New York State Disability Services Council Logo



NYSDSC SPRING 2018 CONFERENCE AGENDA

# Day 1: Wednesday, June 27th 2018

08:30 to 09:25 am **Registration and Full Breakfast**

09:30 to 10:15 am **Welcome Note,** Loren Nowak, President

10:15 to 11:15am **KEYNOTE, Brian T. Rose**

Brian T. Rose is the Vice President for Student Affairson the SUNY Binghamton campus. Vice President Rose Is a former recipient of the NYSDSC Campus Access Award. He was nominated by Jean Fairburn, former NYSDSC President, due to his active support of equal access for students with disabilities and the institutional infrastructure that is required to facilitate their success. As an attorney and previous member of AHEAD, he embraces both the spirit and letter of federal and state law prohibiting discrimination based on disability. Those that work with Mr. Rose believe that he truly understands what responsible access entails and actively supports it through divisional funding, collegial promotion with Senior Administration, and clear expectations of Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD). In Fall 2010, Vice President Rose enthusiastically agreed to sponsor a cross-divisional Web & Media Access Committee, drafted a University policy on web and media access and responded to SSD’s need for additional technological support by convincing the Budget Planning Committee to fund a full-time Adaptive Technology Specialist position. Vice President Rose’s belief in and support of this initiative, as a critical aspect of the University’s vision, is a testimony to his conviction that disability access is a broad-based responsibility requiring campus-wide ownership and designated resources.

11:20am to 12:20pm Concurrent Session #1

1.1 **New Professionals Training**

Facilitated by Carolyn Boone, JD, Tompkins Community College and Loren Nowak, Clarkson University

This is a new Professional Training for members with less than three years’ experience. We are confronted with challenging situations where we are required to make quick decisions, many of us with little or no support.  Understanding Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, the statute and the regulations, The Americans with Disabilities Act, and as Amended, as well as applying them to Higher Education takes time and training. This session will explain the intersection of the laws that govern our offices and how we operate under them.

1.2 **Legal Ramifications of Having Animals on Campus** - Marilyn Bartlett, J.D., Ph.D., - CEO, Advocate for Students and Families, Special Education Advocacy Center, LLC

Dr. Bartlett will bring attendees up to date on the legal issues pertaining to allowing animals on campus. Particular attention will be given to various types of animals, and the purpose for which students are requesting to bring them to campus.

12:30 to 01:30pm **Lunch**

**Foyer/Waterside,** (**weather permitting)**

1:30 to 2:30pm **NYSED Advisory Council on Post-Secondary Education for Students with Disabilities Updates:**

Regent Christine Cea, Co-Chair; Kevin Smith, NYSED Deputy Commissioner of ACCES-VR; Tamara Mariotti, NYSDSC Co-Chair

Legislative Updates on Reader’s Aid and Enhanced Funding for Postsecondary Disability Services will be given. Under discussion will be next steps/priorities for the Advisory Council’s support for students with disabilities at the post-secondary level.

2:35 to 03:35pm **Universal Design on the Educational Landscape,**

Justin Evan Freedman, Syracuse University

Justin Freedman is a doctoral candidate in the Special Education and Disability Studies programs at Syracuse University. His research focuses on disability in post-secondary education, ADHD, and teacher education in inclusive and special education. He has authored or co-authored research articles in journals such as the *International Journal of Inclusive Education* and *Teachers College Record.* Mr. Freedman will share his findings on conducting trainings for faculty and teaching assistants about Universal Design approaches to postsecondary education and feedback he received from students when flexible accommodations are built in to a course syllabus.

03:35 to 03:55pm Coffee Break

**Foyer**

04:00 to 05:00pm Concurrent Session #2

2.1 **Mental Health on Campus –** Nancy Carr, Onondaga Community College, Office of Accessibility Resources

This presentation will address many of the issues discussed at the “Enhancing Resilience” Conference at OCC in April 0f 2018. Nancy will review prevention of mental health crises for college students in an age when mental health is a national topic. She will talk about the metamorphosis of this discussion and preventive measures students, parents and college personnel can take to maintain wellness and ensure sound management.

2.2 **Managing Student Data using the Titanium Database**  - Sudi Shayesteh, Hunter College, Director, Office of AccessABILITY; Daniel Chan, Hunter College, Assistant Director, Office of AccessABILITY

The Titanium Database is mainly used to log and track student data within mental health/personal counseling areas. This is a comprehensive tool that is not only used to manage scheduled appointments, but can be customized for the daily operations of any Disability Service office. In this showcase of the Titanium database, we will display how our office has customized Titanium’s fields and formatting, to meet our program’s day to day needs. We will also explore the importance of data collection using the database and how it helps our office to identify our at-risk students, as well as the areas that may require further attention to improve. The aim is as always to increase retention rates and the quality of services for our students through gathering reports and assessing our services.

# Day 2: Thursday, June 28th 2018

08:30 to 09:25 am **Full Breakfast**

09:30am to 05:15pm **Information Available All Day**

**Visit The Vendors –** An opportunity to visit the companies that produce assistive and adaptive technology for use by your students; and by your campus professionals

**Foyer/Waterside**

**Ask An Expert!** We have arranged for a Financial Aid Expert and a Residence Life Expert from member campuses to be available to help you, and offer suggestions on how you can connect with your own campus professionals.

**Foyer/Waterside**

**What’s Happening in My Neck of the Woods? -** Consortia Networking **–** Gather informationon post-secondary disability services professionals in your geographic location and get ideas as to current initiatives on the landscape, what members are doing to collaborate with high school educators, mental health agencies, independent living centers, etc.

**Foyer/Waterside**

09:30am to 10:40am Concurrent Session #3

* 1. **How To Design and Create Accessible Documents** – Tanja Stevns, Danish Centre for the Blind

When documents are designed and created in an accessible way, they can ensure that they can be used by as many people as possible with and without the use of assistive technology. Although doing just that is quite simple, few people do! During this session, the presenters will share their vast experience and offer tips, tricks and resources to ease the process of creating such accessible educational material.

**3.2 Accessible Text Books and Reference Materials** – Amy Ratajczak, MA. CCC/SLP, ATP, Bookshare, a division of Benetech

Get students reading quickly and easily! Bookshare is a free digital library of accessible print materials for students with qualifying disabilities. There are currently over 615,000 books, periodicals and magazines available, to be read in an individual’s preferred mode of access. Free and low cost assistive technology allows students to read books with highlighting, text to speech/audio, or braille at the same time as their peers. No more waiting for accessible materials!

10:45 to 11:40am Concurrent Session #4

**4.1 Emergency Management for SWDs**  - Tamara Mariotti, Mohawk Valley Community College

Emergency situations can be particularly vexing for students with disabilities and those that support them on college campuses. Tamara has been on the safety committee at MVCC for many years and a part of all table top exercises  to provide any safety and/ information for emergency preparedness for students with disabilities. She will share forms for staff and students to help with the administrative process. There will also be information regarding support for students with epilepsy, brittle diabetes, severe allergies, or any medical situation where the student may have a need to be sent to an ER.

**4.2** **Access BSC: A Bridge to Success in College** – Lisa Fronckowiak, Buffalo State College, Director, Student Accessibility Services; Sumana Silverheels, Buffalo State College, Technology Accommodations Coordinator

In 2016 Buffalo State College began work on a week long summer transition program for high school students with learning differences. This program would focus on helping students strengthen the skills such as self-advocacy, assistive technology, and study skills. With funding through the Tower Foundation, we welcomed our first cohort of Access BSC students in summer 2017. In this presentation we will share the unique nature of this program and theory behind the design and need for programs such as this. Access BSC is special because it is not only open to students committed to attending Buffalo State College. Additionally, we will share how utilizing current college students with disabilities as mentors has brought many unintentional and unexpected enhancements to the program.

11:45am – 12:55pm Concurrent Session #5

5.1 **Mental Health Accommodations:** “I have a student who…”

Facilitated by Don Pool, LMSW, Jamestown Community Center

As the stigma lessens, and with better treatment options are available, more individuals with Mental Health barriers are attending college. While this is great news for students who can now attain a higher education, many Disability Services Professionals are unsure how to help these students overcome their barriers and gain access to the college environment.

In this session, participants will complete a short exercise to hone their skills and prepare them to work with students with Mental Health Disabilities. After the exercise, the group will have a chance to ask questions in an “I have a student who…” format.

5.2 **Become an Accessibility Change Agent Using Technologies from Nobel Laureates –** Art Morgan, VP Partner Development for AuntomaticSync Technologies; Sumana Silverheels, Technology Accommodations Coordinator, Buffalo State College

Being an agent of change is never easy, but ideas from Nobel Laureates can help. We’ll primarily cover the work of behavioral economist Richard Thaler, co-author of the book Nudge.

We’ll discuss how Thaler’s insights can be used to nudge campus staff toward more accessible and inclusive course design. The book Inside the Nudge Unit: How Small Changes Can Make a Big Difference, by David Halpern, provides numerous examples of techniques that can be inexpensively used in education organizations, nonprofits, and government settings to change behavior. Next we’ll show examples of how these same techniques are being used in higher education settings to move campuses toward accessibility and inclusive design.

5.3 **OrCam MyEye – Breakthrough Artificial Vision Wearable Technology** – Motti Attia, OrCam Technologies

This presentation will provide an introduction to wearable assistive technology available to help students who are blind, visually impaired, and/or have reading disabilities. Available solutions will be reviewed and discussion will take place pertaining to the unique approach adapted by OrCam to provide independence and improve quality of life.

01:00 to 01:55pm **Lunch – Awards Ceremony**

**Foyer/Waterside, (weather permitting)**

02:00 to 02:55pm **Open Dialogue:** “I have a student /faculty/parent who….”

Facilitated by Carolyn Boone,Tompkins Community Collegeand Catherine Carlson, Columbia-Greene Community College

Come to ask questions, present an issue, or simply come to listen! This is an opportunity to draw on the experience and expertise of your fellow colleagues who “have been there done that”. This session is designed for an interactive and productive on site conversations by the members of the Professional Development Committee. Come, gain practical, hands-on advice that you can implement to your daily activities in your own office.

03:00 to 03:55pm **Sector Meetings**

* + - * CUNY
      * SUNY
      * Independent
      * Proprietary

04:00 to 05:00pm **Wine & Cheese** **Cool-Down** -Enjoy a celebration sponsored by our generous vendors **Foyer/Waterside, (weather permitting)**

# Day 3: Friday, June 29th 2017

08:30 to 09:25am **Full Breakfast**

**Wrap-Up Session for New Professionals Training Attendees** or

**NYSDSC Committee Meetings –** Sit with your NYSDSC Committee(s) and discuss current initiatives and future possibilities for advancing the work of the committee(s). If you have not yet joined a Committee, pick one that sounds interesting and listen to the discussion.

09:30 to 10:45am **NYSDSC Business Meeting**

10:50am to 12:30pm Concurrent Session #6

6.1 **High School to College Transition Programs for Students with Disabilities**

Panel Members: Gabriella Vasta, SUNY Delhi, Coordinator of Access & Equity Services; Catherine Carlson, Columbia-Greene Community College, Director of Accessibility Services; Katelyn Ouderkirk, Mohawk Valley Community College, Accessibility Resources, Transitional Support Specialist; Marilyn Bartlett, J.D., PhD, CEO, Advocate for Students and Families, Special Education Advocacy Center, LLC

This panel presentation will showcase diversity among transition programs across the state. Panelists will share the history of transition, why it is important, challenges faced, and the different models that have been successful. Additionally, panelists will discuss pathways to building relationships with secondary education professionals and information about collaborating with local organizations. Dr. Bartlett will offer advice as to how to make the orientation process an on-going experience for incoming students.

6.2 **If You Build It, They Will Come** – Jeremy Pelletier, Assistant Director, Services for Students with Disabilities, SUNY Binghamton; Lisa Bennett, Director of University Tutorial Services and University Testing Center, SUNY Binghamton; Carrie Ready, Coordinator of The University Testing Center, SUNY Binghamton

Testing services in higher education has traditionally been developed by disability service offices to meet testing accommodations. At Binghamton University, accommodations have historically been the responsibility of faculty, not the disability office. As our student population increased significantly the justification for a testing center became compelling. Our model reflects our commitment to an inclusive campus. The UTC provides exemplary services to a wide range of students including, but not limited to, students with disabilities. We credit our prodigious growth and high levels of satisfaction to effective collaboration between the UTC and SSD. This presentation is designed to provide a blueprint for institutions looking to develop or rethink the design of their testing services to create a more inclusive testing environment and high quality experience for students and faculty

12:30 to 1:30pm **Light Lunch Before We Send You On Your Way!**

**Thank you for joining us for our Spring 2018 Conference. We hope to see you in the Fall in Albany!**

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VENDORS FOR SPONSORING OUR WINE & CHEESE CELEBRATION!!**