



























**2022 Community Support Network Transition Institute  
Conference Agenda**  
*Zoom link forthcoming*

**Wednesday, January 19**

<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. EST Opening Keynote</b>	
ALL	<b>ACTION! Effective Transition Practices in Documentary Film</b> Dan Habib Inclusive Communities Project Director, WIHD
<b>11 a.m. – 12 p.m. EST Morning Breakout Sessions</b>	
SA AD	<b>Leadership and Self Advocacy</b> Brendan Klein, Advocacy & Engagement Coordinator, WIHD Mariela Adams, Self-Advocate Facilitator, WIHD
SH	<b>Health Care Transition: Building a Lifelong Partnership with WIHD</b> Izel Obermeyer Chief Clinical Officer, Carnegie-Wits Diaspora Fellow, WIHD
AD	<b>What School Administrators Should Know About OPWDD</b> Christopher Knight, Local School Transition Coordinator, OPWDD Yvette Goorevitch, Coordinator of School District Partnerships, WIHD
IN	<b>Five Important Things Parents Need to Know About Transition</b> Laurie Levine Educational Consultant, Transition Coordinator, Ardsley Schools
SD	<b>Fostering Resilience: How You Can Help Your Students Be Successful</b> Jennifer Scully Head of School, Maplebrook School
LW	<b>Moving Out and Making It: Life After High School</b> Catherine DeCarlo VP of Admissions and Marketing, Chapel Haven Schleifer Center

  	<p><b>What is Inclusive Higher Education and What are Your Options in NY State</b>  Martha Mock, Clinical Professor, University of Rochester Warner School of Education  Beth A. Myers, Executive Director, Taishoff Center, Syracuse University</p>
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m. EST Afternoon Breakout Sessions</b>	
  	<p><b>Getting There and Staying There: College Success for Students with LD and ADHD</b>  Jessica Eckert  Head of School, Fusion Academy</p>
 	<p><b>Wellness and Self-Care: Learning to Advocate for Yourself in Medical Situations</b>  Claire Polin  WIHD Speaker's Network</p>
 	<p><b>Redefining The Trade School-The Center for Career Freedom</b>  Elizabeth Edgar, Director/CEO, The Center for Career Freedom  Ed Pinkowski, Director of Instruction, The Center for Career Freedom</p>
	<p><b>Inclusive Transition Partnerships</b>  Michael Voron, Principal, Greenburgh Academy  Jennifer Maryanak, Transition Coordinator, Greenburgh Academy  Kristine Bunyea, Program Administrator, Westchester Community College</p>
	<p><b>Considerations and Support for Transition Planning for Families with a Genetic Condition</b>  Alissa Terry, Genetic Counselor, NYMAC Project Manager Ferre Institute/NYMAC Regional Genetics Network  Dr. Joann Bodurtha, Professor of Genetic Medicine, Professor of Genetic Medicine, Pediatrics, and Oncology, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine  Lin Perry, Family to Family Project Director, Parent to Parent of NYS</p>
 	<p><b>The Benefits of a Neurodiverse Workforce</b>  Patrick Bardsley  Co-Founder &amp; CEO, Spectrum Designs Foundation</p>

 For Self-Advocates	 Self Help	 Self-Determination	 Inclusive Higher Education
 Financial Planning & Systems Navigation	 Introduction to Everything	 For School Administrators & Professionals	 Living & Working

	<p><b>Protecting and Empowering: Supported Decision Making, Guardianship and Advance Directives</b>  Janine Belfast  Transition Specialist, WIHD</p>
<b>4 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST</b>	
ALL	<p><b>Ask the Experts - Parent Q&amp;A: Transition Planning with Your School</b>  Debbie Goddard  Family and Community Educator, WIHD</p>
<b>7 p.m. – 8 p.m. EST Evening Breakout Sessions</b>	
 	<p><b>Independent Living: Accessing Supports and Services as an Adult</b>  Hannah Badain  WIHD Speaker's Network</p>
	<p><b>Maximizing Benefits &amp; Services and Financial Planning for the Future</b>  James Traylor  President, Upstate Special Needs Planning &amp; Consulting</p>
 	<p><b>It's Not Just Exercise; How Yoga Increases Functioning and Decreases Anxiety</b>  Yael Sunshine  Yoga Therapist/Educator</p>
 	<p><b>What Does Transition Look Like?</b>  Rick Healy, Transition Coordinator, East Ramapo Central School District  Lynn Giles-Harris, Teacher, Nyack Public Schools  Judy Harrington, Teacher, Nyack Public Schools</p>
	<p><b>Person Centered Planning – The Key to any Transition</b>  Kirsten Sanchirico, VP of Workforce Advancement, NY Alliance for Inclusion and Innovation  Ketrina Hazell, Self-advocate, The Regional Centers for Workforce Transformation</p>
  	<p><b>Employment Services Post High School</b>  Jacie Feuer, Transition Services Director, The Arc of Westchester  Shari Lewitt, Career Development and Supports Director, The Arc of Westchester</p>












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	<p><b>Supporting Greater Transitions from High School to Adulthood with Predictors of Post-School Success</b>          Dr. Katie Brendli, Extension Associate, Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University          Dr. Hassan Enayati, Labor Economist, ILR School at Cornell University          Dr. Leslie Shaw, Research Associate, Institute on Employment and Disability at Cornell University</p>
	<p><b>Successful Learning Center - Designed to Foster Learning, Social Growth and Intellectual Curiosity</b>          Sheri Cappello          Director of Academic Affairs, The Successful Learning Center</p>

## Thursday, January 20



<b>8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. EST</b>	
	<p><b>Ask the Experts - Best Practices for School Professionals: How to Work with Students to Hear Their Voice</b>          Mariela Adams          Self Advocate Facilitator, WIHD</p>
<b>9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. EST Morning Breakout Sessions</b>	
   	<p><b>From Self Advocacy to The Law: How My Disability Impacted My Professional Journey</b>          Michael Gilberg, Special Education Attorney          Robert Tudisco, Senior Counsel to Barger &amp; Gaines          Ptahra Jeppe, Wolinsky Fellowship Attorney, Disability Rights Advocates</p>
	<p><b>Accessing Healthcare in Adulthood</b>          Sara Du Terroil          Independent Healthcare Advocate and Appeals Specialist, Du Terroil Advocacy Services LLC</p>
	<p><b>Internship &amp; Career Exploration with Inclusion</b>          Tina Dierna, Transition Coordinator, Kingston City School District          Rebecca Hansen, Transition Coordinator, Kingston City School District</p>



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	<b>Transition in the IEP - An Introduction for Parents and Guardians</b> Carin Horowitz Transition Specialist, Bedford Central School District
 	<b>Panel Discussion – Residential Transition Programs: What Are They and How They Can Help Your Child</b> Transition Programs Administrators
<b>11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST</b>	
ALL	<b>Ask the Experts - Parent Q&amp;A: Self-Direction and Benefits</b> Karen Healy Assistant Director for Family & Community Services, WIHD
<b>1 p.m. – 2 p.m. EST Afternoon Breakout Sessions</b>	
 	<b>What I Learned in High School: The Power of Socially Inclusive High Schools</b> Shana Belfast WIHD Speakers Network
 	<b>Using a Mindfulness and Chakra Meditation Practice for Self-Regulation</b> Susan Varsames Owner, Holistic Learning Center, LLC and Holistic Learning Center of Maui, LLC
 	<b>10 Basic Financial Steps for Special Needs Caregivers</b> Leizer Gewirtzman, CPA Special Care Planner, MassMutual Life Insurance Company
	<b>Competitive Integrated Employment: Customizing Employment Opportunities</b> Laura Owens President, TransCen, Inc.
	<b>Transition Planning Reflected in the Individualized Education Program (IEP) Document</b> Dr. Stephanie Wozniak, Transition Specialist, Regional Partnership Center at PNW BOCES Kit Casey, Transition Specialist, Lower Hudson RSE-TASC John McCabe, Training Specialist, Regional Partnership Center at PNW BOCES

 For Self-Advocates  
 Financial Planning & Systems Navigation




 Self Help  
 Introduction to Everything

 Self-Determination  
 For School Administrators & Professionals







 Inclusive Higher Education  
 Living & Working

	<b>How to be Prepared for Employment Before Graduating High School</b> John Keating Founder, Keating Coaching
 	<b>What's it Like to be in College? Hear from a panel of students in inclusive programs in NY</b> Martha Mock, Clinical Professor, University of Rochester Warner School of Education Beth A. Myers, Executive Director, Taishoff Center, Syracuse University
<b>4 p.m. – 5 p.m. EST Keynote</b>	
ALL	<b>The Disability Road Map and Self Advocates Panel Discussion</b> Samuel Habib WIHD Speaker's Network
<b>7 p.m. – 8 p.m. EST Evening Breakout Sessions</b>	
	<b>Barriers to Full Time Employment for People with Disabilities</b> Adam Danos WIHD Speaker's Network
ALL	<b>Ask the Experts – Parent Q&amp;A: Transition to 2 and 4 Year Colleges</b> Joyce Hawk Family and Community Educator, WIHD
 	<b>Supplemental Security Income Basics</b> Debbie Goddard Family and Community Educator, WIHD
 	<b>ACCES-VR: Assisting Individuals with Disabilities to Achieve and Maintain Employment and to Support Independent Living</b> Debra Ehrenberg Senior Vocational Counselor, ACCES-VR
 	<b>Yes She Can: Promoting Independence at Work</b> Amanda Becker-Torres Director of Training Programs, Yes She Can, Inc.

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 	<p><b>Preparing for Inclusive Higher Ed for Students with IDD</b>  Samantha Viscovich, Director for the Bridge Program, College of Mount Saint Vincent  Lorraine Termini, Associate Director for the Bridge Program, College of Mt. St. Vincent</p>
	<p><b>Transition Thought Exchange: Developing and Implementing a Project SEARCH Model</b>  Yvette Goorevitch  Coordinator of School District Partnerships, WIHD</p>









## Friday, January 21

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. EST	
ALL	<p><b>Ask the Experts – Parent Q&amp;A: Graduating with a Diploma</b>  Joyce Hawk, Family and Community Educator, WIHD  Debbie Goddard, Family and Community Educator, WIHD</p>
9:30 – 10:30 a.m. EST Morning Breakout Sessions	
 	<p><b>Self Help Strategies and Fostering Independence</b>  Jeremy Antar  Dean of Students, Winston Transitions/Winston Preparatory School</p>
 	<p><b>My Journey to Wellness and Independence</b>  Jesse Millman  WIHD Speaker’s Network</p>
	<p><b>Youth Transition and Future Planning</b>  Stacey Kantrowitz, Director of Community Employment Services, Jawonio Inc.  Sarah Trowers, Director of Day Habilitation Services, Jawonio Inc.</p>
	<p><b>Transitioning Life Skills into Community Service Skills that Promote Job Exploration and Job Readiness Skills</b>  Patti Colombo  Manager, RISE Program Volunteer New York!</p>

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IN	<b>Pre-Employment Transitional Services</b> Dwayne Moore, Career Development Program Manager, Ability Beyond Shaileen Brighton-Ortiz, Assistant Director of Programs and Service, Ability Beyond
IN	<b>Introduction to Housing Options</b> Michele Lawton, Founder, Special Needs Advisors Helen (Musa) Klebnikov, Partner, Special Needs Advisors
HE	<b>Supports in Inclusive Post-Secondary Education</b> Martha Mock, Clinical Professor, University of Rochester Warner School of Education Beth A. Myers, Executive Director, Taishoff Center, Syracuse University
<b>11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. EST Plenary</b>	
ALL	<b>Policy Roundtable with Elected Officials:</b> <i>Learn about disability legislation and work with your lawmakers!</i>

## Conference Threads

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**For Self-Advocates:** Sessions focused on issues for individuals with disabilities
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**Self Help:** Strategies and ideas to cope with stress and wellness ideas
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**Self-Determination:** Strategies to promote responsibility and independence
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**Inclusive Higher Education:** Information and promising practices in college programs for students with I/DD
- 
**Financial Planning and Systems Navigation:** Information regarding benefits systems and financial planning
- 
**For School Administrators:** Best practices to build capacity for inclusive transition supports and services. Learn from experts and each other.
- 
**Introduction to Everything:** Beginners' guide for families just starting transition planning
- 
**Living and Working:** Promising practices around housing, employment, and recreation