



# SPEAKER BIOS

## Session 1

### **Psychoeducational Testing: Understanding Results for College - Recommendations, Strategies, and Accommodations**

#### ***Rachna Varia, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist, Co-Founder of Mind Well Psychology***

Dr. Rachna Varia co-founded MindWell in 2004 and serves as the Director of Testing and Diagnostics. Dr. Varia has been a licensed clinical psychologist for more than 20 years. Dr. Varia's expertise lies with learning disability (psychoeducational) testing. She has a special interest in ADHD and the early detection of reading disorders, particularly the different subtypes of dyslexia. She is a former board member of the International Dyslexia Association, D.C. Branch. Dr. Varia graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill with a bachelor's degree in psychology (B.A.) with highest honors and distinction, in 1993. She received a master's degree in education (M.Ed.) in 1994 and a doctorate in clinical psychology (Ph.D.) in 1998 from the University of Virginia.

### **Finding a Good Fit for Students Who Learn Differently**

#### ***Judith Bass, CEP, Founder of Bass Educational Services, LLC***

Judith S. Bass is an internationally recognized expert in the field of college placement for students who learn differently. For the past 19 years, Ms. Bass has provided comprehensive college and post-secondary planning for students with learning differences. Ms. Bass has developed College Web LD, [www.collegewebld.com](http://www.collegewebld.com), a one-stop source of information on college disability services at more than 400 colleges in the U.S. Ms. Bass is the past chair of the Commission on Credentialing for AICEP ([www.aicep.org](http://www.aicep.org)) and is a past board member of the Independent Educational

Consultants Association (IECA). She also serves as a consultant to several independent high schools in the Washington, D.C. area. Ms. Bass is a contributing author to the recently published book, *Navigating the Transition from High School to College for Students with Disabilities*. Her articles have appeared in numerous magazines, including Washington Parent and ATTENTION Magazine. Ms. Bass received her undergraduate degree in Spanish and education from Stony Brook University, earned a graduate level certificate in college counseling from UCLA and holds the designation of certified educational planner.

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### **Successful Transition from High School to College for Students with Learning Disabilities**

#### ***William N. Presutti, M.S., LDT/C***

William Presutti served as the Director of the Regional Center for Learning Disabilities on the Florham Campus of Fairleigh Dickinson University from 2013-2018 and has served as an adjunct instructor in the Learning Disabilities Program since 1995. Bill has extensive experience working with students with learning disabilities in New Jersey as a former school district superintendent, principal, director of special services and teacher. He holds a Bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Scranton and a Master of Science in special education from Central Connecticut State University.

### **Waiver Redesign and CSB Services**

#### ***Lucy Beadnell, Director of Advocacy, The Arc of Northern Virginia***

At the Arc, Lucy Beadnell oversees the region's grassroots advocacy campaigns for people with developmental disabilities and creates informational resources for people with disabilities and their families. Lucy began volunteering with Arcs in college while studying vulnerable populations. Her mission is to ensure that all human and civil rights for people with disabilities are respected. She has worked in residential settings for people with complex medical needs, as a case manager for individuals with public supports, and as a public guardian. A focus has been to empower individuals to develop their skills of self-advocacy. She has worked closely with families whose loved ones are leaving institutions, with state and local legislators, and within the community on disability inclusion. Lucy works intensively to help children leave nursing homes, to ensure independent and integrated housing for people with disabilities, and for justice reform. She loves talking to people with disabilities and helping them share their stories to effect change. As a result of her efforts, she was selected as a 2018 40 Under 40 Awardee by the Leadership Center for Excellence. Lucy is a mom of three adorable kids and lives with her family in South Arlington.

## **Finding the Career That Matches Me**

***Lisa Blakeney, M.A., Certified Vocational Evaluator, Vocational Validation, LLC  
Janelle Ellis, EdS, CVE, Coordinator of Career and Transition Services, Office of  
Counseling and College and Career Readiness, Fairfax County Public Schools***

Lisa Blakeney is a certified vocational evaluator in private practice. Through her company, Vocation Validation, LLC, she provides career assessment and planning services, as well as information on barriers to employment, to individuals with disabilities. She provides training and consultation services to non-profit and community agencies, as well. Lisa possesses more than 35 years of experience providing vocational services to individuals with a variety of disabilities, and has a Masters of Arts in education and human development, with a concentration in transition and special education. She has provided training at state, regional and national conferences.

Janelle Ellis is the coordinator of career and transition services with the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Office of Counseling, and College and Career Readiness. She manages the development and implementation of transition services in the Division to insure best practices and effective service delivery. She earned an Educational Specialist degree (Ed.S.) from The George Washington University in 2013. Janelle has worked in FCPS Career and Transition services for twenty-four years and has an extensive background in vocational evaluation and career assessment.

## **Executive Functioning and Emotional Regulation for Young Adults with Autism**

***Paul Cavanagh, Ph.D., Senior Director, Vocational Independence Program, New York Institute of Technology***

Paul Cavanagh came to NYIT in 2010 and was the Assistant Dean and Director of Academic and Research for the NYIT Vocational Independence Program until 2016. He has been a professional working with individuals with developmental disabilities for more than thirty years. Early in his career, he worked in adult day services for DDI on Long Island and was the Coordinator of Advocacy Services for AHRC-NYC. Dr. Cavanagh has his Ph.D. and M.S., with a focus on social welfare policy, from Columbia University. He is a social worker with an M.S.W. from Stony Brook University. Just prior to coming to NYIT, Dr. Cavanagh was an Assistant Professor at Seton Hall University, teaching in both the Master's of Public Administration and the Master's of Healthcare Administration Programs. He has been an adjunct professor for schools of social work at Columbia, Fordham, Adelphi and New York Universities. Dr. Cavanagh's current research focus is identifying features of comprehensive transition programs that predict success for individuals with an autism spectrum diagnosis.

## **Parents' Role in College**

### ***Joan Ehrlich, Acting Director, Disability Support Services, Northern Virginia Community College***

After a 30-year career in public school special education (K-12), Dr. Ehrlich now supervises the Disability Support Services office at NOVA, where she has worked for 11 years. There are eight Disability Support Services counselors, serving one or more of NOVA's campuses. They work one-to-one with students to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations for their participation in classes and college-sponsored activities. An assistive technology coordinator, captioned media specialist and two full-time Sign Language interpreters provide assistive technology and communication access. Disability Support Services trains faculty and staff to make the provision of accommodations as seamless as possible. Everyone in Disability Support Services is committed to helping students make a successful transition from high school to college.

### ***Anmarie Kallas, Counselor, Disability Support Services, Northern Virginia Community College***

Anmarie works with students with disabilities to determine appropriate and reasonable accommodations that provide access to their courses and other aspects of college life. Prior to joining the NOVA Disability Support Services staff, she worked for the Council for Exceptional Children for more than 20 years.

## **Anxiety: Transitioning to Life after High School**

### ***Neil McNerney, M.Ed., LPC***

Neil McNerney is a licensed counselor, professional trainer, community speaker, and author. He has written *Homework – A Parent's Guide to Helping Out without Freaking Out!* and co-authored *The Don't Freak Out Guide to Parenting Kids with Asperger's*. He has worked with children and families for 30 years in private practice in Reston and Leesburg, VA. In addition, Neil serves on the faculty of the Virginia Tech Graduate School of Marriage and Family Therapy. Neil has been selected to provide keynotes and workshops at many state and national conferences, including the annual Smart Marriages conference and the American School Counselors Association Annual Conference.

## **Customized Employment Through Entrepreneurship: A Panel Discussion**

### ***Moderated by Joel Freidman, Management Analyst, Self-Directed Services, Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board***

As manager of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Self-Directed Services program, Joel brings more than 35 years' experience managing residential, employment, and advocacy services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disability and their families.

***Joe Bartling, Amazing Families Foundation, Inc.***

Joe Bartling and his wife, Karen, have adopted six children who were born blind, some with additional diagnoses, and they have two grown biological sons. Their story has been featured twice on the popular YouTube channel, Special Books By Special Kids. These videos have been viewed more than 8 million times. Last year, the Bartlings started their own YouTube channel, SixBlindKids, where they share the everyday life and challenges of a family with special needs in Fairfax County. Their YouTube channel has attracted more than 25,000 subscribers in less than a year and continues to grow rapidly. A few years ago, they started a 501(c)(3) non-profit, called the Amazing Families Foundation Inc. The foundation provides and promotes employment and job training for young adults with physical and developmental disabilities, including programs such as [Shred4Good.org](http://Shred4Good.org), as well as entrepreneurial and technology grant programs.

***Alicia Hallenberg, Administrative Assistant, E-Tron Systems***

As of October 2019, Alicia will have been employed for 3 years with the organization. She is very passionate about E-Tron and proud to present about such an exceptional program at the Future Quest conference.

***Lydia Kelley, Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates***

In the fall of 2013, Lydia walked into the beginnings of a coffee shop, just looking for a job while she was in college, not knowing it would lead to a greater sense of purpose for service to others than she had ever had before.

Lydia works for Every1CanWork, a nonprofit that employs adults with intellectual disabilities. Although she has worn many hats, first as a baker and most recently as the store manager for the business Cameron's Coffee and Chocolates, she now is involved with the nonprofit growth of the company.

***Charles Martin, Director of Marketing and Business Development, Wildflour Caterers***

For more than 25 years, Wildflour and its parent company, E-Tron Systems, have employed persons with cognitive disabilities. Dr. Martin has been key in marketing Wildflour's dog treats to many Whole Foods stores in the DC area. In addition to his long experience as a successful businessman and entrepreneur, he also coaches Special Olympics tennis.

## Session 2

### **Learn about Disability Services from College Counselors**

#### ***Tracy L. Bell, Disability Counselor, Northern Virginia Community College***

Tracy Bell, M.A., CRC. works at the Alexandria Campus of NOVA. She also teaches SDV-100 College Success Skills to incoming students. Ms. Bell has worked at NOVA for 5 years, and also has experience working in state vocational rehabilitation and at community agencies as a career coach and job coach in supported employment environments. Her work experiences have afforded Ms. Bell the opportunity to work with individuals with a variety of disabilities, including psychiatric, learning, and mobility disabilities, among others. Her personal focus is to empower students to take more control of their college experience by using the resources available to them.

#### ***Naomi Martinez-Jones, Director, Disability Services, George Mason University***

Naomi Martinez-Jones has more than 13 years' experience working with people with disabilities in secondary and post-secondary education and in the community. She received her undergraduate degree in special education and her master's degree in educational leadership, both from the University of Northern Colorado. She co-authored the article, "Awareness, Integration, and Interconnectedness: Contemplative Practices of Higher Education Professional" and was instrumental in creating the Disability Awareness and Inclusion Workshop for the George Mason community.

### **Dealing with Physical and Mental Health Challenges at College-panel**

#### ***Judith Bass, CEP, Founder of Bass Educational Services, LLC***

Judith S. Bass is an internationally recognized expert in the field of college placement for students who learn differently. For the past 19 years, Ms. Bass has provided comprehensive college and post-secondary planning for students with learning differences. Ms. Bass has developed College Web LD, [www.collegewebld.com](http://www.collegewebld.com), a one-stop source of information on college disability services at more than 400 colleges in the U.S. Ms. Bass is the past chair of the Commission on Credentialing for AICEP ([www.aicep.org](http://www.aicep.org)) and is a past board member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association (IECA). She also serves as a consultant to several independent high schools in the Washington, D.C. area. Ms. Bass is a contributing author to the recently published book, *Navigating the Transition from High School to College for Students with Disabilities*. Her articles have appeared in numerous magazines, including Washington Parent and ATTENTION Magazine. Ms. Bass received her undergraduate degree in Spanish and education from Stony Brook University, earned a graduate level certificate in college counseling from UCLA and holds the designation of certified educational planner.

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***Annie Tulkin, Founder and Director, Accessible College***

For more than 5 years, Annie was the associate director of the Academic Resource Center at Georgetown University, where she assisted undergraduate, graduate, and medical school students with physical disabilities and health conditions with the accommodations process; provided one-on-one consultation to students experiencing academic challenges; coordinated tutoring services for undergraduate students; scheduled and taught study skills workshops; and worked collaboratively with Residential Living to assist students with physical disabilities and health conditions who were seeking housing to meet their needs. While at Georgetown, Annie discovered that many of the students with a physical disability and/or health condition had not received transition supports to prepare them for the transition to college. Annie has worked in the disability field for most of her career, including Humanitas, Inc., (Job Corp disability support contract), the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), the National Service Inclusion Project (NSIP), and University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) Technical Assistance Projects. She was a Fulbright Fellow in Mongolia, where she conducted research on Mongolian teachers' perceptions of disability in the classroom. Annie has an M.S. in special education and a certificate in health coaching. She served in the Peace Corps in Mongolia from 2003-2005.

***Sarah Harte, LICSW, Director, The Dorm DC***

Sarah earned her Bachelor of Science degree in psychology from Northern Arizona

University and her Master of Social Work degree from New York University, with a specialty certification in clinical supervision. Sarah has spent nearly two decades working with young adults in the field of social work and collegiate mental health.

Prior to joining The Dorm, Sarah was the Assistant Director for Outreach at The George Washington University's Counseling & Psychological Services, where her hybrid role centered around expert clinical care and the development and implementation of campus-wide outreach. She also served on the leadership team of the Center. Sarah is currently an adjunct lecturer at Columbia University's School of Social Work and has previously worked with the University of Maryland, Barnard College and Semester at Sea.

With a focus on holistic care, Sarah strongly believes in the opportunity to successfully integrate academic ambitions with therapeutic goals. She strives to protect each client's investment in higher education by fostering the development of key skills and by creating a supportive network of clinical care. Sarah has extensive experience working with problematic substance use and co-occurring disorders, as well as training in motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy and the use of mindfulness meditation in therapeutic settings.

Sarah spends her time outside of work taking long walks with her dog, Sundance. She also loves to travel the world, try new restaurants and cook at home.

## **Portrait of an ADHD Graduate: Harnessing Your Superpowers**

### ***Patricia Hudak, PCC, BCC, Founder & Certified ADHD/EF Coach, PathFinder Coaching & Tutoring, LLC***

Patricia's passion for supporting families affected by ADHD came from her own experience raising two boys (now successful young men!) with ADHD diagnoses. In addition to her coaching work with students, parents and adults, Pat is honored to serve as the president-elect, Board of Directors of the Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD) non-profit organization. She is the past chair of the Northern Virginia and D.C. Chapter of CHADD (winner of the 2017 National Affiliate of the Year Award) and former chair of the ADHD Coaches Organization's Marketing and Public Relations Committee. Her training and experience have earned her worldwide recognition as a professional certified coach by the International Coach Federation.

## **SSI – Myth Busters**

### ***Marilyn Morrison, Project Director, WIPA/vaACCSES***

Marilyn Morrison is from Fairfax, Virginia, where she provides benefit analysis and assistance for people considering entering the job market, currently working, or considering changing jobs, and also receiving SSI or SSDI. She works extensively with employment service organizations, community rehabilitation programs, local vocational rehabilitation offices, school districts and many non-profit groups that assist people with disabilities to achieve their occupational objectives while utilizing their federal and state entitlements. Marilyn was certified by the Social Security Administration to provide services and certified as a work incentives specialist advocate by Virginia's Department of Rehabilitation Services in 2007 and the Maryland Department of Rehabilitation Services in 2011. Marilyn has presented for The National Organization of Social Security Claims Representatives, The Virginia Transition Conference, The National Autism Society Conference, The National MS Society, and many others. Marilyn began her career 18 years ago with VaACCSES, after a successful career in marketing and public relations. She is a proud Alum of THE University of Texas.

## **Executive Functioning and Emotional Regulation for Young Adults with Autism**

### ***Paul Cavanagh, Ph.D., Senior Director, Vocational Independence Program, New York Institute of Technology***

Paul Cavanagh is the Senior Director for the NYIT Vocational Independence Program. He came to NYIT in 2010 and was the Assistant Dean and Director of Academic and Research for the NYIT Vocational Independence Program until 2016. He has been a professional working with individuals with developmental disabilities for more than thirty years. Early in his career, he worked in adult day services for DDI on Long Island and was the Coordinator of Advocacy Services for AHRC-NYC. Dr. Cavanagh has his Ph.D. and M.S., with a focus on social welfare policy, from Columbia University. He is a social worker with an M.S.W. from Stony Brook University. Just prior to coming to NYIT, Dr. Cavanagh was an assistant professor at Seton Hall University, teaching in

both the Master's of Public Administration and the Master's of Healthcare Administration Programs. He has been an adjunct professor for schools of social work at Columbia, Fordham, Adelphi and New York Universities. Dr. Cavanagh's current research focus is identifying features of comprehensive transition programs that predict success for individuals with an autism spectrum diagnosis.

### **Students with Disabilities: From High School to College**

#### ***Betsy Trice, Attorney-Advisor, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of Education***

Betsy Trice has been with OCR's D.C. Enforcement Office since its inception in 1996. That office is assigned responsibility for investigating alleged discrimination at all levels of education and has jurisdiction over North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Ms. Trice received her B.A. from Vanderbilt University and her J.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **Adaptive Skills Training for Students with Disabilities Transitioning to College**

#### ***Dr. Sajjad Khan, Ph.D., LCSW***

Dr. Sajjad Khan is an experienced clinician and researcher who treats behavioral aspects of autism spectrum disorders, ADHD, anxiety, and mood disorders. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Autism Society of Northern Virginia and chairs an advisory committee for Fairfax County Public Schools.

### **Immigration Issues Regarding Post-Secondary Planning**

#### ***Lynelle Palencia, Fairfax County Public Schools***

## **Session 3**

### **Panel Discussion: Young Adults Share High School, College & Work Experiences**

### **Transition for Diverse Learners: Tips for Making the Process Seamless**

#### ***Kathryn Dooley, Instructional Coordinator, Northern Virginia Community College***

While earning her Ph.D. in history from Harvard University, Kathryn developed a love of teaching and a passion for expanding equity and accessibility in higher education. She led workshops designed to help students develop study skills and received a Certificate of Distinction in Teaching from Harvard's Bok Center. Kathryn has also worked providing direct support to adults with developmental disabilities in a residential and vocational setting. She lives in Bethesda, Maryland with her husband, Andrew, and their dog, Shorty.

## **Adulting for College: Five Tips for Success**

### ***MaryAnn Raybuck, M.S.W., LCSW, Case Manager, Northern Virginia Community College***

MaryAnn serves as the mental health consultant to the college, develops mental health/behavior supports for students, provides educational seminars to the college community, and conducts crisis interventions and risk assessments, as necessary.

## **Organize Your Life with Google!**

### ***Dr. Melissa Hartman, Ed.D., Special Education Teacher, Loudoun County Public Schools***

Returning to her first love after 16 years in administration as a supervisor and assistant director, Melissa currently works with students on the autism spectrum. Areas of focus include transition and assistive technology. She is an adjunct professor at Shenandoah University.

## **Apps for Life Skills**

### ***Judie Lieberman, Assistive Technology Resource Teacher, Fairfax County Public Schools***

Judie began her career as a special education teacher with the NYC Dept. of Education. After working with students in middle school and then in early intervention services, Judie followed her passion for children's literature, obtained an M.L.S. from the Pratt Institute and became a librarian for the Newark Public Library. Currently, Judie is the assistive technology services teacher for Career and Transition Services. She works with 18-22 year olds in FCPS to promote independence, using assistive technology, in the school, home and the workplace.

## **Self-Management Skills**

### ***Karen Berlin, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA***

Karen Berlin is an educational specialist for the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Training and Technical Assistance Center (T-TAC) at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia. Karen provides classroom, school and systems level coaching to increase achievement and positive outcomes for students with disabilities, including those with ASD.

## **Ending the Silence: Education and Hope for Mental Health**

### ***National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)***

## **How Parents Can Help Their Child Develop Self-Advocacy**

### ***Dr. Linda McKenna Gulyn, Professor of Psychology, Marymount University***

Dr. McKenna Gulyn received her Ph.D. in human developmental psychology from the University of Pennsylvania, and bachelor's degree in music education from Boston

University. She conducts research on public perceptions of autism spectrum disorder and other disabilities. She presents regularly for a variety of audiences, including local media, on topics such as bullying, helping children cope with stressful events, and self-advocacy for college students with special needs. Dr. McKenna Gulyn is the parent of two sets of twin boys, Christopher and Jonathan, 16, and Timothy and Daniel, 18. Her son, Daniel, has autism.

### **Learn Job Skills through a Volunteer Experience**

***Emily Swenson, Deputy Director, Volunteer Fairfax***

## **Session 4**

### **Be Determined for Your Future: Career and Workplace Readiness Skills**

***Nancy Anderson, M. Ed., Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Training & Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) at George Mason University***

For much of Nancy's career, she worked as a teacher of deaf and hard of hearing students (Pre K-12). She has also worked on several federal grant projects, servicing the special education field for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and at Gallaudet University.

For the last 15 years, Nancy's work has been at VDOE's T/TAC with Region 4 school divisions. She is a coordinator of Region 4 I'm Determined Project and for the Family Engagement Network. She is a consultant with Virginia Network of Consultants for Students who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing (VNOC) and is involved in Virginia's annual conference for teachers and professionals who work and teach students who are deaf or hard of hearing: *Opening Doors: Unlocking Potential!*

Nancy enjoys her T/TAC work on a variety of projects and in various roles, but she is especially proud her work for the I'm Determined Project's statewide and regional efforts for youth with disabilities and their parents.

***Janet Ratzlaff, M.A., Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Training & Technical Assistance Center (TTAC) at George Mason University***

Janet has more than 38 years of experience in education. She has taught at the elementary and middle school levels for much of her career. She also served as an instructional coach for Fairfax County Public Schools in the last four years of her teaching career. For the past five years, Janet has worked for VDOE's Training and Technical Assistance Center (T/TAC) at George Mason University for Region 4 school divisions as a youth coordinator for the I'm Determined Project and as a liaison for the Excellence in Co-Teaching Initiative. Janet has enjoyed the opportunities to collaborate with school divisions in Region 4 on projects, trainings, professional development

events and other occasions to increase learning about education and best practices for students.

### **Northern Virginia Community College to a Four-Year College**

#### ***Thomas Chalk, Transfer Advisor, Northern Virginia Community College***

Thomas began his college education at the Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) Loudoun Campus after graduating from Potomac Falls High School in 2011. He finished an Associate of Science degree in social sciences/psychology from NOVA in 2015. Thomas later transferred to George Mason University (GMU) and completed a Bachelor of Science degree in psychology with a minor in severe disabilities in 2019. As a previous first year advisor and current transfer advisor at NOVA's Loudoun Campus, Thomas has been able to better prepare students for their educational journey by sharing his personal college transition and transfer experiences.

### **Post-secondary Accommodations for Students with Brain Injury**

#### ***Amy Choi, M.S.W., CBIS, Program Manager, Brain Injury Services***

Amy Choi is a pediatric program manager in the Child and Adolescent Program. She received her bachelor's degree in communications from City College of New York and Master of Social Work degree from Adelphi University of New York. Amy has experience working with various populations, especially children with special needs and adults with mental health issues. Amy also has exposure to the legal system and the revolving door effect and struggles of homelessness and substance abuse. She has worked with the transition population at BIS for nearly 3 years and continues to identify resources in the community to help survivors succeed.

### **Dual Enrollment through Northern Virginia Community College**

#### ***Diego Aliaga, Dual Enrollment Advisor, Counseling Services, Northern Virginia Community College***

As a NOVA Alumnus and now NOVA staff/instructor, I have encountered or seen many of the issues students face on a daily basis. By drawing on my previous experiences, I hope to make a positive impact on the lives of our students. Higher education has always been a passion of mine, and I hope to continue to mentor and guide students to achieve their academic goals.

#### ***Kristin Carter, Dual Enrollment Coordinator (responsible for Loudoun), Counseling Services, Northern Virginia Community College***

### **Estate Planning and Guardianship for Individuals with Disabilities**

#### ***Michael D. Toobin, Attorney at Law***

Michael Toobin has been in the private practice of law in Northern Virginia since 1974. He graduated from The American University in Washington, D. C. in 1971 and received

his law degree from the University of Connecticut in 1974. His practice is general in nature, with emphasis on estate planning, special needs estate planning, administration of estates, and real estate law. He is a member of the Academy of Special Needs Planners, the board of directors of the Disability Law Center of Virginia (formerly the Virginia Office for Protection and Advocacy), and a member of the Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council. He is a former member of the board of directors of the Arc of Northern Virginia and a former adjunct professor of The American University. He lectures extensively on estate planning matters, and has presented at many different venues, including the Accessibility Summit, the Arc of Virginia annual convention, the Circle of Support conference, Future Quest, the National Down Syndrome Society annual conference, and the Williams Syndrome annual meeting. He is a contributing author of the books, *Virginia Elder Care Planning: How to Protect Assets and Provide for Services* (National Business Institute, 2005), *The Probate Process From Start to Finish* (National Business Institute, 2006), and *Estate Planning Basics* (National Business Institute, 2007). Michael and his wife, Merle, live in Burke, Virginia.

## **Competitive Employment 101**

### ***Naina Chernoff, Hire Autism Associates***

Naina Narayana Chernoff is the mother of a child with autism, as well as the sister-in-law of an adult with ASD. After graduating from Penn State University with a degree in journalism and graduating from American University with an M.A. in communications, she worked in television news and at trade publications before moving to positions in the autism world. Prior to having children, she worked as the first editor of The OARacle and also served as the editor of The Advocate, a magazine published by the Autism Society of America. Naina embraces the opportunity to serve as an advocate for individuals and families affected by ASD. In October 2017, she delivered a winning presentation on behalf of OAR that won the Encore Prize, a grant which will fund a mentor program aimed at securing jobs for young people with ASD. She enjoys helping teens and adults find meaningful employment in the competitive workplace.

### ***Amanda Rioux, Hire Autism Associates***

A North Carolina native, Amanda Rioux graduated from Appalachian State University where she majored in global studies and communications and later earned a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University. At Appalachian, she also minored in non-profit management.

Having worked and interned in the non-profit sector for more than seven years, Amanda has a genuine passion for giving back to others and her community. During her undergraduate years, she volunteered more than 300 hours as a NC-ACTS AmeriCorps member and co-led two Alternative Spring Break volunteer trips. More recently, she was a participant in Arlington County's civic leadership development program, Neighborhood College. Amanda joined OAR in 2018 after working with young people involved in the juvenile justice system in Maryland.

## **Increasing Social Skills for Post-Secondary Success**

### ***Karen Berlin, M.Ed, BCBA, LBA***

Karen Berlin is an educational specialist for the Virginia Department of Education's (VDOE) Training and Technical Assistance Center (T-TAC) at George Mason University, in Fairfax, Virginia. Karen provides classroom, school and systems level coaching to increase achievement and positive outcomes for students with disabilities, including those with ASD.

## **Disability Disclosure: Collaborating with your Employer to Thrive in the Workplace**

### ***Matthew Barkley, Director of Disability Services Planning and Development, Fairfax County Government***

Matthew Barkley has been the Director of Disability Services Planning and Development for the Fairfax County Department of Family Services and provided staff support to the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board for more than a decade. Matt also serves as the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator for the Department of Family Services. In this capacity, he helps both customers and employees navigate the county's ADA reasonable accommodation process. As an individual with a disability and as an advocate for people with disabilities, he has worked on policy and legislation impacting the lives of people with disabilities on the local, state and federal level for nearly twenty years. Before working with Fairfax County, Matt was a trainer and marketer for the National Council on Independent Living, a statewide systems advocate for the New York State Independent Living Council, and an advocate and developer for ARISE, a Center for Independent Living in New York State. Matt has a bachelor's degree in marketing and public relations from the State University of New York at Oswego, and is a certified public manager from The George Washington University's Center for Excellence in Public Leadership.

## **Living Sober: Navigating Life after High School Without Using Drugs or Alcohol**

### ***Amy E. Iliffe, M.Ed., LPC, Student Assistance Specialist, Loudoun County Public Schools***

Amy Iliffe has been working in the field of addiction and mental health awareness for 16 years. In her present position, her primary role is substance use prevention and intervention at the middle and high school levels. Prior to this, Ms. Iliffe worked at Loudoun County Mental Health as a clinician on the substance abuse team. Ms. Iliffe has a master's in sociology from The Ohio State University, a master's in counseling education from Virginia Tech, and is a licensed professional counselor.

### ***Tiffany J. Jones, M.Ed., LPC, CSAC, CMHIMP, Substance Abuse Prevention Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools***

Tiffany is a licensed professional counselor, certified substance abuse counselor, and certified mental health integrative medicine provider in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

She is a substance abuse prevention specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools. Administrators and counselors send Tiffany referrals for students who they believe use substances. She then determines risk level and whether the student should receive outside counseling services.

She has five years of experience working with adjudicated offenders. Her experience ranges from working with those who have depression and trauma-related disorders to personality disorders. Prior to that, she worked with children in the school system who had emotional disabilities, with families in shelter care settings, and in other environments. She employs a multicultural, cognitive-behavioral, and trauma-informed approach with clients.

### ***Sam Anthony Lucania, Mental Health and Wellness Speaker and Author***

Sam Anthony is a person in long term recovery from substance use disorder. He uses his personal experiences with drugs, alcohol, depression, anxiety, suicidal behavior and recovery to educate and motivate others.

He took his first drink at 12 years old as a means of hiding his depression and as an attempt to fit in with his peers. He moved on to smoking weed and taking pills in high school, which led him down a path of destruction. Running away from his problems, he left New Jersey and moved south in hopes of starting over. But everywhere he went, there he was. What started off as self-medication turned into vicious addiction, leading to an overdose that landed him on life support in 2013. Thinking he could still function without help and counseling, he was arrested and sentenced to three years in jail in 2015.

Since then he has passionately shared his story with thousands of high school and college students, health care professionals, and government officials through motivational speaking, panel discussions, and personal testimonials. Sam's message emphasizes awareness and encouragement.

## **Careers You Can Learn in Two Years or Less**

### ***Shelli Farquharson, Career Experience Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools***

Ms. Farquharson began her career with Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) in 2002 as a special education teacher at her alma mater, South Lakes High School. She has also worked as career coach with Northern Virginia Community College and as a career center specialist at Pimmit Hills High School.

Ms. Farquharson was named Vienna-Tysons Chamber of Commerce Educator of the Year in 2011 and is a 2012 graduate of Leadership Fairfax's Emerging Leaders Institute (ELI). She is passionate about helping students plan and accomplish their future career goals and believes, *"To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan but also believe."* Anatole France

***Jill Burrer, Career Experience Specialist, Fairfax County Public Schools***

Jill Burrer has worked in Fairfax County Public Schools since 1999, and has also worked with Marshall Academy and with Falls Church Academy. Prior to her work with FCPS, she worked in higher education administration as director of New Student Programs and Leadership, and in Career Services. She worked in advertising and public relations prior to making a career switch into education. She received her Bachelor of Arts in journalism and advertising/public relations from Radford University and Master of Arts in higher education administration from Bowling Green State University.