

2024 Endless Possibilities Conference

Session Descriptions

(updated 5/1/24)

Keynote “The Influence and Effect of SMALL’s Engagements”

Presenters: Troney Small & Dr. Ricardo Anderson

Troney will engage participants in a personal expressive talk about his family’s journey. The connections with families, parents, and children allow relationships to thrive in ways to create a pathway that is eased for children to reach their full potential. When there is an understanding and respect of each family’s dynamics, beliefs, values, and priorities, individuals show a genuine effort to work together to achieve the goals for the family. Troney will discuss the impact of “Adultification” and raise awareness about how our community can strengthen partnership with families for student success for all.

Family Partnering and Community Engagement Action Planning

Presenters: Troney Small and Dr. Ricardo Anderson

This session will talk about how relationship-based practices promote engagement with all families. When we connect with a family we form a relationship on behalf of their child. These practices, or strategies, are intended to guide what we say and do with families. Participants will share experiences and have critical discussion about community awareness, relationship practices and family partnerships that are inter-connected to create a Family Engagement Partnership Action Plan for all families.

Lessons Learned Along a ReMARKLEable Journey

Presenters: Hunter and Tim Markle

Come get some insight into navigating into adulthood. Hunter will talk about what worked, what didn't work and what could have been done better. Tim will talk about the bridges they built over the last 26 years and the missteps they have made. Transition to adulthood may happen around 18, but preparing for it begins early in life. What lessons can you pick up and what lessons can you share with us?

OUTCOMES:

- Identify the changing roles of parents/guardians as a child grows up.
- List ideas to help make transition into adulthood more likely to be successful.
- Determine the foundation to best help their child/student to succeed.

Understanding "Sensory"

Presenter: Katie Berg

Whether you are a family member, an educator, or a community professional, we can all strive to better understand what factors maybe affecting our student/child. The word sensory is used in many different contexts within life and we use it to mean many different things within an educational context. In this

session, participants will learn to be speaking the same language around the sensory systems, for example your visual system or less known system like your vestibular system. We will talk about how these systems along with the other 6 systems influence our brain. We will explore how environments can influence sensory input and look at how we might utilize our favorite sensory tools in more effective ways. These tools can be helpful for families and educators alike. We will learn to shift our focus from simply “sensory” to a deeper understanding of “regulation” and what that means in regards to our sensory systems.

OUTCOMES:

- Participants will examine tools and strategies commonly used and learn how to make an informed decision on their use by all providers
- Participants will leave with evidence-based information about universal strategies to support outcomes for students with sensory processing differences
- Participants will be introduced to the sensory systems and how they influence our brain and body (helping to norm the language used when referencing "sensory")

Helping Kids from Hard Places by Building Trust and Partnership with Foster Families

Presenter: Tim Borud

Building trust and partnership with foster families is critical to the success of kids who have experienced trauma. I will share many of my own experiences as a teacher and as a foster parent and encourage you in building trust and partnership with your families, especially foster families.

OUTCOMES:

- Understanding why partnership is critical for kids who have experienced trauma.
- Best practices in building trust and partnership with foster families.

Individuals with Disabilities in Charge of their Lives: Supported Decision-Making and Early Choice-Making

Presenters: Fil Clissa and Molly Murphy

Supported Decision-making is a set of strategies that help people with disabilities have more control over their life and future. It is also a legal alternative to Guardianship. Building a strong foundation for choice-making early on in a student’s life will ensure they have the skills to make supported decisions, and benefit from or participate in a self- determined life.

OUTCOMES:

- Understanding Supported Decision-Making, the process and strategies and why it’s important
- Strategies for teaching early choice-making skills
- Supporting individuals to live full lives: Living a more Self-Determined life

Welcome to College: Accessible and Inclusive

Join this interactive session to learn more about how to transition well into college! We will talk about the differences between accommodations and supports in high school and college, best practices for getting ready for college while in high school, and which skills are especially helpful to have in college.

We will also explore the changes that students, parents, and educators can expect to see as students with disabilities transition into college. While highlighting the resources, supports, and processes at Waukesha County Technical College, general information about seeking accommodations in college will also be provided.

OUTCOMES:

- Recognize the process of seeking accommodations in a post-secondary setting
- Understand the differences between accommodations in high school and college
- Describe some of the critical life skills that are helpful in college

More information coming soon ...