

## Registration

Name (s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Which sessions do you plan to attend?

8:30–10 am  T1  S1  A1  O1

(check only one)

10:15–11:45 am  T2  S2  A2  O2

(check only one)

### Do you have any dietary needs or require

any accommodations?  Yes  No

If yes, please explain: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Mail this form and a check to:

Center on Disability and Development

MS 4225 Texas A&M University | College Station, TX 77843-4225

### Rates

\$25 individual / \$30 family  
Pre-Registration (postmarked by 09/26/09)

\$30 individual / \$35 family  
Regular Registration (on site; cash/check only)

## Presenter Bios (in alphabetical order)

**BLAKE BOUDREAUX**, at 14 months old, was diagnosed with retinoblastoma (cancer of the eyes). Blake's left eye was removed, and he began radiation treatments. Less than a year later, the cancer returned and Blake battled this dreaded disease for a second time. Blake has lived each day of his life as if it were his last. He is dedicated to volunteering and spreading his message of hope and overcoming life's hardships. Blake graduated from Texas A&M with honors in 2007 with a degree in speech communications and sociology. He is employed by the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (Division for Blind Services) as a Transition Counselor working with individuals with visual impairments ages 10 to 22.

**JENNIFER GANZ** is an Associate Professor of Special Education at Texas A&M and a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Dr. Ganz has worked for 14 years as a general and special education teacher and an educational consultant. She continues to consult and present in Texas on topics relating to autism spectrum disorders and behavior difficulties. Dr. Ganz has authored or co-authored numerous articles, books and chapters on topics, including interventions for behavior and autism spectrum disorders, specifically, strategies for social and communication skills.

**JEFF GARRISON-TATE** has supported people with disability labels and their families for over 25 years. He has worked at Advocacy, Inc., the Arc of Texas and as Executive Director of an early childhood intervention organization. He is a frequent presenter and has published several articles on inclusive communities. He is also one of the founders of Community Now!, a statewide non-profit organization with a mission to ensure all people with disabilities are included in their communities. Recently, Mr. Garrison-Tate came on board with the Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M as a Project Coordinator.

**MALATESHA JOSHI** is professor of Reading/Language Arts Education, ESL, and Educational Psychology at Texas A&M, where he teaches courses and conducts research on assessment of and intervention for reading and spelling difficulties of speakers of English and other languages. He has published several papers and books on reading difficulties. His most recent book, published in 2008, *Becoming a Professional Reading Teacher*, outlines how to identify reading problems and deliver appropriate reading instruction. He has lectured in the U.S. and abroad on reading difficulties and was recently awarded the Erasmus Mundus visiting scholar fellowship from the University of Potsdam, Germany, to lecture and guide graduate students in the area of reading disabilities.

**JENNIFER MATHEWS** serves at the state-wide Coordinator for the Texas Microboard Collaboration. She oversees this innovative program for people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations. She is responsible for providing information and offering technical assistance to individuals creating both natural support and provider microboards.

**ANITA SOHN MCCORMICK** is on faculty at Texas A&M in the School Psychology program. Anita has served as a mental health consultant for Bryan Head Start and worked at Cypress Fairbanks ISD as a school psychologist intern. She specializes in Clinical-Child Psychology and Special Populations and is bilingual in English/Spanish. She has been involved in many research projects, including substance abuse prevention, interventions for culturally and linguistically diverse populations, and child perception of family after divorce. As a Licensed Specialist in School Psychology, Anita focuses her main interests on assessments for special populations and bilingual issues.

**MARCIA MONTAGUE** began her career in education as a teaching assistant in the special education program at a Bryan ISD middle school. Following completion of her bachelor's degree at Texas A&M, she worked as a special education teacher at both the elementary and middle school levels in a number of different instructional settings along the least restrictive environment (LRE). Marcia continued her education at Texas A&M, where she earned her master's degree in Bilingual Special Education and just recently completed her doctoral degree in Special Education Leadership. Marcia currently works as an Assistant Lecturer and Associate Research Scientist at Texas A&M, where she serves as the instructor for two special education teacher preparation courses and the program coordinator for the Low-Incidence Disabilities (LID) master's training program.

**DIONE PARRISH** has lived in Bryan-College Station since 1999; she has two sons, one with autism. Dione has attended numerous special education trainings and has been active as a parent advocate in our community for the past two years, including work as a PATH partner. Dione is the Education and Advocacy Coordinator for the BCS FACETS chapter (Families of Autistic Children Engaged Together for Support). Dione has extensive knowledge of special education law and the ARD meeting process and is currently being trained as an ARD Facilitator with TEA.



## A Disability Conference for Families in the Brazos Valley

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2009

8:00 AM–3:30 PM

COLLEGE STATION CONFERENCE CENTER



Center on Disability and Development  
at Texas A&M University  
[cdd.tamu.edu](http://cdd.tamu.edu)

# Conference Schedule

8-8:30 am	REGISTRATION			
	Transition	Special Education	Assessment	Other
8:30-10 am	<b>T1 Texas Microboard Collaboration</b> <i>Jennifer Mathews</i>	<b>S1 The ABCs of IEPs</b> <i>Jennifer Ganz</i>	<b>A1 How to Interpret Scores</b> <i>Anita McCormick</i>	<b>O1 An Introduction to Assistive Technology</b> <i>Marcia Montague</i>
10:15-11:45 am	<b>T2 PATH: A Cutting-Edge Method for Person-Centered Planning</b> <i>Jennifer Mathews</i>	<b>S2 The Future is Now!</b> <i>Jeff Garrison-Tate</i>	<b>A2 Applying Structured Teaching to the Home</b> <i>Marcia Montague</i>	<b>O2 Reading Disabilities: Myths and Realities</b> <i>Malatesha "Malt" Joshi</i>
Noon-1:30 pm	LUNCH AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS <b>Overview of Community-Based Waivers and Consumer-Directed Services Option</b> , <i>Elizabeth Jones</i>			
1:45-3 pm	<b>Special Education Advocacy Panel</b> , <i>Jeni Ganz, Jeff Garrison-Tate, Dione Parrish and Anita Sohn McCormick</i>			
3-3:30 pm	<b>Living in Darkness, Always Seeing a Brighter Future</b> , <i>Blake Boudreaux</i>			

## TRANSITION

- T1 Texas Microboard Collaboration: Transforming the Way Individuals with Disabilities are Supported**  
Create your own non-profit and apply to be a Medicaid Waiver provider or a board using natural supports. We will discuss opportunities and challenges to forming a Microboard as well as ways to determine who is a good candidate to form one. In addition, we will look at sample budgets and available community resources to support it.
- T2 PATH: A Cutting-Edge Method for Person-Centered Planning** This futures planning training will provide information to parents, case managers, teachers and transition specialists on PATH, a proven tool for building commitment and strengthening community. You will be on your way to identifying desirable images of the future and strategies for getting started in productively working for that future.

## SPECIAL EDUCATION

- S1 The ABCs of IEPs** Understand the basic requirements of Individualized Education Plans (IEPs) and Admission Review and Dismissal (ARD) meetings. We will discuss who's involved and the processes that lead up to the writing of a student's IEP, according to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act (IDEA 2004).
- S2 The Future is Now!** Get an overview of the precepts of giftedness and self-determination as well as the critical role that educators, advocates and families play in supporting a person with a disability label to successfully transition to a life in community. Participants should also gain an understanding of person-centered employment planning and how to facilitate opportunities for an individual to create meaningful relationships that will lead to successful community inclusion.

## ASSESSMENT

- A1 How to Interpret Scores** Information on the concepts of cross-battery assessments and how and why schools should use them.
- A2 Applying Structured Teaching to the Home** Learn to create structured environments and supports to prevent behavior problems and to allow students to benefit most from their environment whether it be school, home or elsewhere. Structured teaching and setting up structured environments is often beneficial for students with autism or students with intellectual disabilities.

## OTHER

- O1 An Introduction to Assistive Technology** This session will present a brief overview of legal requirements related to assistive technology, followed by a discussion of a sampling of different types of AT available. Learn about AT devices and services, when to ask for them, and why.
- O2 Reading Disabilities: Myths and Realities** Learn some of the common misconceptions about reading disabilities/dyslexia and what the current research says about identifying and teaching children with reading problems.

## Details

- Keynote address will be by Elizabeth Jones from the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS)
- Lunch provided (special requests based on dietary needs must be made by 10/03/09).
- Door prizes will be given away!

**For more information, contact Dr. Amy Sharp at 979-862-4612 or sharp@tamu.edu.**