language disorders and developmental delays. She has experience working in the classroom and in the home environments. She currently is an SLP for Jordan School District's Early Intervention Program and serves as a team lead.

11:55 – 1:00 Lunch

1:00 – 2:15 – Breakout Session 2

Title: Special Education Law Basics and avoiding Litigation – Administrator Session

Presenter: Joan Andrews

Bio: Joan Andrews focuses her practice on employment and education law, assisting her clients with both litigation and litigation prevention. She regularly helps clients draft employee handbooks, conducts anti-harassment training, directs internal investigations of allegations of discrimination or harassment and advises employers on critical employment law issues. As a litigator, Joan has tried cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, noncompetition agreements and Title VII. She was part of a team of Fabian Vancott attorneys with expertise in a number of core competency areas who worked together on a widely reported case involving the False Claims Act. In the area of education law, Joan represents school districts, with her expertise in special education, as well as employment, student discipline, First Amendment and Title IX issues. She has successfully defended school districts in court and administrative hearings. In the community, Joan was a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah for nine years. She is admitted to practice in Utah state and federal courts as well as the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Joan obtained a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and received her law degree at the University of Utah where she was a member of the Utah Law Review and a William H. Leary Scholar. Joan Andrews focuses her practice on employment and education law, assisting her clients with both litigation and litigation prevention. She regularly helps clients draft employee

handbooks, conducts anti-harassment training, directs internal investigations of allegations of discrimination or harassment and advises employers on critical employment law issues. As a litigator, Joan has tried cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, noncompetition agreements and Title VII. She was part of a team of Fabian Vancott attorneys with expertise in a number of core competency areas who worked together on a widely reported case involving the False Claims Act. In the area of education law, Joan represents school districts, with her expertise in special education, as well as employment, student discipline, First Amendment and Title IX issues. She has successfully defended school districts in court and administrative hearings. In the community, Joan was a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah for nine years. She is admitted to practice in Utah state and federal courts as well as the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Joan obtained a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and received her law degree at the University of Utah where she was a member of the Utah Law Review and a William H. Leary Scholar.

Title: Productive Struggle for All: Supported Struggle for Mathematical Understanding – Secondary Focus

Presenter: Dr. Malia Hite

Bio: Dr. Malia Hite is the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Math Specialist for the Utah State Board of Education. She previously worked as the Special Education Math Specialist in Jordan School District. She completed her BA in mathematics at the University of California-Santa Barbara, her MAT in educational technology at National University, and her doctorate in educational leadership at George Fox University. Dr. Hite has spent more than 20 years in public education working in California, Oregon, Missouri, and now Utah; she taught math, music, technology, and English as a Second Language. She was a professor of education working in teacher preparation at Missouri Valley College. The most challenging and rewarding position of her career was in 2017 when Dr. Hite was the math team leader and teacher at a high school in the inner-city of St. Louis, MO.

Title: Training Para-Educators: Going from 0 to 60

Presenter: Christian Sabey, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Class Description: How to help people with limited training in behavior management to perform like a well-oiled machine. We will work on implementing a strengths based approach to develop new skills and improve student outcomes.

Bio: Dr. Sabey is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology and Special Education at Brigham Young University. His research interests include research interventions, behavior analysis, social skills instruction for students with ASD, systems level implementation, and evidence-based practice.

Title: Behavior Boot Camp: Addressing Challenging Behaviors in Schools

Presenter: Keith Radley, Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP

Class Description: This presentation will provide school professionals with effective and efficient (as well as sanity-saving) strategies for addressing challenging behaviors in the classroom.

Bio: Dr. Radley is an associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Utah and is currently the program director for School Psychology. His research focuses on the application of behavior analytic interventions within schools. His research has focused on the evaluation of social skills interventions and peer-mediated behavioral interventions. His work has also focused on the implementation of practitioner-friendly interventions for addressing challenging behaviors.

Title: Building Core Vocabulary in the Classroom

Presenter(s): Amelia LePrey, Rebecca McPartland, Scot Wahlquist

Bio(s): Amelia LePrey attended the University of Minnesota Duluth. She graduated with her Bachelor's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2011, and with her Master's Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders in 2013. She has been working in Jordan School District since 2013. She loves working with students with emerging language skills and has enjoyed encouraging functional communication through implementation of AAC.

Rebecca McPartland went to Brigham Young University and graduated with her Bachelors' Degree in Communication Disorders in December 2010. She received her Masters' Degree in Speech-Language Pathology from Utah State University in 2013. She has been working in Jordan District since she graduated and loves working with students in secondary.

Scot Wahlquist has been involved in the world of AAC for more than 7 years to communicate with his nonverbal autistic son. For the past 4 years Scot has also been the Director of Business Development for the CoughDrop AAC company. Prior to that Scot spent 10 years in the tech and cloud industry working for companies such as Century Link Cloud, Cardlytics, and Google.

Title: Tools and Strategies for a Trauma-Sensitive Classroom and School

Presenter(s): JSD Health and Wellness Department - McKinley Withers, Sharon Steadman, Holly Todd, Gayle Threet, Kevin Mossel, Alyssa Topham

Class Description: It is anticipated that individuals who attend this session already have a foundational or basic understanding of the impact of trauma. Participants will leave with strategies to support students who experience trauma and build a trauma-sensitive environment.

Title: Supporting the Development of Phonological Awareness: What, Why and How

Presenter(s): Cindy Jones, Ph.D., Nanette Watson

Class Description: Decades of research evidence has clearly established that emerging readers must have a solid foundation in phonological awareness. In this session, we share an outline for scope and sequence of instruction and engaging activities to help students develop this crucial skill.

Bio(s): Cindy D. Jones is an Associate Professor and Director of the Literacy Clinic in the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership, specializing in literacy education and classroom instruction. She taught in public school classrooms for over 20 years prior to joining the USU faculty. Dr. Jones continues

to hold a current Level 3 Utah Professional Educator License. Her Educator License Areas of Concentration include Elementary Education, Middle School Education, and Administrative/Supervisory. She holds Endorsements in Reading Level I, Reading Level II, English, and Gifted and Talented. She continues to work in public schools providing professional development about reading and writing instruction.

Nanette Watson is a doctoral student of Literacy Education and Leadership at Utah State University. The majority of her teaching experience has been in the preschool classroom. Young children's literacy development has been a focus of her classroom experience and is her research interest.

Title: Navigating State Assessment Options: Participation, Accountability, & Alternate Assessment in Utah

Presenter: Brooke Anderson

Class Description: This session will provide participants with valuable information regarding state assessments and alternate assessments for students with disabilities. Participants will deepen their understanding of the criteria for Utah's alternate assessments. The session will also explore access to accommodations and implications for results and reporting.

Bio: Brooke Anderson is a specialist in data and assessment for Jordan School District. Prior to her current role, she taught at the middle school level for 14 years. She looks for any chance to assist schools in asking and answering better questions with their data processes. Follow her on Twitter @anderbrooke.

Title: Creating a Mindful Classroom – Preschool Focus

Presenter: Brenda Straley, M.Ed Teacher Education Instructor – JATC South

Class Description: Today's children are increasingly experiencing anxiety, depression and disconnection. Children reflect the nervous systems of adults around them. To create a calm environment, we must first focus on our own experience. This session will introduce basic mindfulness practices for teachers. Mindfulness means paying attention to our present thoughts, feelings, bodily sensations, or surrounding environment. It also includes intentionally nurturing positive states of mind such as empathy and kindness. Over 30 years of research has shown that mindfulness improves attention, emotion regulation, behavior in school, social skills, empathy, anxiety and the list goes on. Let's have fun with mindfulness!

Bio: Brenda has worn many teaching hats over her 18 years including special education, preschool and elementary physical education, teaching at wilderness therapy school, an orphanage in East Africa and now manages the JATC Teacher Education program. Brenda was introduced to mindfulness based stress reduction (MBSR) eight years ago and has since started implementing it into her classroom. She is passionate about creating a classroom where students can foster secure relationships with themselves and others as well as practice meta cognition and mindfulness.

2:15 – 2:30 – Snack provided by JEA

2:30 – 3:45 – Breakout Session 3

Title: Special Ed. JSD – Administrator Session

Presenter: Kim Lloyd

Bio: Kim Lloyd is the Special Education Director in Jordan School District. She has 28 years experience in education. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education from UNLV and a master's degree in Leadership and Policy U of U. Kim has taught as a first, second and fifth grader teacher, and a secondary resource and ED teacher. She was an assistant principal, an elementary principal and a special education director for eight years prior to coming to Jordan School District.

Title: Data-Based Decisions: How to engage in this equitable practice

Presenter: Dr. Malia Hite

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she provides consultation services on individual student case management and district program development. She has served as a special education coordinator and supervisor, and as a consultant to the Utah State Office of Education. She has written and produced training videos for the education and law publishing company, LRP Publications, and is a speaker at the LRP Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Students with Disabilities.

Title: FBAs and BIPs: Beyond Completing the Form

Presenter: Christian Sabey, Ph.D., BCBA-D

Class Description: Beyond completing the form. Too often we focus on filling out forms and believe that if the form is complete our work is done. In this session we will focus on understanding when an FBA and BIP are “done”. We will address the relationship between the FBA and BSP and how to ensure they are aligned.

Bio: Dr. Sabey is currently an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Psychology and Special Education at Brigham Young University. His research interests include research interventions, behavior analysis, social skills instruction for students with ASD, systems level implementation, and evidence-based practice.

Title: Evidence-Based Strategies for Improving Social and Behavioral Outcomes for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Presenter: Keith Radley Ph.D., BCBA-D, NCSP

Class Description: Professionals attending this presentation will learn strategies for promoting social and behavioral success of students with autism spectrum disorder.

Bio: Dr. Radley is an associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Utah and is currently the program director for School Psychology. His research focuses on the application of behavior analytic interventions within schools. His research has focused on the evaluation of social skills interventions and peer-mediated behavioral interventions. His work has also focused on the implementation of practitioner-friendly interventions for addressing challenging behaviors.

Title: End the RTI Guessing Game: What Works for ELs and Why

Presenter(s): JSD Alternative Language Services Department - Shasta Burton, Tammy Fulmer, Krista Mecham and Sheri Sample

Class Description: In this session we will discuss how to use data to determine what interventions best help ELs with both academic progress and English language development.

Title: How Teachers can use Text Structure to Improve Student Comprehension and Writing

Presenter(s): Cindy Jones, Ph.D., Georgia Bunnell, Janet Breitenstein

Class Description: Well-structured informational texts can be used by teachers to promote skills in comprehension and writing. In this session, participants will learn to evaluate informational texts and a strategy for using model texts with their students in grades 1-5.

Bio(s): Cindy D. Jones is an Associate Professor and Director of the Literacy Clinic in the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership, specializing in literacy education and classroom instruction. She taught in public school classrooms for over 20 years prior to joining the USU faculty. Dr. Jones continues to hold a current Level 3 Utah Professional Educator License. Her Educator License Areas of Concentration include Elementary Education, Middle School Education, and Administrative/Supervisory. She holds Endorsements in Reading Level I, Reading Level II, English, and Gifted and Talented. She continues to work in public schools providing professional development about reading and writing instruction.

Georgia Bunnell holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in education, professional specialization- reading and writing. She is currently a doctoral candidate, Literacy and Instructional Leadership, at Utah State University. Prior to seeking her Ph.D., she taught 6th grade in Tooele, Utah.

Janet Breitenstein holds a bachelor's degree in Social Science with a minor in Language Arts and a masters' degree in education in curriculum and instruction. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in Literacy and Instructional Leadership at Utah State University. Janet will be entering her 20th year of teaching in secondary education. She has taught Language Arts and Social Studies in California and Idaho.

Title: Special Education Law Basics and avoiding Litigation – Administrator Session

Presenter: Joan Andrews

Bio: Joan Andrews focuses her practice on employment and education law, assisting her clients with both litigation and litigation prevention. She regularly helps clients draft employee handbooks, conducts anti-harassment training, directs internal investigations of allegations of discrimination or harassment and advises employers on critical employment law issues. As a litigator, Joan has tried cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, noncompetition agreements and Title VII. She was part of a team of Fabian Vancott attorneys with expertise in a number of core competency areas who worked together on a widely reported case involving the False Claims Act. In the area of education law, Joan represents school districts, with her expertise in special education, as well as employment, student discipline, First Amendment and Title IX issues. She has successfully defended school districts in court and administrative hearings. In the community, Joan was a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah for nine years. She is admitted to practice in Utah state and federal courts as well as the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Joan obtained a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and received her law degree at the University of Utah where she was a member of the Utah Law Review and a William H. Leary Scholar. Joan Andrews focuses her practice on employment and education law, assisting her clients with both litigation and litigation prevention. She regularly helps clients draft employee handbooks, conducts anti-harassment training, directs internal investigations of allegations of discrimination or harassment and advises employers on critical employment law issues. As a litigator, Joan has tried cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, noncompetition agreements and Title VII. She was part of a team of Fabian Vancott attorneys with expertise in a number of core competency areas who worked together on a widely reported case involving the False Claims Act. In the area of

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Title: Reading Readiness Strategies that Work – Preschool Focus

Presenter: Michelle Lovell, JSD Language Arts Consultant

Class Description: In this session, we will take a comprehensive look at phonological awareness and the impact it has on the development of early reading skills. We will explore seven basic phonological awareness areas and take a close look at the most critical skills for students to master in the early grades. This session addresses the latest in research and best practices in the area of phonological awareness and provides participants with hands-on strategies to take back to the classroom.

Bio: Michelle Lovell understands the value of early childhood education and the impact it has on students in later years. Michelle has experience teaching preschool, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, has worked as a literacy coach, has been the principal of an elementary school, and now works as a literacy consultant for Jordan School District. Michelle feels that every experience she has had has solidified her belief in the importance of quality literacy and numeracy instruction in the early years of a child's life and she is a proponent of early childhood education. She believes that instruction in the early grades can be rigorous, fun, and developmentally appropriate all at the same time and that children can and should develop a love for learning that will last a lifetime.