

# 2012 Conference on Inclusive Education:

## Opening Doors to Curriculum, Classmates, and Community

February 9-11, 2012 • Hyatt Regency Denver Tech Center • Denver, CO

### Featured Keynote Presenters:



Doug Fisher



Arthur McFarlane II



Norman Kunc

### Highlights:

- **Exhibit Marketplace**

**Grand Mesa Atrium, 2nd Floor:** For great shopping and opportunities to learn about available resources for families and educators, visit the Exhibit Marketplace. And, be sure to check out the awesome work of the self-advocate business entrepreneurs!

- **Silent Auction**

**Friday, February 10, Mesa Verde Foyer, Ground Floor:** Take advantage of the huge bargains and support the work of PEAK Parent Center at our 10th annual Silent Auction fundraiser. Bidding will be open from 10:15 am – 6:15 pm on Friday, February 10.

- **Karaoke Extravaganza**

**Friday, February 11, Centennial Room, 12th Floor, 8:30 pm:** This free and fun-filled evening of singing and dancing is back! The Karaoke Extravaganza is open to everyone, so please bring your family and friends and enjoy the great selection of songs, singing, and a cash bar.

2012  
PEAK Parent Center  
Conference on  
**INCLUSIVE**  
**EDUCATION**

Presented by PEAK Parent Center



# ■ Welcome!

On behalf of PEAK Parent Center and the incredible line-up of presenters featured in 2012, thank you for joining us at this cutting-edge conference which focuses on inclusive, best-practice educational strategies that create equality in education and increase achievement for ALL students, particularly students with disabilities. We look forward to learning with you and gaining the practical tools needed to open doors in schools and communities so all students can achieve success!

## Here are a few things we'd like to draw your attention to:

➤ **Your name tag is your ticket to all conference sessions and meals. Please wear it at all times.**

### Evaluation

Please complete the conference evaluation, which you can do two ways: online (link at [conference.peakparent.org](http://conference.peakparent.org)), OR by hard copy included in your packet. We value your input, and your feedback provides PEAK with important information to use when planning future conferences. Please only complete one evaluation per person utilizing either the online option or by hard copy.

### Complimentary Parking

Complimentary self-parking is available for all conference attendees in the parking garage attached to the Hyatt. The parking gates will be left open when exiting the garage during the conference.

### PEAK Sales Table & DVD Sales of Keynote Presentations

Visit the PEAK sales table in the exhibit marketplace and purchase books and DVDs from various conference presenters and other leading experts in the fields of inclusive and best practice education! The PEAK sales table is also the spot to purchase DVDs\* of select keynote presentations from 2012 which will be filmed. Place and order for your favorite keynote today! *\*Select keynote presentations will be available for purchase only if consent has been received from the presenter.*

### Exhibit Marketplace

Grand Mesa Atrium, 2nd Floor

Visit the exhibit marketplace and browse the variety of fun gifts, organizations, and educational resources and products! There are many self-advocate business entrepreneurs showcasing their products, so be sure to support their great work!

### Silent Auction, Friday, February 10, 2012

Mesa Verde Foyer, Ground Floor

Come bid on the eclectic assortment of items at PEAK's 10th annual Silent Auction Fundraiser! Featured items include jewelry, weekend getaways, an American Girl Doll, hand made pottery, artwork, and scarves, and much more! Don't miss out on this excellent shopping opportunity where 100% of the proceeds will help fund future conferences and forward the mission of PEAK Parent Center. Bidding opens at 10:15 am and closes at 6:15 pm, leaving plenty of time for you to bid on the great bargains throughout the day Friday! Can't stay until 6:15 pm? Check out our brand new **Buy Now** option!

### Credit

Continuing Education Credit: Professional development (recertification) hours will be available based on the clock hours of content at the conference. These may apply toward the professional development requirement for educators renewing their licenses. Certificates will be available at the end of the day Thursday and Saturday.

Graduate and Undergraduate Credit: Participants attending all three days of the conference are eligible to apply for two university semester credits for a cost of \$120. These credits are available through the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs (UCCS). Additional information is included in your conference packet.

### Getting Around Denver

The Hyatt has a complimentary shuttle that operates within a 5-mile radius of the hotel. Additionally, Denver has a Light Rail public transportation system that can get you most places you want to go in Denver! The Belleview Light Rail Station is within walking distance of the hotel, and all light rail cars are wheelchair accessible. Light Rail and area restaurant maps will be available at registration headquarters.

### Too Busy to Shop On-Site?

No problem! Visit [www.peakparent.org](http://www.peakparent.org) and click on Product Catalog to check out our online store that's jam-packed with research-based, best-practice publications and videos that improve outcomes and expand possibilities for all diverse learners. And, in addition to our online product catalog, our website has lots of helpful information and resources that are useful for both families and professionals.

➤ **Out of respect to our presenters and participants, please SILENCE the ringer on your cell phone prior to entering sessions. Your attention to this important detail is appreciated!**

## Agenda At A Glance

### Thursday, February 9, 2012

#### Topical Institutes – Pre-Conference

8:00-10:00 am	Registration – Grand Mesa Foyer
8:00-9:00 am	Coffee – Grand Mesa Foyer
<b>9:00 am-12:00 pm</b>	<b>Topical Institutes Begin</b> (Morning Break 10:30-10:45 am)
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch – Grand Mesa DEF
12:00-4:30 pm	Exhibits Open – Grand Mesa Atrium
<b>1:00-4:00 pm</b>	<b>Topical Institutes Continue</b> (Afternoon Break 2:30-2:45 pm)



### Friday, February 10, 2012

#### General Conference Begins

7:00-10:00 am	Registration – Grand Mesa Foyer
7:00 am-5:30 pm	Exhibits Open – Grand Mesa Atrium
7:00-8:00 am	Coffee – Grand Mesa Foyer
<b>8:00-10:15 am</b>	<b>Plenary Session – Grand Mesa Ballroom</b> <b>Keynote Presentation: Doug Fisher</b>
10:15-10:30 am	Break & Exhibit Time
10:15 am-6:15 pm	Silent Auction Bidding Open – Mesa Verde Foyer
<b>10:30 am-12:00 pm</b>	<b>90-Minute Breakout Sessions:</b> Choose from #1-6 Which Run Concurrently
12:00-12:45 pm	Lunch – Grand Mesa Ballroom
<b>12:45-2:00 pm</b>	<b>Plenary Session – Grand Mesa Ballroom</b> <b>Keynote Presentation: Arthur McFarlane II</b>
2:00-2:15 pm	Break, Silent Auction & Exhibit Time
<b>2:15-3:45 pm</b>	<b>90-Minute Breakout Sessions:</b> Choose from #7-12 Which Run Concurrently
3:45-4:00 pm	Break, Silent Auction & Exhibit Time
<b>4:00-5:30 pm</b>	<b>90-Minute Breakout Sessions:</b> Choose from #13-18 Which Run Concurrently
5:30-6:15 pm	Silent Auction Final Bidding & Networking Hour with Cash Bar – Mesa Verde Foyer
8:30 pm-Midnight	Karaoke Extravaganza – Centennial Room, 12th Floor

### Saturday, February 11, 2012

#### General Conference Continues with a Keynote Presentation and Mastery Sessions

8:00-10:00 am	Registration – Grand Mesa Foyer
8:00 am-2:30 pm	Exhibits Open – Grand Mesa Atrium
8:00-8:30 am	Coffee – Grand Mesa Foyer
<b>8:30-9:45 am</b>	<b>Plenary Session – Grand Mesa Ballroom</b> <b>Keynote Presentation: Norman Kunc</b>
9:45-10:00 am	Break & Exhibit Time
<b>10:00 am-2:30 pm</b>	<b>Mastery Sessions:</b> Choose From Sessions 1 thru 5 Which Run Concurrently
12:00-12:30 pm	Boxed Lunches Served – Grand Mesa DEF
2:30	Close of Conference

## Don't Forget: Evaluation!

Please complete your conference evaluation! Access the link at [conference.peakparent.org](http://conference.peakparent.org) OR complete using the hard copy in your packet!

Thursday, February 9, 2012

## Topical Institutes Pre-Conference

8:00-10:00 am	Registration – Grand Mesa Foyer
8:00-9:00 am	Coffee – Grand Mesa Foyer
9:00 am-12:00 pm	Topical Institutes Begin <i>(Morning Break 10:30-10:45 am)</i>
12:00-1:00 pm	Lunch – Grand Mesa DEF
12:00-4:30 pm	Exhibits Open – Grand Mesa Atrium
1:00-4:00 pm	Topical Institutes Continue <i>(Afternoon Break 2:30-2:45 pm)</i>

Please note that pre-registration was required for these institutes. If you are uncertain of what session you registered for, please check at registration headquarters. Rooms were assigned based on pre-registration numbers, so please attend the session you originally signed up for. Thank you and enjoy your day!

### Session 1

#### Universal Design, Differentiation, and Curricular Adaptations

**Presented by Patrick Schwarz**

Room: Grand Mesa AB

### Session 2

#### Inclusive Practices in Boulder Valley School District: All Means All: Structures, Practices, Strategies, and Beliefs

**Presented by Rich Villa and a Panel from Boulder Valley School District**

Rich Villa will facilitate this entire day, and presenters from Boulder Valley School District will include central office personnel, building administration, parents, students, and interventionists: general education, special education, ELL, and gifted and talented.

Room: Chasm Creek

### Session 3

#### Literacy 2.0 in Practice

**Presented by Kim Elliot and Alex Gonzalez**

Room: Grand Mesa C

### Session 4

#### Bridging the Gap: Using Implementation Best Practices to Promote Inclusion and Evidence-Based Practices

**Presented by Karen Blase**

Room: Wind River

### Session 5

#### Building Customized Supports, One Person At A Time

**Presented by Beth Gallagher**

Room: Wind Star

### Session 6

#### Opening Doors for Strong Communication: Tools that Increase Leadership, Negotiation, and Advocacy Skills for ALL!

**Presented by Jacqueline Thousand and Lisa Houghtelin**

Room: Mesa Verde AB



↘ Out of respect to our presenters and participants, please **SILENCE** the ringer on your cell phone prior to entering sessions. Your attention to this important detail is appreciated!

Friday, February 10, 2012

# General Conference Begins

## Friday Morning

- 7:00 – 10:00 am Registration – Grand Mesa Foyer
- 7:00 - 8:00 am Coffee - Grand Mesa Foyer
- 7:00 – 8:00 am Exhibits Open – Grand Mesa Atrium
- 8:00 -10:15 am Plenary Session – Grand Mesa Ballroom



### Keynote Presentation: Creating the Culture of Achievement and Belonging Presented by Doug Fisher

Schools have a culture; visitors sense it from the moment they enter the building yet it may not be apparent to those who inhabit it. A culture of achievement begins by building a culture of caring. The culture is nurtured when students are welcomed, when people inside the organization do no harm, when choice words are used to build student identity, when it's never too late to learn and policies and procedures communicate that belief to all stakeholders, and when schools strive to be the best in the universe. Using these five lenses, we can build the school culture and create a place where students belong and achieve. *Douglas Fisher is a Professor of Education at San Diego State University and a teacher leader at Health Sciences High & Middle College. Doug is also an award winning educator and author, and a former PEAK Board Member.*

- 10:15 – 10:30 am Break & Exhibit Time
- 10:15 am – 6:15 pm Silent Auction Bidding Open – Mesa Verde Foyer
- 10:30 am – 12:00 pm 90-Minute Breakout Sessions: Choose from Sessions #1-6, Which Run Concurrently

### Session 1: Discipline that Causes Change: Restorative Practices, Presented by Doug Fisher and Dominique Smith

**Room:** Grand Mesa AB

How can discipline policies be revised so that students learn from the mistakes that they make? School wide positive behavioral supports have been effective in creating schools that are more supportive, but what happens when individual students do harm? What should be the response? Educators know that suspension and expulsion policies do not work, but what are the alternatives? Restorative practices provide this alternative. When students learn to face their victims and assume responsibility for their actions, change happens. Over time, students learn to do the next right thing and change their behavior. **Suggested Audience:** Everyone, particularly family members, general and special education teachers and administrators, behavior consultants, paraprofessionals, and related service providers.

### Session 2: Writing an Effective, Inclusive, Individualized Education Plan (IEP) for Student Success, Presented by Christi Kasa

**Room:** Chasm Creek

The development of the IEP is a critical step that a student's team takes to communicate goals and share strategies that will support the student to reach those goals. Careful planning of the IEP is essential when designing the services needed to support the child successfully. The team should take time when planning for the IEP to listen and learn from each other. When the team is focused on planning for an inclusive placement, they should focus on including as much information as possible in the IEP about the necessary supports needed so the child can participate successfully in

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the general education classroom. Attend this informative, hands-on session and learn the practical strategies and tips you need to create an effective, inclusive IEP for your child or student! **Suggested Audience:** All family members, general and special educators, paraprofessionals, and related service providers who are interested in writing effective IEPs!

### Session 3: Advocacy for a New Era: What Parents Need to Know, Presented by Candace Cortiella

**Room:** Mesa Verde AB

This session will explore how advocacy efforts must change in light of today's education and economic climate, including how to maximize advocacy efforts and minimize obstacles. Strategy do's and don'ts are discussed and the need for systemic advocacy is explored. Participants of this session will takeaway an understanding of the advocacy/involvement continuum, an understanding of the components of a cooperative, results-oriented relationship with schools, and will learn how to manage common obstacles in education planning. **Suggested Audience:** Parents of students with disabilities and all advocates who support them.

### Session 4: Moving, Relocating, and the Search for an Inclusive Oz, Presented by Janet Sauer

**Room:** Wind Star

Families move from place to place in ever increasing numbers. Relocating a family is challenging under any circumstance, but transitioning a child with a disability between schools, especially to new states, can be particularly difficult. When families seek inclusion, the situation becomes more complex with issues that reveal how inclusion is understood differently by various people, based on culture and geography. This

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## Friday Sessions Continued

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presentation describes one family's journey through the moving process and how the changing social landscapes revealed localized structures where labeling and placement norms discriminated against a boy with Down syndrome. Despite federal legislation regarding special education and the involvement of families, practices differ geographically when determining eligibility, communicating with parents, and discussing how support services will be provided. The presenter – a parent, educational researcher, and instructor of pre-service teachers – suggests a series of probing questions for researchers and families to examine and related implications for practice. **Suggested Audience:** Families, general and special education teachers and administrators.

### **Session 5: Working Towards Making Every Child's School Experience Positive and Successful, Presented by Robert Dowling**

**Room: Grand Mesa C**

In this session, we will discuss ways to develop curriculum for an inclusive classroom and explore a multitude of practical strategies for incorporating all children. We will make use of artifacts, video clips, children's work, and case studies throughout the session. By proactively addressing the challenges that some see about inclusive education, we can help ensure that inclusion is truly successful. Tufts University does not follow one philosophy but uses aspects of a number of philosophies including Rogoff,

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Vygotsky, and Dewey to be able to include a wider range of learners. This session will outline strategies adapted from these and other teachings that are utilized in classrooms at Tufts University. **Suggested Audience:** This session is intended for all families, teachers, and educators who have a commitment to inclusive education.

### **Session 6: Self-Advocacy and Building A Better Culture for People Differently-Abled in Our Schools and Communities, Presented by Stephen Hinkle**

**Room: Wind River**

Join Stephen, a self-advocate with autism, and explore disability culture within our schools today. Drawing from his own experiences as a student, Stephen will teach participants ways to evaluate the culture of disability within their own school and gain strategies that positively impact this culture in a variety of academic and extracurricular areas. Specific emphasis will target ways to more effectively involve and engage students in a well-designed Individualized Education Plan and how policy changes within various school teams can enhance disability culture and the entire school community. By making small changes to the overall culture of a school, you can make the outcomes far better for ALL children. **Suggested Audience:** Parents, self-advocates, general and special educators, advocates, paraprofessionals, and community members.

## Friday Afternoon

12:00 – 12:45 pm Lunch – Grand Mesa Ballroom  
12:45 – 2:00 pm Plenary Session – Grand Mesa Ballroom



### **Keynote Presentation: Equality Then and Now Presented by Arthur McFarlane II**

Arthur Edward McFarlane II is the Great-Grandson of W. E. B. Du Bois, an African American civil rights leader. He enjoys speaking to groups about his "Grandpa's" role in history, and how his Grandpa's work is still relevant today. Arthur has worked for over 25 years as a statistical analyst and manager first at the Center for Health Services/Policy Research, and for the past 23 years at the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE). He is currently an evaluator in the Epidemiology, Planning and Evaluation Branch in the Prevention Services Division.

2:00 – 2:15 pm Break, Silent Auction, & Exhibit Time  
2:15 – 3:45 pm 90-Minute Breakout Sessions: Choose from Sessions #7-12 Which Run Concurrently

### **Session 7: Keynote Breakout: Question & Answer Session with Arthur McFarlane II**

**Room: Grand Mesa C**

In this breakout session, attendees will get a chance to engage with keynote speaker Arthur McFarlane II as he participates in a Question and Answer session with the audience. Intimate and informal, this is a special opportunity to get your questions for Arthur answered! **Suggested Audience:** Everyone!

### **Session 8: Equitable Grading Policies, Presented by Doug Fisher and Aida Allen**

**Room: Grand Mesa AB**

How should students be evaluated, based on performance, effort, or mastery? What role should homework play in grades? Can grades accurately reflect student learning? These questions plague

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educators, and have for decades. In this session, we will explore effective grading policies that ensure accountability and teach students that it's never too late to learn. **Suggested Audience:** Everyone, particularly family members, general and special education teachers and administrators, paraprofessionals, and related service providers.

### **Session 9: Matching Technology Innovations to Individual Student Needs: Ways Effective Implementation Increases Student Outcomes, Presented by Sean Smith**

**Room: Chasm Creek**

Technology innovation does not equal technology implementation, especially in the educational setting. Today, we find ourselves with thousands of "apps" and other technologies that offer tools

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to further engage, if not radically alter, the way we support struggling learners and those with disabilities. This presentation will focus on these innovations and explore ways teachers and family members can work together to identify appropriate tools, and effectively implement them into the home and school environment where they can further empower the student. **Suggested Audience:** Parents, family members, educators, and agency personnel working to further empower family members to work with educational personnel will be the focus of this presentation. While the technology innovations will be the focus, educators and parents will be the desired audience in order to engage them in the issues central to implementation.

**Session 10: Supporting Students who Experience Grief, Loss, and Trauma and the Intersections of Adoption, Foster Care, and Kinship Care, Presented by Shelly Linenberger**

*Room: Wind Star*

When children experience separation, grief, loss, and trauma, it can negatively impact their development and ability to learn and feel safe in school settings. Because of the unique experience and histories of children in adoptive, foster, and kinship families, these negative factors may have an even greater impact. This session will proactively address ways that families and child advocates can partner with schools to reduce potentially traumatic school assignments, uncaring remarks, educational gaps, and overall traumatic life situations faced by children. Participants will walk away with a better understanding of how to support students who experience grief, loss, and trauma to be successful and feel safer in home and at school. **Suggested Audience:** Families, advocates, caseworkers, school personnel, and foster and kinship families.

**Session 11: The Hidden Curriculum: Social Understanding, Social Skills, and Belonging in K-12 Settings, Post-Secondary, and Beyond, Presented by Stephen Hinkle**

*Room: Wind River*

Join Stephen, a self-advocate with autism, as he outlines a path for educators to follow in teaching the fun side of school. Explore the world of extracurricular activities, recreation, leisure, school spirit, social skills, friendships, manners, and the other skills needed for a child to succeed in the “hidden curriculum.” You will learn this from the perspective of someone who had to overcome many challenges in this area when he was in school! **Suggested Audience:** Parents, self-advocates, general and special educators, paraprofessionals, and community members.

**Session 12: Tempering a Positive Attitude with a More Balanced Approach Can Enhance Inclusion, Presented by Anne K. Gross**

*Room: Mesa Verde AB*

This session is geared to educating parents and teachers about how to help children who, despite their ability to achieve, never feel accepted. Drawing on her experience of growing up with a mother paralyzed by polio, the presenter believes that true acceptance of individuals with disabilities comes not only from recognizing and believing in their strengths, but also from understanding from their perspectives the limitations and struggles that they face. Participants of this session will take away: an acknowledgement that children may have a range of feelings and emotions related to their disabilities, and an appreciation for the benefits of children with disabilities interacting with others like themselves within an inclusive environment. Attend this session to learn how to open lines of communication regarding students’ disabilities with honesty, respect, and genuine curiosity. **Suggested Audience:** Family members, self-advocates, and general and special education teachers.

**Friday Late Afternoon**

3:45 – 4:00 pm      Break, Silent Auction, & Exhibit Time  
 4:00 – 5:30 pm      90-Minute Breakout Sessions: Choose from Sessions #13-18 Which Run Concurrently

**Session 13: Federal Education Landscape: What’s In It for Students with Disabilities, Presented by Candace Cortiella**

*Room: Grand Mesa AB*

This practical session will provide an overview of activities regarding the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA – currently known as No Child Left Behind) as well as other legislation and activities affecting students with disabilities. Participants of this session will takeaway an understanding of the current status of federal education laws (ESEA, IDEA), will become knowledgeable about provisions in ESEA helpful to students with disabilities, and will learn about other education efforts such as Common Core State Standards and USED’s ESEA Flexibility program. **Suggested Audience:** Parents of students with disabilities, advocates, and attorneys.

**Session 14: Literacy + Technology = Student Engagement and Empowerment, Presented by Sean Smith**

*Room: Chasm Creek*

Technology has altered the way students can access information and demonstrate knowledge in today’s classroom. With the advent of the tablet/iPad/iPod and accompanying “apps,” students have at their finger-tips countless tools to develop literacy, building fluency and comprehension. This session will focus on “old school” technology-based solutions and the ever-growing new “apps” that offer tools of engagement and empowerment. As a result of this session, participants will be able to: identify how technology-based solutions can be used to address literacy challenges, consider ways to identify and manage appropriate “apps” for the iPad, and determine appropriate tools for literacy needs including ways that

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## Friday Sessions Continued

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traditional tools can be enhanced by “apps.” **Suggested Audience:** Parents/family members, teachers, related service providers, and agency personnel working to further inform and empower parents/family members of students with disabilities.

### **Session 15: From Crib to College: One Woman’s Journey Down the Treacherous Path of Accepting and Embracing Disability, Presented by Chelsey Kendig**

**Room: Grand Mesa C**

In this session, self-advocate Chelsey Kendig will narrate her experiences in public school and beyond. She will recount learning to advocate at her own IEP meetings, going to a college with limited-accessibility, and traveling through Europe armed only with a backpack and a sparkly cane. Although her story is personal, the lessons and triumphs it includes can be applied to help others navigate the rocky path of disability life. Participants will learn: the importance of self-advocacy, difficulties of disability acceptance, and the importance of not imposing limits on students with disabilities. **Suggested Audience:** Parents of students with disabilities and the students themselves, professionals, and all who want to be reminded of the possibilities every student with a disability embodies.

### **Session 16: Early Childhood Transitions for Children and Families: Strategies for Success, Presented by Laura Merrill**

**Room: Wind Star**

This interactive presentation will focus on the process of transition at age 3 for young children who have Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) and their families. We will explore the relationships among children, families, and staff and their roles and responsibilities in facilitating smooth transitions. The format of this session will include video, discussion, review of a sample transition plan, and group activities. Come prepared to look at transition in a new way! **Suggested Audience:** Family members, professionals, and others interested in transition at age 3.

### **Session 17: Military Families: Fostering Social Emotional Health While Meeting Cultural Needs, Presented by Penny Frank and Kim Collins**

**Room: Mesa Verde AB**

In this session, participants will explore issues that arise and lessons learned related to meeting military families’ cultural needs while supporting the social emotional health of families. Join us and learn about maintaining deployment readiness, life balance, stigmas, traumatic exposure, mental health first aid, and much more. Case studies will be presented and discussed, demonstrating examples of how a mental health center and a child care program work to support the needs of military children and families. **Suggested Audience:** Military families and all educators and other professionals who support students whose families are in the military.

### **Session 18: Best Out of School Time Practices for Including All Students, Presented by Elizabeth Soriano and Patty Beagin**

**Room: Wind River**

This session will provide information regarding before/after school programs and how to make sure your child or student can be included in this experience. Come learn about the Synergy After School Program, a model demonstration of what after school programs can be. 300+ students with and without disabilities attend the Synergy After School Program at Hoover High School. Learn how these high school teachers maintained success through collaboration between general and special education, making Synergy a program inclusive of all students. Participants of this session will learn: what before and after school programs can offer, how they can support your child or student educationally and socially, and how to find supports for your child or student in the after school program! **Suggested audience:** Family members, general education teachers, special education teachers and administrators who have high school age students.

↘ **Out of respect to our presenters and participants, please SILENCE the ringer on your cell phone prior to entering sessions. Your attention to this important detail is appreciated!**

## Friday Night Festivities

5:30 – 6:15 pm

**Silent Auction Final Bidding & Networking Hour with a Cash Bar – Mesa Verde Foyer**

8:30 pm – Midnight

**Karaoke Extravaganza – Centennial Room, 12th Floor**



Get ready to party during this fun-filled evening of karaoke, an Inclusion Conference tradition! This event is open to everyone so please bring your family (kids are welcome too) and friends to enjoy the great selection of songs, singing, and cash bar. Be a part of the vibrant, inclusive community that is formed each year at the conference and get ready to bring down the house! This is also your chance to see members of the PEAK staff unwind, lifting their singing voices for your enjoyment (and our potential embarrassment)!



Saturday, February 11, 2012

# General Conference Continues: Keynote and Mastery Sessions

Saturday  
general conference

## Saturday

8:00 – 10:00 am	Registration – Grand Mesa Foyer
8:00 – 8:30 am	Coffee – Grand Mesa Foyer
8:00 am – 2:30 pm	Exhibits Open – Grand Mesa Atrium
8:30 – 9:45 am	Plenary Session – Grand Mesa Ballroom



### Keynote Presentation – Rethinking Ability and Opportunity: A New Rationale for Inclusive Education

**Presented by Norman Kunc**

Although Norman Kunc is a well known advocate within the disability rights community, he prefers to think of himself as a modern day storyteller, continuing the long held tradition of using humor and narrative to initiate self-reflection and social change. Born with cerebral palsy, Norman attended a segregated school for children with physical disabilities; then, at the age 13, he was integrated into a regular school. From there, he went on to complete a Bachelor's degree in Humanities and a Master of Science degree in Family Therapy.

9:45 – 10:00 am	Break & Exhibit Time
10:00 am – 2:30 pm	Mastery Sessions – Choose From Sessions #1–5 Which Run Concurrently. Each Session is 4-Hours Long.
12:00 – 12:30 pm	Boxed Lunches Served – Grand Mesa DEF

### Session 1: The Student is Not the Problem, The Problem is the Problem: Exploring Alternative Narratives of “Challenging Behavior,” Presented by Norman Kunc and Emma Van der Klift

**Room: Grand Mesa AB**

Responding to non-compliant, disruptive, or resistant students can be very frustrating, so it is understandable that teachers crave swift and efficient techniques to resolve the situations. However, the majority of the current behavioral support programs view the problem as being in the student and work from a “narrative of correction.” This perspective can inadvertently implant an “identity of inadequacy” and may make a difficult situation even worse. Drawing on the divergent fields of hostage negotiation and narrative therapy, the presenters will explore alternative ways of perceiving “difficult behavior.” They will show how adopting alternative narratives that normalize the situation and build upon the student's existing resilience can reveal far more collaborative and helpful ways of interacting with the student. **Suggested Audience:** Everyone, specifically family members, behavior specialists, general and special education teachers, related service providers, etc.

### Session 2: Inclusive Practices for Student Success, Presented by Patti McVay

**Room: Chasm Creek**

This hands-on session will provide evidenced-based practices and processes that are proven to ensure the successful inclusion of children and young adults in schools. Parents, educators, and community members will learn: strategies for increasing student participation and success in general

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education, ways to develop strengths-based Individualized Education Plans, keys for curriculum planning, benefits of visuals tools, a process for positive behavior planning that benefits all students, and best practices for para educators in the classroom, also defining roles and responsibilities. Attendees will develop an action plan for implementing these ideas, strategies and tools. Participants will have the opportunity to learn the keys to successful inclusion along with time to reflect and discuss the tools, answer key questions in relation to their own situation, and plan steps for implementation. **Suggested Audience:** Educators and families.

### Session 3: Rethinking “Old-School” Assistive Technology: How Universal Design for Learning and Technology Innovations Increase Student Success, Presented by Sean Smith

**Room: Wind Star**

With all the technology innovations impacting students in schools and society, where does assistive technology fit? Is it too narrowly defined for the growing needs of ALL students with disabilities? Is assistive technology and/or the process that surrounds assistive technology broken? This session will focus on technology innovations for students with disabilities and how these tools require a re-think in how we identify, plan for, train for, and finally implement technology into the lives of those with disabilities. Various frameworks such as Universal Design for Learning will be considered in light of the need for technology innovations in school, home, and work environments. **Suggested Audience:** Parents/family members

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## Saturday Sessions Continued

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engaged in supporting students with disabilities, and general and special education teachers and other professionals who are seeking ways to expand instructional tools for ALL learners and maximize their collaboration with everyone involved in a student's life.

### **Session 4: Special Education Law and Procedure: Strategies that Promote Inclusive Placements for ALL Students, Presented by Michael Bailey**

**Room: Mesa Verde AB**

This interactive workshop will focus on the key principles of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Discussion will surround strategies of goal writing and planning that ensure placement in the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), maximize appropriate educational opportunity, and increase long term student outcomes. This practical session will outline some of the key provisions of IDEA, with an emphasis on how to utilize the law as a tool to ensure the educational success of all children. Participants will take away a clear understanding of the principles of IDEA, strategies to promote inclusive placements with appropriate supports and services, and a mastery level understanding of what can be done with Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) as an advocacy tool. **Suggested Audience:** Parents of children enrolled in special education at any level from eligibility to transition, and all interested education professionals.

### **Session 5: Solving The Mystery of the Individualized Education Plan (IEP) Process, Presented by Shirley Swope and Jacey Tramutt**

**Room: Wind River**

Have you ever felt like the IEP for your child or student was decided "behind closed doors"? This session will de-mystify the IEP process and explore communication skills that can open doors to total IEP team membership. Participants will be guided through three main stages of the IEP: preparing for the IEP meeting, content of the IEP, and implementation and follow up of the IEP. If you are interested in learning about the basics of IDEA specifically related to IEPs, evaluation and consent for services, eligibility, SMART goals, accommodations and modifications, progress monitoring, and much more, then this is the session for you! Join us for this practical, hands on session that will help you develop a clear understanding of the IEP process overall, and ways you can take leadership to be an effective communicator and ensure the success of all students who have IEPs. **Suggested Audience:** Family members, general and special education teachers, paraprofessionals, self-advocates, and administrators are encouraged to attend. All are welcome!

2:30 pm

Close of Conference — Thank You & Please Travel Safely!

### **Donate to PEAK Parent Center!**

If you enjoyed the 2012 Conference on Inclusive Education and would like to see it continue in the future, consider making a tax-deductible donation to PEAK today! Stop by registration headquarters to donate on-site, or visit [www.peakparent.org](http://www.peakparent.org) and click on Donate to make a secure donation online and to learn about becoming a monthly donor.

**Thank you for your support of this important conference and of PEAK Parent Center!**



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### **Don't Forget!**

Please complete your conference evaluation! Access the link at **conference.peakparent.org** OR complete using the hard copy provided in your packet!"


### **2013**

We are working to confirm details for the 2013 Conference on Inclusive Education. To keep in the loop, sign up for our Mail List at [www.peakparent.org](http://www.peakparent.org) or connect with PEAK Parent Center:

 PEAK Parent Center

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# PEAK Parent Center Thanks the Following Individuals and Groups:

 Notes/Things I want to remember to look up:

## Innovative Level Co-Sponsors

Exceptional Student Leadership Unit, Colorado Department of Education  
The Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome

## Session Co-Sponsor Level:

Colorado Springs Down Syndrome Association  
JFK Partners

## Education Collaborator Level:

Bresnahan-Halstead Center, University of Northern Colorado  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
Department of Special Education, University of Colorado at Colorado Springs  
Colorado Division of Vocational Rehabilitation  
Florida Inclusion Network, University of South Florida, St. Petersburg  
Sign Language Network

## Education Ally Level:

Cherry Creek School District  
Cheyenne Mountain School District 12  
Denver Down Syndrome Social Club  
The Legal Center for People with Disabilities and Older People  
Mile High Down Syndrome Association  
Northwest Colorado BOCES  
Flying Horse Foundation

## 2012 Conference Presenters:

See the full listing of presenters, along with contact information, on the CD of Electronic Handouts provided in your packet.

## 2012 Conference Exhibitors:

Accelerated Schools  
Arc of Arapahoe and Douglas County  
Autism Community Store  
Be Cool  
Candesign  
College Living Experience  
Lindseymade Originals  
Lopsided Heart Creations  
PEAK Parent Center  
Ryan's Cards  
Storytelling Fun  
The FLY Group

## Conference Planners:

Barbara Buswell  
Julie Harmon  
Bronwen Buswell  
Sarah Billerbeck  
Christi Kasa  
Shelly McCrary  
Delois Meyer  
Nancy Ventrudo

## Conference Team

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Pam Christy  
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Rob Schaffner  
Shirley Swope  
Jacey Tramutt

## PEAK Parent Center Board of Directors:

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Barbara Buswell, Executive Director\*

*\*Indicates parent of a child with a disability or self-advocate.*

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# 2012

## PEAK Parent Center Conference on **INCLUSIVE** EDUCATION

"We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors."

– Lyndon B. Johnson

### Thank you for attending!

We hope this conference opened new doors for you and equipped you with the practical strategies you need to support the full inclusion, involvement, and participation of students with disabilities in both school and community life. Remember, you have the power to make a difference in the lives of ALL learners!

### PEAK Parent Center Thanks This Year's Innovative Level Co-Sponsors:

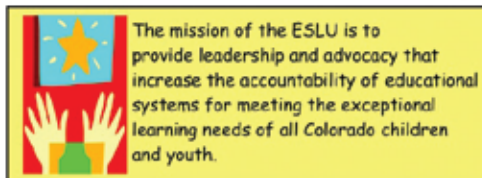
Exceptional Student Leadership Unit,  
Colorado Department of Education



Exceptional Student Leadership Unit  
(ESLU)

303-866-6694

[www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp](http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdesped/index.asp)



Visit the Colorado Department of  
Education Calendar of Events/  
Conferences website for upcoming  
trainings:

<http://www.cde.state.co.us/cdeedcon/index.htm>

Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome



The **Linda Crnic Institute for Down Syndrome** is the first medical and research institute with the mission to provide the best clinical care to people with Down syndrome, and to eradicate the medical and cognitive ill effects associated with the condition. The Crnic Institute is made possible by the generous support of the Anna and John J. Sie Foundation, and relies on the Global Down Syndrome Foundation for fundraising, education, awareness and government advocacy. It is a research and medical-based organization without political or religious affiliation or intention.



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