

The 2014 MOSPA State Conference was held on May 7-9, 2014 at the Inn at Bay Harbor. The theme was titled, "**Tools of the Trade**" with many breakout sessions primary focus on providing tools for educators working with special need students in the secondary and post-secondary sector.

You Were Called for Such a Time as This

Bill Sanders was once again the keynote speaker. He challenged you to recharge your inner batteries. Remember why you chose to be an encourager of others. Set new ideals and heights in which to strive. Bill Sanders had you laughing one minute and possibly wiping away a tear the next. You are in such an amazing position to impact lives and help others realize hopes and dreams that they never thought possible. You are the givers of hope, Life-Touchers and difference makers. Listen, laugh, rejuvenate and dream.

Opening keynote speaker: Bill Sanders

Increasing Awareness of Assistive Technology

Assistive Technology (AT) is more available than ever before! Learn what AT is, how to choose the right AT for your students, and take a look at some of the tools that are available for you to use with your students.

Presenter: Peter Schaafsma, Assistive Technology Consultant, Wexford-Missaukee ISD/Michigan's Integrated Technology Supports

"The Seven Needs of Every Student"

Every person you meet has needs that you can help fulfill. Through gaining an understanding of what research has proven, each of you can be the catalyst for changing the mindset of your students. You have the ability to help open a life of fulfillment and accomplishment, few of your students thought possible. Your attitude and outlook are the single strongest indicators of true success in the classroom. By understanding the seven needs, you will be better equipped to create real success among your students.

Presenter: Bill Sanders

Understanding and Retaining Student Veterans

Western Michigan University's Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, in collaboration with a variety of on and off-campus constituents, provides services and programs to student veterans. The transition from "soldier to student" can be challenging. The department at WMU strives to make the transition smoother and, in doing so, impacts the retention of this unique population. Learned about the history of the office and its continuing efforts that have earned WMU national ranking as a top, military friendly, institution.

Presenter: Tracey Quada, Director, Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, Western Michigan University

College Readiness Program

The goal of the College Readiness Program is to allow students to explore college while discovering and practicing personal strategies for success. The topics include: Understanding skills to make a successful transition to college; Establishing personal and academic goals while understanding obstacles; College life and resources; Communications skills that promote success; Understanding campus technology beneficial to the campus learner.

Presenters: Dr. Carolyn Brown, Transition Consultant, Walled Lake Consolidated Schools; Kim Boose, Faculty, Oakland Community College; and Renee Henson, Counselor, Oakland Community College

A Parent's Educational Perspective. The Quest and Success of an Autistic Child

Providing insight and the importance of educators, therapists, and parents working together to influence the outcome of a child's life. Kimberly Bell Mocini was the advocate for her son who is on the Autism Spectrum. She has faced social and educational challenges head on to ensure her son received an equal, quality education.

Presenter: Kimberly Bell Mocini, Author

Transition to College: Disability Accommodation Differences

As students move from high school to college, they find a whole new world of challenges. This is especially true for students with disabilities, as the accommodation process and available services differ quite a bit. We will explore these differences and discuss how students can best prepare themselves to meet these new challenges.

Presenter: Chip Evans, Director of Learning Support Services, Baker College of Ann Arbor

Financial Aid Resources Available to All Students Including Returning Veterans and Their Families

This discussion will focus on financial aid availability to all students. Resources include Federal Aid, State Aid and scholarship searches. In addition, there will be an overview of educational benefits available to veterans and their families.

Presenters: Virginia Panoff, Director of Financial Aid, North Central Michigan College and Melissa Colby, Financial Aid Advisor/VA Certifying Official, North Central Michigan College

The New Compulsory School Attendance Law: 6-18 year Olds

The compulsory school attendance law has changed from 6-16 to 6-18. The children affected by this law are current 10th graders or those students turning 16 in 2014. Learn about the new law and its consequences. We will also discuss strategies to keep 16-18 year olds in school.

Presenter: Carolyn Claerhout, JD, Manager, Pupil, Corporate and District Services, Oakland Schools

Career and Technical Education (CTE) – Examining the Data of Students With Disabilities

How successful are students with special needs in completing Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs? This session will discuss the 2011 through 2013 data related to students with special needs in CTE programs. The following will be addressed: number of concentrators and completers by subgroup/disability and which CTE programs have higher number of students with special needs. Strategies will be presented for assisting eligible students in all special population categories to be successful.

Presenter: Dr. Valerie Felder, Education Research Consultant, Michigan Department of Education - CTE

Academic Success Guide: A tool for student success

Student success and retention are current buzzwords in both secondary and post-secondary settings. Kellogg Community College developed the Academic Success Guide as a mechanism for assisting students in achieving their academic goals. Topics of discussion will include: goal setting, time management, organization and expecting the unexpected.

Presenter: Holly McKee, Director of Support Services, Kellogg Community College

Working Together: Developing the scaffolding to promote executive functioning in students with traumatic brain injuries

Executive functioning (EF) is essential to developing flexible thinking, organization, and success in students. EF must be addressed in a synergistic manner starting with base skill set development, and followed by incorporation of formal EF intervention, otherwise known as metacognitive training. When addressed in this fashion, academic success, development of problem solving and use of compensatory strategies are more likely to be achieved. The talk will build from base skill set development, to transitions, to formal EF training and finally to metacognitive skill training. Emphasis will be placed on practical ways to encourage and promote EF in and outside the classroom.

Presenter: Angie McCalla, Speech-Language Pathologist, Rainbow Rehabilitation Centers, Inc.

Anticipation: Waiting for the Shoe to Drop Strategic Planning for Perkins V

This workshop is designed to provide a systemic process by which community college special populations and CTE service area coordinators and directors can: (1) assess existing service levels funded by Perkins; (2) identify potential areas that may be at risk of funding reductions in or elimination of Perkins dollars; (3) develop strategic plans and approaches to address potential shifts in staffing and service levels that may align with the changes Perkins V may impose.

Presenters: Diane Green, Counselor, Henry Ford Community College; Brenda Hildreth, Coordinator, Henry Ford Community College; and Maureen Webster, Counselor, Henry Ford Community College

The Mobile Explosion: What it means for students, their career opportunities, the education community, and Michigan's economy

MTAM is the Mobile Technology Association of Michigan, a non-profit trade association for Michigan's mobile/wireless technology industry. It is open to companies, government, organizations, individuals and students. 100-200 million M2M connections today expected to grow to 1 billion within 5 years and 60 billion by 2020.

Closing keynote: Cynthia Grubbs on behalf of Linda Daichendt