

Summer 2016

Help us celebrate
a new milestone!



Individuals with autism are now registered with FAU CARD!

FAU

CENTER FOR AUTISM AND
RELATED DISABILITIES
Florida Atlantic University

MAY

- MAY 7 Family Connections Conference
- MAY 12 Treasure Coast Adult Social Group
- MAY 12 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation Boca Raton
- MAY 16 Boca Raton Adult Social Group
- MAY 17 Community Developmental Screening Clinic
- MAY 19 Preventing Child Bullying in Schools and in the Community
- MAY 19 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation Jupiter
- MAY 23 FAU CARD Hangout Group
- MAY 24 ASD & Mental Health Treatment Foundations
- MAY 24 Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts

JUNE

- JUN 7 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation Boca Raton
- JUN 16 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation Jupiter
- JUN 17 Opening the Social Circle: Research and Interventions to Assist Adults to Socially Connect
- JUN 20 Boca Raton Adult Social Group
- JUN 20 Jupiter Book Club/Support Group: A Mommy Corner
- JUN 21 Making Math Count: Bringing a Math Skills into the Home
- JUN 21 Using Mealtime to Enhance Communication Skills
- JUN 27 FAU CARD Hangout Group
- JUN 27 Enhancing Engagement in Science

JULY

- JUL 12 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation Boca Raton
- JUL 14 Treasure Coast Adult Social Group
- JUL 18 Boca Raton Adult Social Group
- JUL 19 Community Developmental Screening Clinic
- JUL 20 PATH for Transition
- JUL 21 iRISE2 Mentoring Orientation Jupiter
- JUL 25 FAU CARD Hangout Group
- JUL 25-26 Summer Academy
- JUL 29 Introduction to Token Economies and Behavior Contracts

AUGUST

- AUG 2 Empowered Education: Tools, Tips and Tricks to Implementing Evidenced Based Strategies for Students with ASD
- AUG 5 Healthy Cooking Demonstrations Training
- AUG 11 Treasure Coast Adult Social Group
- AUG 11 Back to School and Making Friends
- AUG 15 Boca Raton Adult Social Group

Visit: <http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/trainingcalendar.php>
FAU CARD does not endorse specific programs or points of view presented in this newsletter.

Executive Director’s Message

Dear CARD Families,

Summer is essentially here in South Florida. With the arrival of summer comes a very special set of risks for children with autism although there are risks that present year-round. Last summer, we sadly had three young children with autism drown in our FAU CARD region. In each case, an elopement or wandering situation contributed to the death. These are each heartbreaking and so painful for families and friends.

I would ask all of you who are reading this message to help so that we have zero drowning deaths of children with autism in our FAU CARD region this year. If you are a family of a child with autism who is already safe in the water, please urge other families to intensify their elopement prevention efforts and water safety provisions. As you talk with and coach new ASD families, please make safety a priority.

If you have a young child with autism, please review and consider strengthening your elopement prevention and water safety plans. If your child does not know how to swim, consider getting them lessons. In addition, work with them so they know never to go near the pool unless it is with a trusted grown-up. Check your house to be sure to have an alarm for every door going to a pool area and a way to secure all doors and windows going to the pool area. A professionally-installed pool fence is the best pool safety feature you can get. It must be used correctly, but these are real life savers. Your yard should be fenced and gates should be self-locking, self-latching and child-proof. Check these and upgrade if necessary.

On the elopement front, have a plan for how your family will react in the event of an elopement. Immediately call 911. Then, while someone stands ready to interact with law enforcement when they arrive, someone else can search any nearby body of water where a child might drown. Do this before checking every area of your home. If your child is in water, they are in immediate danger.

Another way to prevent elopement is with a whole-house security system. Have it set to provide immediate notification in the event your child opens the door to elope. Your alarm service provider can help you set it up to provide this immediate notification and alarm.

2015 was a sad year with the loss of three young children with autism. Please do all you can to keep all of your children safe. FAU CARD staff stand ready to help, so feel free to call your Clinical Support Specialist or call me directly at 561-251-4104 to discuss ways to keep your child safe.

Best wishes for a happy and SAFE summer,

Dr. Jack Scott
Executive Director

Director's Update

Dear CARD Families,

It has been a very busy winter and spring at FAU CARD. FAU CARD sponsored some exciting trainings and events! We appreciate that our sponsors at the Mangurian Foundation offered the 2016 Autism Speakers Series. The Autism Speakers Series included the renowned John Elder Robison, David Finch, Dr. Liane Holliday Willey and Dr. Hackie Reitman. John, David and Liane shared their journey and challenges living with autism, with large groups of enthusiastic participants. Dr. Reitman shared his perspective as a parent raising a daughter with ASD. This series has provided individuals with ASD and their families hope while increasing the understanding of the gifts and challenges of living with autism.

We also hosted specialists from the medical and behavioral fields to share thought provoking information through their presentations on medical evaluation and behavioral interventions. Thank you to Dr. David Childers from University of Florida, Jacksonville and Dr. Martha Palaez for their presentations. Additionally, thank you to the Ticho Foundation and Dr. Stephan Pasternack for funding the medical talk given by Dr. Childers.

The FAU CARD 7th Annual Wings of Hope Cocktail Party, Dinner and Reception was a huge success and garnered over 190 guests and friends of FAU CARD. I want to thank the countless number of volunteers and sponsors and our honorees Dr. Greg and Laina Albert for their longstanding support and dedication to the autism community and FAU CARD. Thank you also to Michael Williams of WPTV for serving as Master of Ceremony and Gordon Latz for serving as the auctioneer for the Live Auction. Finally, I want to thank the tireless and hard working Wings of Hope Committee in particular Dr. Gregory and Laina Albert, Joe and Fran Eppy, Glen Stein, Dennis Crowley and Mari, Brett Hart, Sheriann Namer, Lee and Debra Rosenfeld, Michele Weppner, Barbara Wolk, Lloyd Bucher, Veronica Castro and a special thanks to Mercedes Pagano, Marketing, Information, Fundraising Coordinator and the FAU CARD staff for their hard work, dedication and countless hours contributed to make this event a success. Thank you all!

I'm proud to announce that this summer we'll be hosting some incredible events. On Saturday, May 7th we will host our 10th Annual Family Connections Conference from 9:00-4:00 at the FAU MacArthur Jupiter Campus, Lifelong Learning Center. The theme of this year's event will focus on Safety in the Home and Community. The Conference is a comprehensive family event offering training for parents with fun activities offered for their child with autism. Lunch is being provided by Foodies4Autism food truck operated by the Autism Project of Palm Beach County and the Renaissance Learning Academy with lunch sponsored by Care. Additionally, we want to thank Susan "Fun" Foley for planning and coordinating all the fun activities for our children with autism.

Please join us on Thursday, May 19th from 6:30-8:30 p.m., at the Acura Club in the FAU Stadium, FAU Boca Campus. Dr. Susan Limber, Professor from Clemson University and national authority on the prevention of bullying, will discuss the impact of bullying on the bully and the bullied. She will discuss the Olweus program, the most widely used and effective evidenced-based anti-bullying program. This special FAU CARD event is made possible through a generous donation from Craig Donoff, P. A.

Lastly, please mark your calendar for the 2016 Annual Summer Academy on Monday, July 25 and Tuesday, July 26th. This free event will be held at the FAU MacArthur Jupiter Campus in the Lifelong Learning Center from 9 - 4 p.m. We are very excited to sponsor Kathy Oehler and Cheryl Boucher as well as, Dr. Patrick McGreevy,

BCBA-D as Keynote Speakers. Kathy Oehler is a licensed SLP and Cheryl Boucher is a licensed OT. Kathy and Cheryl will provide practical strategies to improve academic and behavioral strategies. The afternoon session will focus on strategies for improving writing for students with ASD. Dr. McGreevy will focus on managing problem behaviors through the teaching of functional skills for non-verbal or minimally verbal children.

I hope to see you at some of our events. Have a wonderful summer!

Maryellen Quinn-Lunny, Ed.S.
Director

GUESS WHO EARNED THE CONGRESSIONAL AWARD MEDAL FOR YOUTH?



In the photo: Representative Patrick Murphy and Nick Drake
Bob Dobens Photography

Join us in congratulating Laura and Nick Drake! Laura was awarded the Gold Congressional Award Medal, while Nick was awarded the Bronze Congressional Award Medal Sunday, April 3rd at Florida's 18th Congressional District Awards Ceremony at Palm Beach State College. Representative Patrick Murphy hosted the event, awarding 23 Gold Award Medals, 27 Silver Award Medals, and 35 Bronze Award Medals, to a group of students clocking over 19,000 volunteer hours.

The Congressional Award is the United States Congress' award for young Americans. It is non-partisan, voluntary, and non-competitive. The program is open to all 14 to 23 year-olds. Young people may register when they turn 13 1/2 years old and must complete their activities before their 24th birthday. Participants may earn Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Certificates and Bronze, Silver, and Gold Congressional Award Medals. Each level involves setting goals in four program areas: Volunteer Public Service, Personal Development, Physical Fitness, and Expedition/Exploration.

Earning the Congressional Award is a fun and interesting way to get more involved in something you already enjoy or something you'd like to try for the first time! You can move at your own pace – on your own. The Congressional Award has no minimum grade point average requirements. It accommodates young people who are willing to take the challenge. Are you willing to take the challenge?? We can help you through the process.

For additional information contact FAU CARD.

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FAU CARD WELCOMES A NEW EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES PROVIDER TO THE REGIONAL AUTISM COMMUNITY

The founder of Early Start Autism, Melissa K. Burkhardt, M.S. Ed., BCBA, draws from over 23 years of experience with young children with autism and their families. Early Start Autism offers quality applied behavior therapy and Parent Coaching in the Early Start Denver Model (P-ESDM). This approach is based on the current research in early intervention and effective parent coaching. Melissa is currently one of only 250 people worldwide, and only 1 of 3 in the state of Florida, who have achieved certification as an Early Start Denver Model (ESDM) therapist. Melissa trained in P-ESDM with Dr. Sally Rogers and her colleagues at the MIND Institute, UC Davis, California.



ESDM is thus far the only comprehensive early intervention model validated in a randomized clinical trial for use with children with autism as young as 12 months of age. ESDM integrates a relationship-focused, developmental model with the well-validated teaching practices of applied behavior analysis (ABA), resulting in significant improvements in IQ, language, adaptive behavior, and autism diagnosis.

See this site for more on the research.

<https://simonefriedmansls.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/earlystartdenvermodel.pdf>

Research shows that children who receive ESDM therapy have reduced need for ASD therapies and special education services throughout their school years compared to other early intervention services typically available in the community. <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/05/130501112846.htm>

Melissa works with very young children with autism at the most crucial time in the child's development. To learn more, contact Melissa at EarlyStartAutism.com or email: info@earlystartautism.com.

CONGRATULATIONS!



FAU CARD is very proud to announce that Jennifer Percival, Clinical Support Specialist for Transition won the Outstanding Graduate Student Award at the FAU Northern Campus Achievement Awards on Friday, April 15th. Congratulations Jennifer!

Both Noelle Balsamo, Clinical Support Specialist, FAU CARD Jupiter office and Jennifer Percival, Clinical Support Specialist for Transition were nominated by the College of Education FAU Northern Campus for Outstanding Student Awards. Noelle is a graduate student working on her Ed.D in the Exceptional Student Education department and Jennifer is working on her Ph.D. In the Adult Community Education department. We are proud of both Jennifer and Noelle for being nominated.

School’s Out for the Summer... School’s Out forever! What now?



In Florida, individuals with disabilities can stay in school until they’re 22 years old. But what happens to them after that 22nd birthday? Parents often fear that looming milestone if their child has a development disability, such as autism. Available opportunities are often times limited and require some creativity on the part of parents to get their child off the couch and into the community.

Volunteering is a great way for individuals with autism to make a contribution to the community they live in. Individuals who volunteer are getting vocational experience which could later lead to competitive employment. There are a range of benefits

gained from volunteering. These opportunities are great ways for individuals to test their aptitude for a particular career field, as well as determine areas of interest, areas of disinterest, and areas that are not viable options for employment.

Volunteering provides valuable opportunities for skill development. Generalizing vocational skills can be more of a challenge for individuals with autism if they are not learned in the job setting. Providing the expectations for each work environment or work task is paramount to the success the individuals will have in each situation. Visual supports can help provide those expectations in a clear and concise manner.



Special interest areas and familiar tasks are important to consider when assessing volunteer opportunities for someone with autism. The individual challenges each person deals with are also important to consider when choosing volunteer opportunities. For instance, if someone clearly has challenges in dealing with loud environments, look carefully for an environment that will provide a quiet and calm work place, such as a quiet office or even a library.



When it comes to working on social skills there isn’t a more natural environment than focusing on a shared task. Volunteering can provide endless opportunities, in a safe place, to practice social, language, employability skills and increase comfort levels when exposed to new experiences. Volunteering and working in your community is the way most people meet others and make new friends who share a common interest or goal. It usually takes only one training session prior to an experience to prepare the person with autism and to clarify expectations. In addition, with minimum training, community volunteers can be easily instructed on how to provide natural supports for individuals with autism at the event. When the task is complete, everyone feels good about a

job well done and takes pride in being a valuable member of their community. FAU CARD is always looking for community-based opportunities for its constituents. Clinical Support Specialists are available to assess volunteer opportunities, conduct pre-activity and community volunteer trainings, and provide support during the initial stage of the experience and the hand-off to the natural supports that will allow the person with ASD to independently access the volunteer opportunity and their community.

In a recent study published in the Journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics researchers at Boston Children’s Hospital found more than half of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) also have attention deficit and hyperactive disorder (ADHD). This is not news to many of us professionals and parents who work with children and teens with ASD. We know that clinically many ASD individuals struggle with the same symptoms as do individuals with ADHD such as hyperactivity, impulsivity, inattention, not following directions and hyper-focus on areas of interest.

The importance of this new study is it suggests that the overlap of these two conditions often delays the diagnosis of ASD.

A summary of the important findings from the study include:

1. In children diagnosed with ADHD first, the diagnosis of ASD is delayed an average of 3 years and some do not receive diagnosis until age 6.
2. The delay in diagnosis occurred regardless of severity of autism symptoms.
3. ADHD symptoms often overshadow core ASD symptoms, meaning that inattention and hyperactivity are more obvious than the social-communication deficits and repetitive behaviors in young children.



For clinicians, this study underscores the importance that young children with obvious ADHD symptomatology should be screened for ASD. In particular, we need to pay close attention to the presence of social and communication deficits as well as repetitive behaviors in young children with self-regulation challenges. Deficits in social and communication skills are not always recognized by parents as a delay and may be viewed as developmental. The same goes for repetitive behaviors which at times parents see as natural, play-based activities.

For parents, also be vigilant to request your child be screened for ASD if you have behavioral concerns. Remember, it’s all about early intervention that is tailored for your child’s unique needs. The more precise we can be in diagnosing, the more individualized and effective we can be in treatment.

Remember also that diagnoses can be changed and revised, as clinical presentation and behavior change over time with intervention. ASD can end up looking exclusively like ADHD at older ages if the social and communication deficits are remediated and repetitive behaviors and restricted interests remit. For children who continue to struggle with ASD related deficits properly treating the ADHD symptoms through medication, behavioral intervention, nutrition and more is an important part of any effective treatment plan.

**FAU CARD WELCOMES OKEECHOBEE'S FIRST
AUTISM FRIENDLY BUSINESS**

Rosie Portera

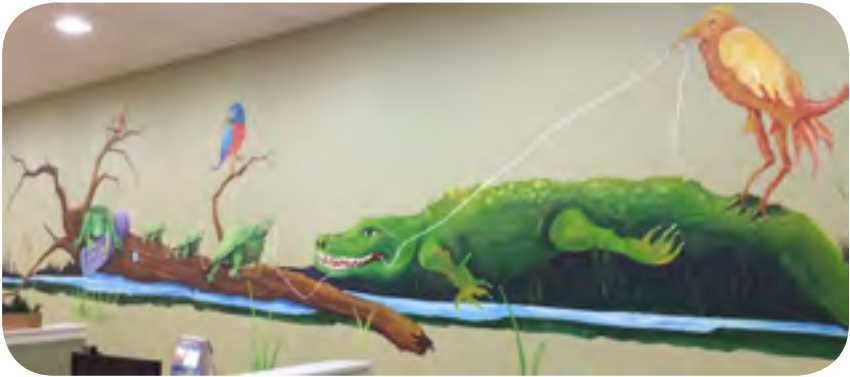
Melissa Kindell, DMD is one of Okeechobee's homegrown heroes! She established Everglades Pediatric Dentistry, located at 2029 HWY 441 North Okeechobee, FL 34972, to provide dental care for children in the Greater Lake Okeechobee area and surrounding counties. It is rare that you will find a professional that has such a love for children and a heart for kids with autism and other disabilities. This month, Dr. Kindell and her entire staff participated in the FAU CARD training to become Okeechobee's first Autism Friendly Business.



FAU CARD's Autism Friendly Business objectives are to increase autism awareness and support community inclusion by creating safe spaces and no judgement zones for people with autism and their families. To achieve these goals, FAU CARD provides businesses with the training and support needed to increase understanding and sensitivity about autism and related disabilities. Dr. Kindell does just that. She wants children with autism and other disabilities' dental experience to be a pleasant one and embraces the "flexibility" necessary by herself and her staff to accomplish this. Her approach is gentle, kind and compassionate. Let's face it, the dentist can cause anxiety for anyone, but Dr. Kindell is "Willing to do whatever it takes to ensure good dental health". She welcomes families to call ahead and plan a fun visit to help their child acclimate to the sights,

smells and sounds of all the areas of her office. She has a dedicated quiet room to help kids or their parent "regroup". There are also plenty of fidgets on hand and toys to choose from as rewards. The environment that she has created is very child-friendly and she has dedicated herself to providing state-of-the art dental care. She also has advanced training in sedation a sometimes scary, but necessary option for families. Her office is committed to safety, extreme cleanliness and infection control.

After receiving the Autism Friendly Business training, she is eager to develop Social Stories and other evidence-based practices that will make the experience of going to the dentist one that is easier for children with autism to understand and lessen triggers that provoke anxiety. She will be opening a second office in Sebring later this year offering families on the coast another autism friendly option for dentistry. What a great addition Everglades Pediatric Dentistry will be to the FAU CARD resource directory!



FOUNDATION OF STRONG RELATIONSHIPS

Alexzandria May

Many of us can feel overwhelmed by the problems and challenges facing our youth today. Mentoring is a way to help our children discover a new light and energy for overcoming these obstacles.

We often lose sight of the strengths our children have and instead focus on the deficits. Mentors and parents play a critical role in equipping our youth today with the ability to engage in self-discovery. This allows mentors and parents the benefit of not doing the work for the child and allows the child to feel supported, encouraged, and gently pushed towards action steps.

Conversations are the foundation of strong relationships, and strong relationships are the goal of meaningful mentoring and parenting; however, engaging in the art of conversation does not always come naturally for youth on the autism spectrum. It often is a territory in which we are looking to help youth improve.

Here are a few tips for helping to make conversations work.

1. Keep it going. It is much better to engage in a conversation by asking follow-up questions and providing open-ended responses versus just asking a question to wait for what could be a one-word answer.
2. Conversation does not always have to be "heavy." While it is important to talk about meaningful issues, one may also not know what is deeply meaningful to an individual without being truly interested in each other's questions and answers.
3. Be prepared for the unexpected answer. Sometimes when we ask a question, we are not prepared for or expect the answer we may receive. If an unexpected answer comes up, stay calm and ask more questions to find out about why the individual may think or feel that way. Note: suspend your judgment until the individual has a chance to express themselves.
4. Listening is most important. Listening has the power of conveying to others that we care about their thoughts and, most importantly, we are demonstrating that we care about the individual.
5. Timing can be everything. If asking a question is met with a look or silence, it could be that this question is a trigger for an undesirable topic, may not be the right time, or the individual simply needs time to process and respond. It is ok to ask this question at a different time.
6. Be prepared to give your own answer. This is the best time to model thoughtful and honest responses.

NEW Mentoring Program!

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY iRISE² MENTORING PROGRAM

Orientations:

Come and learn about our NEW exciting iRISE² Mentoring Program and how you can become a mentor for amazing individuals impacted by autism. This orientation will provide participants with a complete overview of our iRISE² Mentoring Program while discussing the role of mentor, mentor requirements, the iRISE² matching process, protégé enrollment and mentor training opportunities.

Mentor Requirements:

*Must be at least 21 years of age or older
Open to maintaining a 1-year mentoring relationship
Dedicate a minimum of 4-6 hours a month
Valid driver's license
Successfully complete volunteer backgrounds screening*

FLORIDA ATLANTIC UNIVERSITY iRISE² MENTORING PROGRAM

iRISE², Interest and Relationships Impacting Social Engagement and Employment, mentoring is now offered at FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities for youth with autism and related disabilities.

Protégé Qualifications:

- *Eligible applicants must live in Palm Beach County*
- *Between the ages of 11-22 years old*
- *Youth must be able to maintain own personal safety and meet developmentally appropriate expectations*
- *Communicate and reciprocate meaningful conversation and socially engage with mentor*
- *Express interest in developing and maintaining mentoring relationship*
- *Express interest in exploring vocational training or higher educational degree*

Register today and become a mentor or protégé.



For more information contact:

Darius Murray
Dmurra23@fau.edu
(561) 213-6936

Inspiring someone with special interests is easier than you think.

Jupiter iRISE² Mentor Orientation

Thursday, May 19, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
Thursday, June 16, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
Thursday, July 21, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.

Jupiter Campus, Life Long Learning Center - PC 154

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<http://irisementorjupiter.eventbrite.com>

Boca Raton iRISE² Mentor Orientation

Thursday, May 12, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, June 7, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.
Tuesday, July 12, 5:30 -6:30 p.m.

Boca Raton Campus, College of Education - 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<http://irise2mentororientatonboca.eventbrite.com>



The FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) provides expert consulting, training and support, at no charge, for people with autism and related disabilities, their families and the professionals serving them. CARD's goal is to optimize the potential of the individuals we serve by helping them become valued members of their communities, enabling them to learn, work, communicate and socialize.



Thank you United Way of Palm Beach County for your continuous support to FAU CARD

Adult Social Groups



Adults with an autism spectrum disorder ages 18 and older are welcome. Groups will meet at various community locations to discuss issues, problem solve, and form friendships. Locations will be determined prior to outing date. Any costs associated with participation in the outing are the responsibility of the adult participant, as well as transportation to and from the outing.

(Dates/ times may be subject to change depending on activity scheduled.)

Jupiter

Dates and Times to be announced. For questions, contact Alison Bourdeau (561) 990-9518 or by email abourdeau@fau.edu

Boca Raton 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Monday, May 16
Monday, Jun 20
Monday, Jul 18
Monday, Aug 15

*For questions, contact Veronica Castro
(561) 213-8381 or castrov2014@fau.edu*

Treasure Coast 7 - 8:30 p.m.

Thursday, May 12
Thursday, Jul 14
Thursday, Aug 11

*For questions, contact Cathy Allore
(772) 873-3367 or callore@fau.edu*



Ladies Adult Social Group

- ★ Women with autism 18 years old and up
- ★ Social outings based on interests
- ★ Focusing on making connections with others and exploring interest-based activities in the area
- ★ Meeting in Jupiter
- ★ Meets monthly in Jupiter from 7-9 p.m.
(Dates/ times may be subject to change depending on activity scheduled.)

For questions, contact Alison Bourdeau (561) 990-9518 or by email abourdeau@fau.edu

FAU CARD Hangout Group



Location: Parliament Hall Library
Time: 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

Monday, May 23rd
Join Us for Some Fun Relaxation
Techniques with Izabela Piasecki

Monday, June 27th
Visiting Career Development Center

Monday, July 25th
Job Interviewing Skills and Practice
with Jennifer Percival

Monday, August 22nd
New Beginnings

Supporting young adults/students with autism and other related disabilities transition to independence. Ages 17 – 25 are welcome. This is a topic specific group that will meet monthly and discuss a different topic each session. There will be experts to facilitate topics and discussions.

Participants must reside in Palm Beach County or attend a college or university in Palm Beach County.

For more information about this group, please contact:
Darius Murray, iRISE2 Mentor Program Coordinator, (561) 213-6936 or darius.murray@fau.edu

10th Annual
Family Connection Conference 2016

SAFETY in the home community & school

SATURDAY
MAY 7
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

FAU Jupiter
Lifelong Learning Center
5353 Parkside Drive
Jupiter, FL 33458

Registration is required:
<https://familyconnections2016.eventbrite.com>

Key Note Speaker

Dr. Jack Scott, Executive Director of FAU CARD

Sessions

Sessions will introduce participants to the importance of planning for personal safety in the home and community for individuals with ASD. Audience members will learn about programs, specific strategies and products to protect their child and raise awareness about issues that make children and adults with ASD more vulnerable. A Vendor Fair and Panel will provide tips for parents in dealing with elopement/wandering, water safety, natural disasters, first responders/fire rescue and law enforcement.

Supervised Child Care Available!

Susan Foley from Innovative Leisure, Inc. along with her trained volunteers and FAU CARD Clinicians will be providing supervised child care for children with ASD between the ages of 7 and 18. *Registration for supervised care will be close on Wednesday, April 27th at 5 p.m.*



Lunch is Sponsored by SafeTrax™. SafeTrax™ is developing solutions to solve personal safety and wandering issues for individuals with autism and Alzheimer's using the latest advances in technology. Testing is currently underway with commercial availability expected sometime late Fall 2016. Lunch will be provided by the Foodies4Autism Food Truck - a volunteer-based, vocational project in which students with autism learn basic employment on-the-job skills while mastering their social interactions.

10 EVIDENCE-BASED TIPS FOR COUNSELING ADULTS WITH ASD

Alison Bourdeau



On April 3rd, 2016, Dr. Ali Cunningham and I presented "10 Evidence-Based Tips for Counseling Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder" at the American Counseling Association's annual conference. The conference was held in the beautiful Palais des congrès de Montréal in Montréal, QC, Canada in partnership with the Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association. It was an exciting opportunity to share current research regarding social skills interventions as well as some specific clinical interventions targeting social awareness, social cognition, social communication, social motivation and restricted interests and repetitive behaviors.

Presenting at this level allowed us to share our knowledge of ASD with the counseling community at large, as well as continue the very important conversation of the quality of life and social interaction for adults on the autism spectrum. At FAU CARD we are dedicated to improving the quality of resources and supports for adults on the spectrum and their families, sharing information such as this supports that mission.

COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS WE NEED TO HEAR FROM YOU!

A very important meeting of the Birth to 22, Community Conversations series is set to take place on **May 10th** in **South County Civic 16700 Jog Road Delray Beach Florida** from **6 - 8 p.m.** This forum will focus on the special needs population. As many of you know, the Palm Beach County Youth Services department has been expanded recently and given additional funding. This agency is critical to funding for adolescents and young adults - the transition age population. One reason it is so critical is that our well-funded Children's Services Council (CSC) does not really focus on the needs of adolescents and youth adults. Instead they focus on the needs of children 6 year and younger and their families; therefore, it is critical we turn our attention to the County Youth Services Programs.

An important issue that may come up is whether this Youth Services program should begin to fund programs for young children. That may be one of the suggestions of the Birth to 22 initiative. Should that happen, then the only real within-county source of public funding for our adolescents and young adults with disabilities will be strained much further.

The county commission is very sensitive to what people want. If few parents or professionals show up with concerns about the needs of persons with disabilities then we will likely see a low priority for funding. It is my hope that we have a good turn out at the meeting with huge numbers and strong voices that assert the needs for additional services for young people with special needs in Palm Beach County. For more information call 561-242-7504.

Please make plans to attend. See you there.

Dr. Jack Scott
Executive Director



Palm Beach County Youth Master Plan

**Community Conversation
to include the special
needs population**

**May 10th, 2016
6:00pm to 8:00pm**

**South County Civic Center
16700 Jog Road,
Delray Beach Florida**



Additional Conversations TBA -- Contact Geeta Loach-Jacobson at gloachjacobson@pbcgov.org or 561-242-5704 for more information.

Palm Beach County wants to ensure that all of its young people have the chance to thrive as children and succeed as adults.

That's why the county is creating a Youth Master Plan.

The voices of children and youth, and adults who care about them, are vital to creating a plan that can make a difference in our community.

Now is your chance to help shape the future of youth in Palm Beach County by joining any of the upcoming Community Conversations being held in the different locations throughout the county.





Preventing Child Bullying in Schools and in the Community



Dr. Susan Limber is the Dan Olweus Distinguished Professor at Clemson University and a national leader in efforts to prevent bullying. She is one of the key developers of the National Bullying Prevention Campaign, aimed at “twens” or children between the ages of 9 and 13. This is the key age for preventing bullying.

Dr. Limber will address the impacts of bullying on both the child who is bullied and the bully and on other children with special reference to vulnerable children such as children with

autism and other disabilities. She will also describe the Olweus Program, the most widely used and effective evidence based anti-bullying program in the world. This program targets multiple systems calling for school and community wide efforts to combat bullying.

THURSDAY
MAY 19
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

FAU Boca Campus, Stadium Acura Club

To attend this training onsite, register at:
<http://prevent-bullying.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2016.



The FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) provides expert consulting, training and support, at no charge, for people with autism and related disabilities, their families and the professionals serving them. CARD's goal is to optimize the potential of the individuals we serve by helping them become valued members of their communities, enabling them to learn, work, communicate and socialize. Visit us at: www.autism.fau.edu If an accommodation(s) for a disability is required, please call 561-297-2055 or e-mail us at CARD@fau.edu, a minimum of 5 working days in advance of the date of the event.

TUESDAY
May 24
1-5 p.m.

707 NW 6th St.

Okeechobee, FL 34972

ASD & Mental Health Treatment Foundations

FAU Center for Autism & Related Disabilities is offering this LOCAL training to mental health and other therapeutic/educational professionals who strive to provide the best interventions when serving individuals on the autism spectrum. This 4 hour training will discuss how the autism brain is unique and why traditional therapies may not be effective. You will learn:

- About Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) across the lifespan, including co-occurring mental health and medical issues, and its varied clinical presentation. This presentation includes strategies for behavioral healthcare professionals to provide initial identification of ASD, crisis management, brief therapeutic approaches, and assist adults and families in accessing appropriate resources.
- The social cognitive functions of the brain with ASD and the essentials to consider when providing interventions and methodologies to support the individual to understand their uniqueness and strategies to support social skills and behavior.

Jennifer Sanderson, Psy.D., is a licensed clinical psychologist with specialized experience and training in the diagnosis and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), developmental disabilities, and related behavioral, social, and learning difficulties.

Rosie Portera, M.S., CCC-SLP, is Speech Language Pathologist who has extensive experience in severe language disabilities and autism. She is the FAU CARD Clinical Support Specialist who serves Okeechobee and Indian River Counties.

Seating is limited and all participants must pre-register for this event by May 22.

<http://asdandmentalhealth-okeechobee.eventbrite.com>

Guardianship and Special Needs Trusts



This session, conducted by a practicing Florida Attorney, will provide information and answer questions related to guardianship options and special needs trusts.

Training is available onsite only

**TUES
MAY 24**
6:30 - 8 p.m.

IRSC - St. Lucie West Campus
To attend this training on campus, register at:
<http://guardianship-snt-2.eventbrite.com>
Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2016.

CAMPS & PROGRAMS FOR SPECIAL POPULATIONS

The 2016 summer camp list has been updated and is now available. You may access the list on our website:
<http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/documents/CampsandProgramsforSpecialPopulations.pdf>



Please note that this compilation of summer camp providers is for informational purposes only. Contact the provider directly for more information when determining if a camp or program is appropriate for you, your child, or family member.

Palm Beach State's Summer Youth College offers a variety of classes for children of all ages. For more information click on the links below:

Boca Raton: www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/boca-raton

Lake Worth: www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/lake-worth

Palm Beach Gardens: <http://www.palmbeachstate.edu/syc/PBG/default.aspx>



Opening the Social Circle: Research and Interventions to Assist Adults to Socially Connect

This training will look at current research and interventions that pertain to adults with autism and the myriad of potential social challenges. Resources will be provided. The training will be offered onsite at the Jupiter Campus or online via Adobe Connect. A link to the online training will be sent out to the provided email a few days prior to the event.

For more information please contact Alison Bourdeau at abourdeau@fau.edu

**FRIDAY
JUNE 17**
12 - 1:30 p.m.

FAU Jupiter Campus
To attend this training on campus or online register at:
<http://opensocialcircle.eventbrite.com>
Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016.



**Congratulations to Joe Eppy
for your outstanding support in the community**



**2016 Humanitarian of the Year
The Samuel M. & Helene Soref Jewish Community Center**

Thank you for making a difference in our community and helping the individuals and families with autism and realted disabilities.

Joe Eppy, a long time friend of the FAU CARD Center and a person who has worked with and supported many disability organizations and both in Broward and Palm Beach Counties was recently honored by the Samuel M. & Helene Soref Jewish Community Center. He was awarded the Broward County Humanitarian of the Year Award. Our heart felt congratulations go out to Joe for this much deserved recognition.

Book Club/Support Group

A Mommy Corner

There is a new group starting in St Lucie County. "A Mommy Corner" is a book/support group for parents, guardians, and caregivers living and working with individuals on the autism spectrum. The group's mission is to inspire, encourage, educate and empower to bring about positive change in your and your child's life. Join the group to gain and give advice, develop friendships, and find inspiration. The group will be meeting the third Monday of every month.

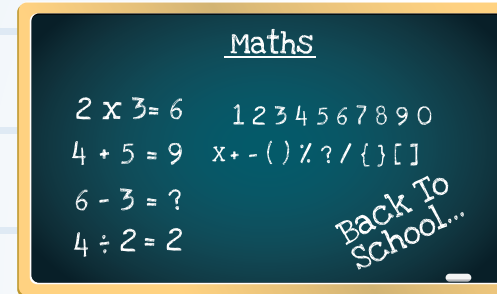
This group was created by Stephanie Symonds and Sharon Laskey, both are parents of children diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. The facilitators are parents and will be mentored by FAU CARD's St Lucie County Clinician, Cathy Allore. For any questions, please contact callore@fau.edu

**MON
JUN 20**
1 p.m.

The first book being read and reviewed is:
Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew
By Ellen Notbohm
Please pick up a copy to read before the first meeting on Monday, June 20 at 1:00 p.m.



IRSC - St. Lucie West Campus
To attend this training on campus, register at:
<http://bookclubpsl.eventbrite.com>



Making Math Count:

Bringing Math Skills into the Home

Whether we like it or not, students are now expected to show the ability to solve problems in a variety of ways and across settings. With these increased expectations, parents and teachers are now finding themselves supporting student learning more than ever before. Incorporating math skills into everyday tasks is easier than you may think! In this training, participants will receive an overview of strategies to increase the development of math skills in the home. Special focus will be placed on critical thinking skills, generalization of skills, and supporting problem-solving across contexts. We hope you join us for this very exciting training opportunity!

For more information, please contact Susy Launder at slaunder@fau.edu or 561-212-2859

**TUES
JUN 21**
10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<https://asdmathskills.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Friday June 17, 2016.

Using Mealtime to Enhance Communication Skills

This workshop is designed for parents who seek to build or enhance communication skills with their child. Strategic use of family meals and related activities such as meal preparation will be discussed. Parents will learn strategies for building communication and positive interactions with their child surrounding family mealtimes, while modeling good nutrition and healthy attitudes toward food. *For more information, please contact Jennifer Sanderson at jsanderson@fau.edu or 561-235-9342*



**TUES
JUN 21**
1 - 3 p.m.

Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus or online, register at:

<http://mealtime-and-communication.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Friday June 17, 2016.

Enhancing Engagement in Science

MON JUL 27
12-3:30 p.m.

Participants will learn the best approaches and strategies to teach Science, and strategies to promote student learning. A sampling of some fun, easy, and low cost experiments will be demonstrated.

IRSC - St. Lucie West Campus

To attend this training on campus, register at:

<http://science-engagement.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 23, 2016.

PATH for Transition

WED JULY 20
1-2 p.m.

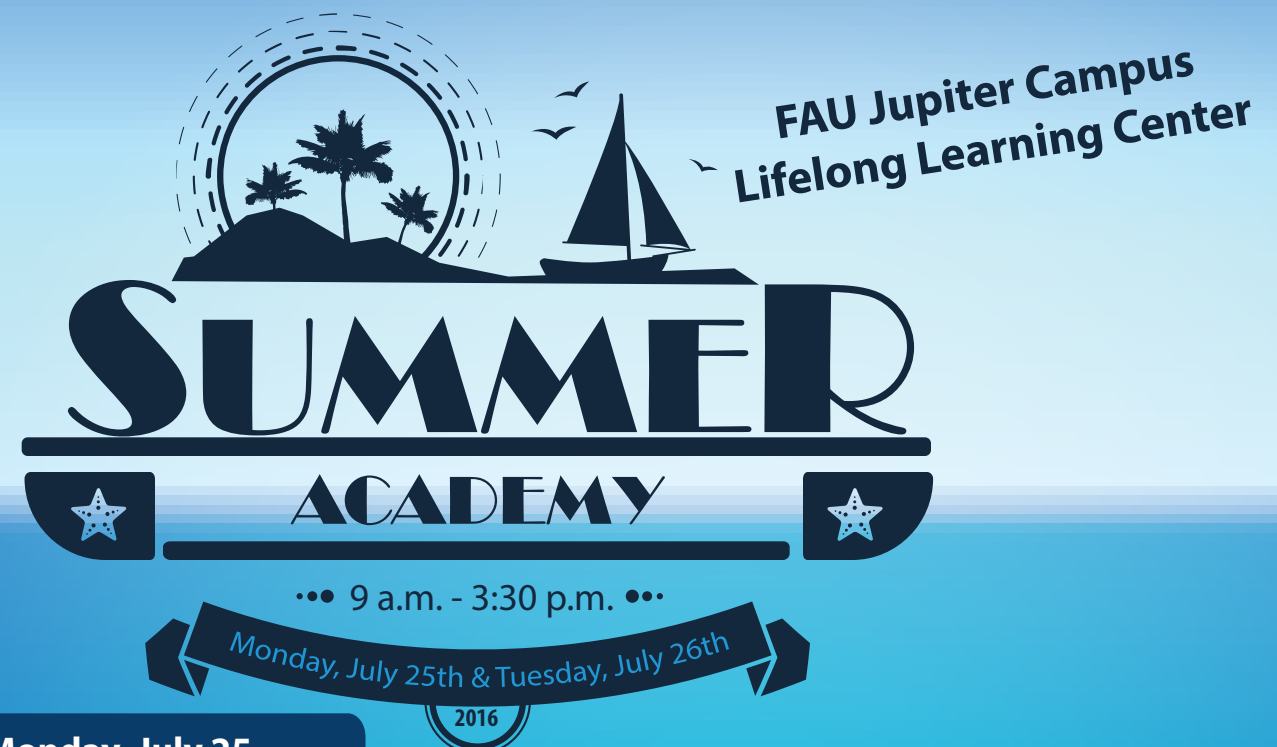
Plan for transition using the PATH process. PATH stands for Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope and is a visual experience where participants draw or write out steps towards reaching their goals. The training is for individuals, parents, or families and participants will leave with their own PATH plan.

IRSC - St. Lucie West Campus

To attend this training on campus, register at:

<http://pathfortransitionportstlucie.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, July 18, 2016.



Monday, July 25

Time	Speaker	Topic
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Kathy Oehler, M.S., CCC-SLP & Cheryl Boucher, M.S., OTR	Sensory Strategies for Classroom Success: General strategies that benefit all students
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Foodies4Autism Food Truck	Foodies4Autism and the community
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Luncheon Presentations	Lions United & Special Olympics: Project Unified
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Kathy Oehler, M.S., CCC-SLP & Cheryl Boucher, M.S., OTR	I Hate to Write! Helping Students with ASD Become Happy Successful Writers: Focus on strategies that help all students improve academic achievement and behavior.
3:00 - 3:30 p.m.	Door Prizes	

Tuesday, July 26

Time	Speaker	Topic
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Dr. Patrick McGreevy, BCBA-D	*Managing Problem Behavior in the Context of Teaching Functional Skills
11:00 - 11:30 a.m.	Presentations	Autism Friendly Business & Five Guys Presentation
11:30 - 1:00 p.m.	Susanna Launder, M.Ed. Darius Murray, B.A.	PEPSA iRISE 2 Mentoring Program
1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	Dr. Patrick McGreevy, BCBA-D	*Selecting and Confirming an Alternative and Enduring Method of Speaking for Non-Verbal Children and Adults

Register: <http://2016summeracademy.eventbrite.com>

*4.0 BCBA CEUs will be available on Tuesday, July 26 (\$40 pre-registration; \$60 onsite)

School district in-service points will be available for both days

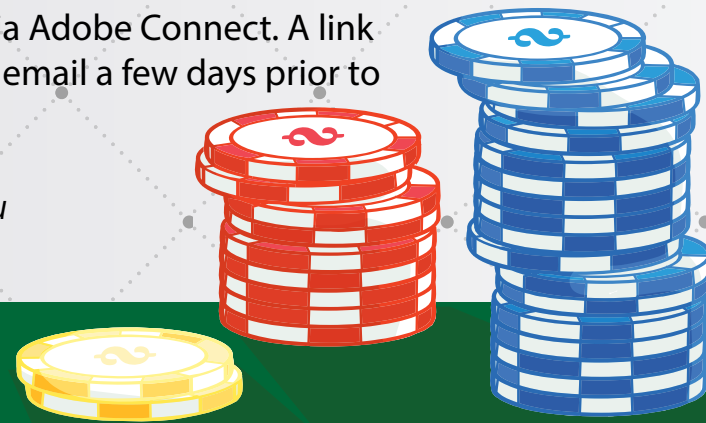
Introduction to Token Economies and Behavior Contracts

This training will provide an introduction to positive reinforcement strategies, discuss essential components of each, as well as support attendees in improving the use of token economies and behavioral contracts to increase desired behavior. The training will be offered online via Adobe Connect. A link to the online training will be sent out to the provided email a few days prior to the event.

For more information please contact Noelle Balsamo at nbalsamo@fau.edu

FRI JULY 29
12-1 p.m.

FAU Jupiter Campus
To attend this training on campus or online register at:
<https://tokeneconomy.eventbrite.com>
Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 27, 2016.



SOUTH FLORIDA BUSINESS LEADERSHIP NETWORK

Jennifer Percival



On April 8th the South Florida Business Leadership Network (SFLBLN), a local affiliate of the U.S. Business Leadership Network, hosted their annual Connections Event at Florida Atlantic University. The Connections Event honored employers who hire people with disabilities. This year FAU CARD nominated The Autism Channel and Artists with Autism and both businesses were awarded Platinum Business Awards.

Dignitaries who attended Connections included State Senator Maria Sachs, and representatives from the offices of Representative Lori Berman and Representative Gwyn Clarke-Reed. Speakers featured at the event were the CEOs of CareerSource Palm Beach and Broward, Diversity Specialist at PNC Financial Services, and the Vice President for Business Management and the Diversity Specialist at NextEra Energy.

FAU CARD's Jennifer Percival participates on the SFLBLN's Advisory Board of Directors and is on the Connections planning committee. For more information about the South Florida Business Leadership Network visit: http://www.usbln.org/bln_fl_south-florida.html

AUG 2
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Empowered Educators: Tools, Tips and Tricks to Implementing Evidenced Based Strategies for Students with ASD

This training designed for teachers, therapists, and paraprofessionals will introduce participants to the ASD Classroom Tool identifying Evidenced Based Practices in the areas of Ecological Factor, Behavioral System, and Curriculum and Instruction. Participants will be provided researched based strategies and tools as well as classroom demonstrations to increase positive behavior and decrease problematic behaviors in the classroom and across school settings. A tour of the Els Center for Excellence, state of the art facility will be provided along with demonstrations from each school district and participating charter and private schools in the FAU CARD region.

Participants may register to attend onsite or online. Each onsite participant will receive a flash drive of materials, and other tools to increase their effectiveness in the classroom. Door prizes will be provided along with coffee and lunch from the Foodies4Autism for onsite participants. Inservice Points will be awarded by teachers for onsite participation.

Come join us and start the school year on the right path!

Els Center for Excellence: 18370 Limestone Creek Road Jupiter, FL 33458

Register to view online or onsite:
<http://empowerededucators.eventbrite.com>



The FAU Center for Autism and Related Disabilities (CARD) provides expert consulting, training and support, at no charge, for people with autism and related disabilities, their families and the professionals serving them. CARD's goal is to optimize the potential of the individuals we serve by helping them become valued members of their communities, enabling them to learn, work, communicate and socialize. Visit us at: www.autism.fau.edu If an accommodation(s) for a disability is required, please call 561-297-2055 or e-mail us at CARD@fau.edu, a minimum of 5 working days in advance of the date of the event.



Thank you Els Center for Excellence for your continuous support to FAU CARD

Healthy Cooking Demonstration Training

FRI AUG 5
5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

Please join us for a fun-filled cooking demonstration helping individuals learn to make a yummy and healthy Texas Caviar Dip. We will be learning about the benefits of each color group of fruits and vegetables, how to pick good from bad vegetables, how to cut safely and correctly, and how to assemble the dish. Each person in attendance will receive chips and dip. **This class is limited to individuals registered with FAU CARD between the ages of 11-22 and will be offered onsite only. For more information, please contact Alex May at amay8@fau.edu or 561-212-8094.*

Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 428

To attend this training on campus, register at:

<http://faucardhealthycookingdemo.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug 3, 2016.



CAREERSOURCE PALM BEACH OFFERS PRE-EMPLOYMENT CLASS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

The program, Young Professionals Training:101, was a collaborative effort with CareerSource partners Vocational Rehabilitation and FAU CARD. VR asked that CareerSource conduct a work readiness program for juniors and seniors in high school during their spring break. Jennifer Percival at FAU CARD consulted on curriculum development and strategies for working with students with ASD. By the end of the week, the young adults had learned about soft skills, financial literacy, career exploration, and more. They participated in team building activities, mock interviews and developed resumes. When asked what they were going to miss the most once they returned to school, they answered "The staff at CareerSource". This work readiness program is now the first of its kind in the State of Florida.

For more information contact:

Jennifer Percival at FAU CARD: jpollack@fau.edu

Holly Carson at CareerSource Palm Beach: Office: 561.340.1060 ext. 2335, Email: hcarson@careersourcepb.com



CONGRATULATIONS CONNOR B STURGIS



CONNOR B STURGIS

**FEBRUARY 2016
ASSOCIATE OF THE MONTH!
FRENCHMEN'S CROSSING PUBLIX
Front Service Clerk/Cashier**

One of our constituents, Connor B Sturgis was named the February 2016 Employee of the Month at Publix! Help us congratulate him!

Back to School and Making Friends

Are you looking for ways to make friends this coming school year? Then this social skills training might be just what you're looking for! This training will help participants to identify strategies for initiating conversations, which is a very important step in making friends. Participants will also learn about other social skills that are intended to decrease stress that is often related to learning how to make and keep friends. Participants will also explore how they can make friends throughout the coming the new school year.

For more information, please contact Veronica Castro at castrov2014@fau.edu or 561-213-8381.



THUR AUG 11
5 - 6:30 p.m.

Boca Raton Campus, College of Education, Room 411

To attend this training on campus, register at:

<http://backtoschoolandmakingfriends.eventbrite.com>

Registration closes at 5 p.m. on Tuesday, August 9, 2016.

*****This training is intended for middle and high school students only and will be provided onsite only.***



Developmental Disability Small Business Network

If you are a business owner or administrator of a small business that primarily employs people with developmental disabilities, join our Developmental Disability Small Business Network (DDSBN)!

If you are interested in participating please contact:

Jennifer Pollack Percival

**561-212-4203 or
jpollack@fau.edu**



FAU CARD in partnership with Autism Speaks announces the DDSBN.

THE CHOCOLATE SPECTRUM STORY

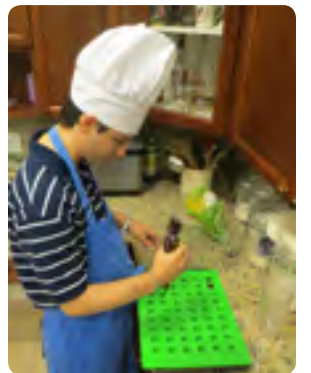


For Valerie Herskowitz, the opening of the Café and Academy is the culmination of a long road. Herskowitz spent years worrying about what her son, Blake, who has autism, would do after graduating from high school, as there are very limited opportunities for adults on the Autism Spectrum.

Herskowitz explained that, "When special needs students exit public schools, they have a transition meeting to discuss what they will do upon graduation. Unfortunately, schools don't have many options. So often, the child 'graduates' to the couch, which many parents call 'falling off the cliff.'" Nearly 90% of people with autism are under or unemployed. Deeply concerned that this could be her son's future, Herskowitz decided to take matters into her own hands. She trained to become a Pastry Chef in 2010 and noticed that Blake showed an interest in what she was doing and wanted to join in.

Thinking other kids could be interested in this, as well, she began to volunteer in Palm Beach County public schools, running a summer camp for children and adults with special needs, teaching them how to bake.

In 2013, Herskowitz became a certified chocolatier with Blake working right alongside her. When Blake graduated from high school that year, Herskowitz began a quest to combine both her speech therapy and pastry skills with her son's desire to learn into a sustainable experience that could serve him for the long-term.



Herskowitz saw that this could provide opportunities not just for Blake, but for other young adults with special needs, so she began hosting chocolate-making classes twice a week in her home for nine young adults with developmental disabilities. Adults with various disabilities came to Valerie's kitchen to join Blake in learning the art of making truffles, molded chocolates, fudge and other chocolate-inspired creations. In addition to preparing the treats, the participants help with packaging, shipping and the direct sales component of running a chocolate business. Herskowitz realized that these young men needed paying jobs. So, after becoming proficient in chocolate making, she began employing two of them part-time with The Chocolate Spectrum.

The Chocolate Spectrum Boutique and Academy will hold weekly chocolate-making classes for children and adults, including those with special needs and those without. In addition, the store will offer private parties, mom's night out, dad's night out, middle school and high school chocolatier classes, team building experiences, and field trips.



For adults with autism and other developmental disabilities, The Chocolate Spectrum Academy will offer a formal 12 month Chocolate, Pastry, Barista and Restaurant Services Vocational Training Program where students can learn about chocolate production, baking and beverage preparation. This direct instruction and apprenticeship program may lead to employment with The Chocolate Spectrum Boutique.

The gourmet chocolate is available online at www.thechocolatespectrum.com and will be available at The Chocolate Spectrum Boutique and Academy beginning in April at 6725 West Indiantown Road, Suite 38 in the Jupiter West Plaza. For more information, visit www.thechocolatespectrum.com, email Valerie@thechocolatespectrum.com or call 954-980-0134.



THE ELS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE
PROGRAMS & SERVICES



Hospitality Work Experience Program

in partnership with PGA National Resort and Spa



The Hospitality Work Experience program is for adults with developmental disabilities ages 18+ who have completed high school.

Gain valuable work
experience in a hotel or
a golf course

Master social
skills in the
workplace

Learn to write a
resume and
interview skills

Dates: May 10, 2016 to October 20, 2016

Cost: \$50 Application Fee

Schedule: 24 weeks Tuesdays & Thursdays

Morning (9:00am-12:30pm) or Afternoon (3:00pm-6:30pm)



For more information please contact:
Kerri Morse, Adult Services Coordinator
kerri.morse@elsforautism.com (561) 320-9523



TREASURE COAST NEWS:

Special Needs Dances in Port St Lucie (Ages 15+)
Special Recreation participants, family and friends are invited to spend an evening of fun, music, dancing and socializing. Cost is \$7.00 in advance and \$9.00 at the door.

When: Dates TBA from 6 – 8 p.m.
Where: Port St Lucie Civic Center

RSVP: Erin Murphy at (772) 807- 4469.

Special Needs Fitness (Ages 18+)
Participants with special needs are encouraged to join for two hours of fun and fitness. This program includes one hour in the game room and one hour of physical activity in the gymnasium. Cost is \$2.00 per person.

When: May 11 and June 8 from 10 – 11:45 a.m.
Where: Port St Lucie Civic Center Gymnasium Side A&B

RSVP: Erin Murphy at (772) 807- 4469

TREASURE COAST PARENT SUPPORT GROUPS:

Puzzled Families of Indian River County

Puzzled Families is a parent support group that meets to provide support and information for parents of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

When: 2nd Monday of each month from 6 – 8:30 p.m.
Where: Sun Up Center, 2455 5th Street SW, Vero Beach, FL

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Puzzled-Families-of-Indian-River/122076224542183>
RSVP: puzzledfamilies@gmail.com

Puzzled Families of St Lucie County

Puzzled Families is a parent support group that meets to provide support and information for parents of individuals with autism spectrum disorders.

When: 2nd Thurs of each month from 6 – 7:30 p.m.
Where: Community United Methodist Church, 3114 Okeechobee Rd, Fort Pierce, FL

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Puzzled-Families-of-Indian-River/122076224542183>
RSVP: puzzledfamilies@gmail.com

Disability Support Network of the Treasure Coast

Disability Support Network is a parent support group meeting to provide support and information for parents of individuals with special needs, not specifically for those living with autism spectrum disorders.

When: 3rd Thursday of each month from 7 - 8:30 p.m. in either Martin or St Lucie.
Where: TBA at a local restaurant. Like them on Facebook for meeting notifications.

RSVP: puzzledfamilies@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/131030553607709/>

S.O.U.L. (Supporting, Overcoming, Understanding, & Loving)

Meets in Martin County and is for those families living with autism spectrum disorders. This is not a religious meeting, but for education and q & a. The goal of the group is to provide resources to those families attending.

When: 1st Monday of the month from 6:30 - 8 p.m.
Where: Covenant Fellowship Church @ 2880 SE Aster Lane in Stuart.

For More info contact Rhonda Oksman, Founder/Facilitator
Email: rhonda.oksman@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/SoulSupportGroup>

LOCAL SIBSHOP® GROUPS:

MIAMI SIBSHOP®

Primary Contact: Jessica Spence

REACH of Miami

9501 SW 20th Terrace

Miami, FL 33165

Phone: 808-321-3814

SLOMIN FAMILY CENTER SIBSHOP®

Primary Contact: Jeffrey Zirulnick

16705 Puzzle Place

Delray Beach, FL 33446

Phone: 561-495-4443

www.slominfamilycenter.org

PBBHW SIBSHOP®

Primary Contact: Brandi Rials

Palm Beach Behavioral Health and Wellness

345 Jupiter Lakes Blvd, Ste 302a

Jupiter, FL 33458

Phone: 561-429-2397

www.pbbhw.com

PALM BEACH COUNTY SIBSHOP®

Primary Contact: Daniella Robbins

PBC Parks/Rec & ARC of PBC

2728 Lake Worth Road

Lake Worth, FL 33461

Phone: 561-966-7088

JAFKO SIBSHOP® SERIES

Primary Contact: Linda Sachs, LCSW

JAFKO

4200 N. University Drive

Sunrise, FL 33351

www.jafco.org

BROWARD COUNTY SIBSHOP®

Primary Contact: John Kabot

Supporting the Spectrum

3055 NW 126th Avenue

Sunrise, FL 33323

Phone: 954-829-9018

Community Developmental Screening Clinic

Do you have a child who is 5 years old or younger?

Do you have concerns about their development?

We will conduct free developmental screenings throughout our service area, which includes Palm Beach, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties. This service is critical for children and families experiencing developmental concerns because early screening leads to early diagnosis and early intervention.

We are coming to your community! Developmental Screenings

Where:

Vickers House South
3801 Georgia Avenue
West Palm Beach, FL 33405

Time:

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Dates:

May 17, 2016
Jul 19, 2016
Sept 20, 2016

Appointments:

Call (561) 804-4975 - to schedule your child for a screening.
Parents must be present at the time of screening to provide consent and receive screening results.



If you have specific questions about screening tools used or to schedule the clinic to come to your area
Please contact Elisa Cruz-Torres, Ed.D., BCBA at (561) 235-9078.



Clay Workshop for Individuals with ASD

FAU CARD in collaboration with VSA FL (Very Special Arts – Florida) will be holding an art class this summer for individuals 18 and over who are diagnosed with an Autism Spectrum Disorder and registered with FAU CARD. The idea was generated by FAU CARD's St Lucie County Clinician, Cathy Allore, in an effort to bring more opportunities and programming to adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders. Allore's viewpoint is, "Our kids are adults

much longer than they are ever kids, so it makes sense to target the adult age group for service/program expansion on the Treasure Coast". Being a parent of an adult son with autism, Allore fully understands the need and frustration of parents in locating appropriate leisure activities. The idea is that each session will host 2 classes with one customized for individuals with more intensive needs, such as behavioral, fine motor, and communication challenges. Individuals can attend with a parent/caregiver, or paid service provider, if needed. Registration is accessed via the VSAFL website. The class will run for 6 weeks and is \$60 per student. The fee is payable to VSAFL via the registration link in advance of attending. The hope is that the class can be an ongoing effort to expand adult leisure opportunities on the Treasure Coast. For more information contact Cathy Allore, St Lucie County Clinical Support Specialist at callore@fau.edu or 772-873-3367.

WINGS OF HOPE GALA 2016
HONORING DR. GREGORY & LAINA ALBERT



FAU CARD ONLINE TRAININGS

FAU CARD has developed this library of online training presentations that are available for you to view.

Visit our website: <http://coe.fau.edu/centersandprograms/card/tutorials.php>

- Overview of Autism Spectrum Disorders

In the Home

- Guardianship Options
- Strategies for Increasing Homework Success
- Toilet Training

In the School

- ASD & the Reading Comprehension Challenge: What Can You Do?, created by UM-NSU CARD
- Classroom Set-up
- Count on It! Strategies to Teach Math Skills to Students with ASD, created by UM-NSU CARD
- Enhancing Engagement in Science
- Strategies for Increasing Homework Success
- Preventing Seclusion and Restraint for Students with ASD

Behavior Series

- **Part 1:** Understanding Why Problem Behaviors Occur
- **Part 2:** Building Play and Leisure Skills
- **Part 3:** Environmental Setup and Visual Strategies
- **Part 4:** Developing Requesting and Protesting Skills
- **Part 5:** Token Economies and Behavioral Contracts

The Great Give

Palm Beach & Martin Counties

24 hour-event

This 24-hour online giving event is designed to raise as much money as possible for local nonprofits in a single day. Every local gift will be **multiplied** with additional dollars from a bonus pool raised by the Community Foundation.

1. Donate anytime throughout the day on May 3: [By Clicking Here](#)
2. Make sure you mention **FAU CARD** in the comment section.
3. Thank you!



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