

18th Annual Special Education Conference

**For Regular and Special Education Teachers,
Paraprofessionals, Specialists, Consultants,
Administrators and Service Providers**

**Holyoke Community College
Kittredge Center**

303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA

**Directions: I-91 N or S, Exit 16. Turn onto Cherry Street (Route 202).
Left at first light onto Homestead Ave. Right at flashing yellow light.**

March 18 and 19, 2008

Sponsored by the

**Western Massachusetts
Association of
Special Education Administrators
and
Mary Lyon Foundation**

*** TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008 ***

**8:00 - 8:30 AM REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:30 - 9:15 AM WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY ADDRESS**

**Michael Flynn, M.Ed.
Southampton School District
2008 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year
“Strategies for Success”
Our Responsibility to *ALL* Students**

**9:15 -11:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
11:45 - 1:00 PM LUNCHEON & KEYNOTE ADDRESSES**

BUFFET LUNCHEON

**Attorney Mary Ellen Sowyrda
Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, LLP, Attorneys at Law
“Current Legal Issues in Special Education”**

1:00 - 3:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

*** WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19, 2008 ***

**8:00 - 8:30 AM REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
8:30 - 9:15 AM WELCOME AND OPENING PLENARY ADDRESS**

**Charlie Appelstein, MSW
Consultant
“You’ve Got a Friend?”
The Uplifting Power of a Positive Peer Connection**

**9:15 - 11:45 AM CONCURRENT SESSIONS
11:45 - 1:00 PM LUNCHEON & CLOSING PLENARY ADDRESS**

**Sarah Kemble, MD,MPH
Founder of the Community Health Center of Franklin County
“The State of Children’s Health”**

1:00 - 3:30 PM CONCURRENT SESSIONS

TUESDAY, MARCH 18
Opening Plenary Address
Michael Flynn, M.Ed.
Southampton School District
2008 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year
“Strategies for Success”
Our Responsibility to *ALL* Students

Tuesday Morning Concurrent Sessions: 9:15 to 11:45 AM

- 1. HELP! The Middle School/High School Years and Students with ASD** **ALL**
DAY
(Autism Spectrum Disorder)
Leslie Michelle V. Touw, M.A. SpEd, Spectrum Services, Concord, MA
This full day workshop will provide the insight and the practical examples of techniques and materials needed to teach students with ASD. The emphasis in this session will be on students older than 12 (5th grade and up). The content will include the basics of how their differently ‘wired’ brains affect how they learn, practical methods and materials (things you can start using tomorrow for math, ELA, science, social studies, specials, organization, social and behavior needs), and will include a ‘spectrum’ of programs schools should provide to prepare them for the years beyond graduation.
- 2. Universal Design for Learning: Implementing the Concept** **ALL**
DAY
Rick Ely, Low Vision Blindness Consultant, Adaptive Technology Consulting
The tenets of UDL call for lessons and materials to be developed with accessibility in mind. This is done instead of having to retrofit them to meet the needs of students with learning differences. The UDL concept has been implemented by some states, but it has also been written into the house draft of the reauthorization of NCLB released in August. As teachers, many of us already find ourselves scrambling to employ UDL for our students. At the same time, we all think, there must be an easier way to do this! This full day workshop will offer a variety of approaches to meeting the goals of Universal Design. More importantly, it will give participants the opportunity to:

 - Develop handouts, quizzes & tests that meet a wide range of student needs
 - Find sources for materials in alternative formats
 - Download and work with materials in DAISY and NIMAS formats
 - Develop skill with software and hardware readers
 - Use production software to create multiple versions of materials

The focus will be on doing these activities, not just discussing them. To accomplish this, the workshop will be held in a computer classroom. Participants should bring a handout & quiz that they have recently used in class.
- 3. Developing Number Sense and Computational Fluency in Mathematics**
Michael Flynn, M.Ed., 2008 Massachusetts Teacher of the Year
Southampton School District
Participants in this workshop will learn a variety of activities to help students develop fundamental understanding of our number system. They will develop skills in analyzing student work and use them as a basis for informing instruction. They will also learn how to use classroom routines to help students bridge the gap from inefficient manipulative-based strategies to numerical ones. Although this session is primarily for grade levels K-3, teachers and paraprofessionals with students whose skills fall in the range may find this helpful.
- 4. Differentiated Instruction with Elementary Age Students**
Judah Hughes, M.Ed., Teacher-in-Residence, Westfield State College
The elementary classroom is always filled with differences. Students come to school with different backgrounds, interests, aptitudes and learning styles. Differentiated instruction is an approach to teaching that provides students with many opportunities to access and process information in the classroom. This approach asks teachers to adjust their curriculum to meet the needs of their learners rather than asking the learners to adjust themselves to the curriculum. This workshop provides the pedagogical background as well as many resources to begin or further enhance the implementation of differentiated instruction in your teaching practice.

- 5. School Skills: Change the Climate of Your Schools By Changing the Attitude of Your Students. Johanna Hammer, LICSW, Consultant with James Levine & Associates, P.C.**
School Skills is a new comprehensive school-based intervention model based on the philosophies of Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT). In the era of data-driven intervention, these two empirically proven models provide the basis for a new way to work with the student body as a whole as well as design & implement interventions for more specialized instruction. School Skills provides supports for working with diagnoses such as Autism Spectrum Disorders including Aspergers and PDD NOS, mood disorders, general anxiety disorder and school phobia, behavior disorders, ADD/ADHD and personality disorders. School Skills also provides protocols to address such high risk behaviors as substance abuse, eating disorders, violent behavior, risky sexual and self-harming behavior as well as strategies for reducing and eliminating more chronic, lower-risk behaviors such as truancy, school disengagement, student/teacher conflict and disruptive behavior. When implemented school-wide K-12, this skills-based model gives teachers, administrators & students the tools to communicate more effectively, manage emotions, increase attention, cope with stress & solve problems proactively. Participants will receive Group in a Box (one stop shopping for all your group needs) including syllabi, lesson plans, & activity suggestions, training in writing and implementing Functional Behavior Assessments and Behavior Intervention Plans, risk assessment protocols, team-building support & data collection tools. This workshop is appropriate for all school personnel.
- 6. It Takes A Village: How Franklin County Is Succeeding in Raising Drug-Free Kids
Kat Allen, Co-Coordinator, Community Coalition for Teens
Co-Chair, Communities That Care Coalition**
This seminar will provide an overview of the Communities That Care Coalition, recently named one of the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Coalitions of the Year for 2007. This national award recognizes coalitions that have successfully reduced substance use through a coalition model that brings together the many different community sectors, including schools, youth service providers, health providers, the faith community, law enforcement, parents, youth, business, local government and state agencies. In Franklin County we use a positive approach, and work to change the larger community, school, and family environments that influence youth decision-making. Workshop participants will have time for discussion about (a) how a Coalition model can increase the ability to have an impact, (b) how community agencies can adopt programs, policies and practices from the Community Action Plan, and (c) how the Community Action Plan can be more responsive to the needs of the special education community.
- 7. Closing the Reading Gap Using Lexia's Web-Enabled, Reading Skills Software as a Powerful Tool to Increase Reading Proficiency in Grades PreK-12
Don Dawson and Aaron Somoza, Learning Foundations, Inc.**
Learn how Lexia Reading v5 aligns with the 3-Tier Response to Intervention (RTI) Model and provides valuable data to inform and differentiate instruction. Lexia reading software builds skills with explicit practice in phonemic awareness and phonics while promoting gains in vocabulary, fluency and comprehension. Learn how Lexia's research-based design supports core reading curriculum, prevents reading failure for at-risk students and remediates difficulties in struggling readers and English language learners.
- 8. SPEDing Along on the Internet: Using the Internet to Find SPED Resources
David Greenberg, Director of Technology in Education Partnership**
In this hands-on workshop, we will explore various methods for searching the Internet, including the Deep Internet, for useful SPED resources. In this workshop, you will learn about on-line search strategies, the most popular search engines and how to choose the correct search engine for any particular query. After a short presentation, the facilitator will help people find the resources they need to make them more effective in their jobs.
- 9. Post-Secondary Transitions
Jim Nash, CareerWorks**
This workshop will focus on transition planning and programming for the transition between school and work. This will be a fun, hands-on session, and it will provide participants with concrete and immediately useful strategies and approaches to use with students and in team meetings.

BUFFET LUNCHEON

Attorney Mary Ellen Sowyrda
Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, LLP, Attorneys at Law
“Current Legal Issues in Special Education”

Tuesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions: 1:00 to 3:30 PM

- 10. Seminar for Superintendents and Special Education Directors**
Attorney Mary Ellen Sowyrda, Murphy, Hesse, Toomey & Lehane, LLP
This seminar will provide an opportunity for school district administrators to discuss pertinent special education issues with Attorney Sowyrda. Topics may include student records, preparing for hearings, tips to avoid hearings, 504, due process, student discipline, team meetings, & following procedures. Participation will be limited to superintendents, special education directors & their administrative guests. This seminar will conclude at 3 PM.
- 11. Working with Children Who Witness and/or Experience Violence**
Betty Guetti, 32-year Survivor of Domestic Abuse in Greenfield
This powerful workshop, presented in conjunction with a local agency, is designed to enable educators to recognize and help solve some of the problems associated with domestic violence and domestic abuse. Participants will learn about the signs and symptoms of domestic violence and abuse, learn what the red flags are, where to get resources and what actions to take. Hear a survivor’s incredible story, how she lived through the domestic violence, recovered and became an advocate for children and families.
- 12. Differentiated Instruction with Elementary Age Students**
Judah Hughes, M.Ed., Teacher-in-Residence, Westfield State College
The elementary classroom is always filled with differences. Students come to school with different backgrounds, interests, aptitudes and learning styles. Differentiated instruction is an approach to teaching that provides students with many opportunities to access and process information in the classroom. This approach asks teachers to adjust their curriculum to meet the needs of their learners rather than asking the learners to adjust themselves to the curriculum. This workshop provides the pedagogical background as well as many resources to begin or further enhance the implementation of differentiated instruction in your teaching practice.
- 13. Positive Behavior Management in the Classroom**
Mike Saporito, Director of Student Services, Farmington River Regional School District
This very upbeat and informative workshop will provide participants with concrete skills and a conceptual understanding of positive behavior management principles. This workshop will also provide specific interventions as well as other strategies for improving student motivation & performance in the classroom & other group settings. Components include Tolerance Levels, Supportive Verbal Interventions, Proactive and Responsive Limit Setting.
- 14. Curriculum Development and Integration Strategies -**
Aligning ALL Students with the General Classroom Curriculum
Kate Dwyer, Methods and Resource Teacher, Mohawk Trail Regional School District
This workshop is designed for instructional assistants who are eager to share and learn innovative strategies and ideas for successful integration. Using the [Resource Guide to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Students with Disabilities](#), participants will meet in small groups to brainstorm and problem solve around the challenges of integrating students with more significant learning needs into general education classrooms. Come join us for good handouts, planning forms, free website resources and information on ordering a FREE copy of the [Resource Guide to the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for Students with Disabilities](#).
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- 16. Beating All Odds: A Student’s Perspective**
Miranda Bemis, Student

Meet a graduate of the Whitingham School (VT), who received an associate's degree at Greenfield Community College in 2007 and is now a straight A junior at MCLA majoring in sociology. With the support of family, faculty and friends, her dreams have become a reality. Miranda never said "no" to a challenge! She will share her story of resilience, achievement and the supporters who helped make it happen. In this heartwarming, uplifting workshop, Miranda will discuss her triumph over multiple disabilities and how she was able to cope, conquer and compete.

17. Post-Secondary Transitions Jim Nash, CareerWorks

This workshop will focus on transition planning and programming for the transition between school and work. This will be a fun, hands-on session, and it will provide participants with concrete and immediately useful strategies and approaches to use with students and in team meetings.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19
Morning Keynote Address
Charlie Appelstein, MSW, Consultant
"You've Got a Friend?"
The Uplifting Power of a Positive Peer Connection

Wednesday Morning Concurrent Sessions: 9:15 to 11:45 AM

18. Universal Design for Learning: Implementing the Concept ALL DAY
Rick Ely, Low Vision Blindness Consultant, Adaptive Technology Consulting

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19. RTI Response to Intervention: What Is It? How Does It Work?
Kevin G. Tobin, Ph.D., Clinical Psychologist, Pittsfield Public Schools

Response to Intervention is a systematic data driven process for identifying, defining, and resolving students' academic and behavioral problems. At the present time, the new regulations in the State of Massachusetts stipulate that one way to identify if a child has a specific learning disability is if he is not making effective progress for his age or to meet ELA or Math Curriculum frameworks standards using a process based on a response to scientifically researched-based intervention. This workshop will discuss this process and the tools needed to conduct it, the roles of teachers, school psychologists, school adjustment counselors, and special educators and the types of interventions that have scientific evidence supporting them.

20. Spock Wasn't a Crock!
What Special Educators Should Know About Developmental Psychology
Charlie Appelstein, MSW, Consultant

Understanding where challenging students are "coming from" can truly make a huge difference in how they are taught – and whether they succeed. This fun & engaging workshop examines key developmental theory and helps educators devise interventions that are developmentally friendly and maximize student potential.

21. Working with Parents who have Cognitive Limitations:
Guidance for Teachers and School Personnel
Susan Jones, Director, Positive Parenting Resource Center at the United Arc

In the U.S. about one million households are headed by parents with cognitive limitations. This workshop will help educators better understand the challenges faced by these parents. Learn how to recognize when a parent might have cognitive limitations and develop strategies for effective communication with parents in order to maximize school success for the parents' children. Ms. Jones has worked with parents with cognitive limitations for more than 20 years and has developed innovative services to support their families. She founded the *Positive Parenting Resource Center*, the *New England Coalition for Supporting Parents' Cognitive Challenges* and is a leader in the national supported parenting movement.

22. Licensure for Special Education
Penny Rhodes, Ed.D., Director of Licensure Programs
Hampshire Educational Collaborative

This workshop will provide an opportunity for participants to learn about the process of becoming certified in the field of education. Hampshire Educational Collaborative provides Initial licensure programs in the fields of Moderate Special Needs, Middle School Math and Math/Science, Reading Specialist, English as a Second Language, and Administration - Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director, Principal, Assistant Principal. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

23. Stress Management: Pampering the Para's and the Pro's
Sheila Litchfield, RN, COHN-S, Health and Safety Consultant

This workshop is especially suited for anyone working in high stress situations. We will begin by brainstorming what the stressors are and sharing what works for you, in terms of stress management. Each person will receive a complimentary copy of the Channing L. Bete Company's book *Self Care Handbook/Stress Management*. Participants will learn effective stress management techniques and be pampered by a chair massage during the session.

**24. Assistive Technology for the Learning Disabled Student:
What's Available, How to Get It, and How to Implement It**
Sara Lowe-Bouchard, M.A., CCC/SLP, Assistive Technology Specialist
Hampshire Educational Collaborative

This session will focus on the types of assistive technology that are available and how they can be implemented effectively. Attention will be given to strategies for training staff and students in order to ensure success. The use of assistive technology to address Universal Design and Response to Intervention will be discussed. Some tips on funding will be shared.

Buffet Luncheon and Closing Plenary Address
Sarah Kemble, MD, MPH
Founder of the Community Health Center of Franklin County
"The State of Children's Health"

Wednesday Afternoon Concurrent Sessions: 1:00 to 3:30 PM

25. Humor Needs To Be Taken Seriously!
Charlie Appelstein, MSW, Consultant

Active use of humor in a classroom setting increases learning and reduces undesirable behaviors. This rip-roaring, side-splitting, bedlam inducing workshop presents and demonstrates a myriad of ways that educators can bring humor into their classrooms. Particular attention is devoted to the role of humor in helping at-risk students self-manage their behaviors.

26. Working with Children Who Witness and/or Experience Violence
Betty Guetti, 32-Year Survivor of Domestic Abuse in Greenfield

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**30. Augmentative Communication in the Schools
Diane Gumaer, SLPA, Assistive Technology Specialist
Hampshire Educational Collaborative**

This session will focus on various types of Augmentative Communication from low tech to high tech. There will be several types of devices available for demonstration. The presentation will include a discussion of staff and student training needs and strategies for functional and meaningful use in the classroom.

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Holyoke Community College **Park in Lots D and E**

From the North: I-91 South to Exit 16. Right onto Cherry Street (Route 202). Left at first light onto Homestead Avenue. Right at flashing yellow light.

From the South: I-91 North to Exit 16. Left onto Cherry Street (Route 202). Left at first light onto Homestead Avenue. Right at flashing yellow light.

From the East: Route 90 West to I-91 then North to Exit 16. Left onto Cherry Street (Route 202) Left at first light onto Homestead Avenue. Right at flashing yellow light.

From the West: Route 90 East to I-91 then North to Exit 16. Left onto Cherry St. (Route 202). Left at first light onto Homestead Avenue. Right at flashing yellow light.

SPECIAL EDUCATION CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Tuesday, March 18 and Wednesday, March 19, 2008

Holyoke Community College, 303 Homestead Avenue, Holyoke, MA

Please return this form to the Special Education Director in your school district if applicable.

Name _____

School _____ District _____

School Address _____

Work Phone _____ Home Phone _____ FAX _____

TUESDAY, MARCH 18 *Please indicate workshop number and title as provided in the brochure.*

AM 1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

PM 1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

FULL DAY ATTENDEES ONLY: I will be staying for lunch YES or NO

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19 *Please indicate workshop number and title as provided in the brochure.*

AM 1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

PM 1st Choice _____

2nd Choice _____

FULL DAY ATTENDEES ONLY: I will be staying for lunch YES or NO

Lunch tickets will only be issued to full day participants. Individuals NOT registering for the conference through a participating member school district may send a check payable to the Mary Lyon Foundation or purchase order for **\$125 per person per day** or **\$219 for both days**. Refunds will be given if requested TWO weeks prior to the conference. NO refunds will be given after that date; however, substitutions may be made at any time. **Please assume you will receive your first choice unless you are contacted by the Conference Committee.**

The Mary Lyon Foundation Conference Committee

P.O. Box 184, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370

Telephone 413-625-2555 FAX 413-625-0065

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MARCH 10