

Special Education Summer Conference Bios
August 3, 2020 - Via WebEx

8:00 – 9:30 - Introduction & Keynote

Keynote:



Presenter: Dr. Christian Sabey

Title: *Bearing the Strain: Finding Purpose in the Challenging Work of Special Education*

Link:

Bio: Dr. Christian Sabey got his start in education working as a paraprofessional in a self-contained class for students with emotional and behavior disorders. It was in that setting that he discovered a love for behavior management and for students with challenging behavior. Since his start as a paraprofessional, Christian has worked as an afterschool group leader, a summer school director, a dean of students, a school psychologist, a behavior specialist and more. He has worked in education at the school, district, and state levels.

For Christian, this work is personal. He is a product of the Special Education system (Ms. Remples 2nd grade remedial reading class). He has worked in the education system with a broad range of students from high performing students to students with severe challenges. Most recently, Christian has experienced Special Education from the perspective of a parent, as he has two children with Down Syndrome who receive special education services. He intimately understands the need for all students to experience belonging and success at school and home.

Christian attended and graduated from Brigham Young University, University of Utah, and Utah State University, in that order. He earned a Masters degree in School Psychology and a Doctoral degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Applied Behavior Analysis and is currently a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and a Licensed Behavior Analyst (LBA) in the state of Utah.

By day, he works as an assistant professor of Special Education at Brigham Young University, where he teaches preservice teachers how to manage challenging behavior and does research on how to help school personnel to support tough kids. By night, Christian is a husband and father of four.

When he has free time, Christian likes to fly fish, play bluegrass music, drive around the countryside looking for birds of prey, and take his kids to the museum.

9:45 -11:00 – Administrative Session #1

Title: Administrative Intervention: A Model of Immediate, Structured, Intensive Teaching in the Office

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Cade Charlton

Bio: Dr. Cade Charlton is an Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University in Special Education. He received his MBA and doctorate at Utah State University and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Cade's research focuses on identifying empirically-supported practices and designing organizational supports to ensure these practices are implemented with fidelity in a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This focus has led to consulting opportunities with priority schools around the intermountain west, work on federally- and locally-funded research projects, disseminating evidence-based practices in rural schools, and enhancing the impact of resources from school trust lands. In addition, Cade is passionate about the application of the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to improve supports for individuals with disabilities outside of school including at home, at work, and other meaningful community contexts.

9:45 -11:00 - General Breakout Session #1

Title: *Work Refusal: Can't Do Or Won't Do?*

Link:

Presenter: Toni Lee

Bio: Toni Lee is currently a Behavior Specialist in Jordan School District. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Westminster College in the School of Education. Previously, she taught in a Self-Contained Special Education Classroom. Her interests include video modeling, self-regulation, and social skills. She is passionate about working with students, teachers, parents, and other professionals to provide the best services for all students. Outside of work, she can be found spending time with her family camping and recreating outdoors.

Title: *Supporting Paraprofessionals in Doing the Challenging Work Special Education*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Christian Sabey

Bio: Dr. Christian Sabey got his start in education working as a paraprofessional in a self-contained class for students with emotional and behavior disorders. It was in that setting that he discovered a love for behavior management and for students with challenging behavior. Since his start as a paraprofessional, Christian has worked as an afterschool group leader, a summer school director, a dean of students, a school psychologist, a behavior specialist and more. He has worked in education at the school, district, and state levels.

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Title: *Instructional Strategies to Increase Student Engagement and Learning*

Link:

Presenter: Susan Sudbury & Robin Silatolu

Bio: Susan Sudbury & Robin Silatolu are the Special Education New Teacher Specialists for Jordan School District.

Title: *Words, Words, Words! Ideas for Effective Vocabulary Instruction*

Link:

Presenters: Dr. Cindy Jones, Georgia Bunnell, Nanette Watson, Kara DeCoursey

Bios: Cindy Jones is a Professor and Director of the Literacy Clinic in the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership, specializing in literacy education and classroom instruction. She holds a current Level 3 Utah Professional Educator License. Her Educator License Areas of Concentration include Elementary Education, Middle School Education, and Administrative/Supervisory. She holds Endorsements in Reading Level I, Reading Level II, English, and Gifted and Talented. She continues to work in public schools providing professional development about reading and writing instruction.

Georgia Bunnell holds a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in education, professional specialization- reading and writing. She is currently a doctoral candidate, Literacy and Instructional Leadership, at Utah State University. Prior to seeking her Ph.D., she taught 6th grade in Tooele, Utah.

Nanette Watson is a doctoral student at Utah State University. Nanette has taught preschool and has also worked as a public-school teacher in second and sixth grades and as an elementary reading teacher. Nanette's teaching and research interests include early literacy development, family literacy practices, literacy instruction, and teacher development. Her dissertation is focused on the nature of writing development and teacher-student interactions to improve kindergarten students' writing skills.

Kara DeCoursey is currently pursuing a Ph.D at Utah State University. She has taught 2nd grade at public district and charter schools in Mesa, Arizona and South Jordan, Utah. Kara earned a master's degree in curriculum and instruction with a focus on differentiated instruction. Her teaching interests include implementing effective reading workshops and using quality writing practices in the elementary classroom.

Title: *Strategies for Educator Wellness and Avoiding Burnout*
Link:

Presenter: Dr. Mckinley Withers

Bio: Dr. Withers started his career as a middle school social studies teacher and taught for 5 years, his favorite teaching assignment was AP Psychology at West Jordan High School. He loved being a teacher! After finishing his Master's Degree he moved to Valley High School to be a counselor and loved his role as a counselor at Valley. In 2018 he applied for the District's Health and Wellness Specialist position and has been working in that role ever since that summer. He loves the role and the opportunity to work with so many amazing people in the District. In Spring 2020 he completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah and studied teacher wellness for his capstone. Student and faculty/staff wellness has been a passion of his since he began his career in education and is excited to be a part of Jordan School District's journey towards improved wellness.

Title: *Building Reading Skills for Young Children - Preschool Focus*
Link:

Presenter: Michelle Lovell, JSD Language Arts Consultant

Bio: Michelle Lovell understands the value of early childhood education and the impact it has on students in later years. Michelle has experience teaching preschool, kindergarten, first grade, second grade, has worked as a literacy coach, has been the principal of an elementary school, and now works as a literacy consultant for Jordan School District. Michelle feels that every experience she has had has solidified her belief in the importance of quality literacy and numeracy instruction in the early years of a child's life and she is a proponent of early childhood education. She believes that instruction in the early grades can be rigorous, fun, and developmentally appropriate all at the same time and that children can and should develop a love for learning that will last a lifetime.

Title: *Supported Decision Making (And How to Implement Strategies Throughout Elementary, Middle, High & Post-High)*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Shamby Polychronis

Bio: Shamby holds a current license in severe special education and taught in a post-high setting in the Jordan School District. She has served on multiple grant projects, co-authored several articles, and presented at state and national conferences. Her scholarly interests include post-school outcomes for students, family support services, and teacher education. She advocates for social justice issues including alternatives to guardianship, full inclusion in school and community environments, eliminating aversive interventions, and meaningful employment. Prior to joining the University of Utah, Dr. Polychronis received Westminster College's Gore Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018 and taught courses on the Disability Rights Movement, autism (debunking myths and stereotypes), inclusive educational practices, and effective methodologies for individualizing instruction.

Title: *Screening for Language Impairments in Early Elementary Students Using Clinical Markers*

Link:

Presenters: Dr. Sean Redmond and Dr. Andrea Ash

Bios: Professor Sean Redmond, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA-F, has been a faculty member of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Utah since 1997. He teaches and conducts research on the topics of language development, pediatric language disorders, and children's socioemotional development. His scholarship has been funded by the National Institutes of Health. He has served several times on ASHA journal editorial boards including a recently concluded appointment as Editor in Chief for the Journal of Speech Language and Hearing Research. He occasionally engages in Twitter discussions on practice issues in speech language pathology as @s_redmondUofU

Andrea Ash, PhD, has been a research faculty member at the University of Utah in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders since 2013. She has managed the Child Language Laboratory directed by Sean Redmond since 2011. Dr. Ash's scholarship includes the examination of the assessment of pediatric language disorder in school age children.

Title: *Tier 2 Behavior Interventions for Secondary Learners: The Check-In Check-Out (CICO)*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Katlyn Bundock

Bio: Dr. Kaitlin Bundock is an Assistant Professor of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Utah State University. She earned her PhD in Special Education from the University of Utah in 2015. Dr. Bundock's work is motivated by and stems from her experiences as a high-school special education teacher in the Salt Lake City Area as well as in Kona, Hawaii. Dr. Bundock's primary area of focus in both her research and teaching is effective instruction and intervention for students struggling in mathematics at the secondary level. Dr. Bundock also focuses on behavioral interventions and supports in secondary schools. Dr. Bundock has provided school and district teams with training in the Check-in/Check-out (CICO) intervention, and has assisted with implementing CICO in elementary and middle schools. Dr. Bundock has also trained special and general education co-teaching pairs in effective methods for teaching mathematics to students with disabilities in inclusive settings. Dr. Bundock is a co-author on the 3rd edition of the book, *Responding to Problem Behavior in Schools*, which is due to be released Fall of 2020, and has also published her research in respected journals in the field of Special Education, including *Learning Disability Quarterly*, *Intervention in School and Clinic*, *Remedial and Special Education*, and *Teaching Exceptional Children*.

Lunch - 11:00am - 12:15pm

12:15 - 1:30pm - Administrative Session #2

Title: Legalities of Special Education

Link:

Presenter: Joan Andrews

Bio: Joan Andrews focuses her practice on employment and education law, assisting her clients with both litigation and litigation prevention. She regularly helps clients draft employee handbooks, conducts anti-harassment training, directs internal investigations of allegations of discrimination or harassment and advises employers on critical employment law issues. As a litigator, Joan has tried cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, noncompetition agreements and Title VII. She was part of a team of Fabian Vancott attorneys with expertise in a number of core competency areas who worked together on a widely reported case involving the False Claims Act. In the area of education law, Joan represents school districts, with her expertise in special education, as well as employment, student discipline, First Amendment and Title IX issues. She has successfully defended school districts in court and administrative hearings. In the community, Joan was a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah for nine years. She is admitted to practice in Utah state and federal courts as well as the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Joan obtained a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and received her law degree at the University of Utah where she was a member of the Utah Law Review and a William H. Leary Scholar.

12:15 - 1:30pm - General Session #2

Title: *Show Me The Data: Data-Based Decision Making in Schools*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Keith Radley

Bio: Dr. Radley is an associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Utah and is currently the program director for School Psychology. His research focuses on the application of behavior analytic interventions within schools. His research has focused on the evaluation of social skills interventions and peer-mediated behavioral interventions. His work has also focused on the implementation of practitioner-friendly interventions for addressing challenging behaviors.

Title: *Dealing with Difficult Situations: Do's & Don'ts for Staying Calm, Keeping the Peace & Following the Law*

Link:

Presenter: Melisa Genaux

Bio: Melisa Genaux works with school districts across the country in the areas of behavior and classroom management, Autism Spectrum Disorders, social skills training, and special education legal/compliance issues. She presents at conferences and workshops for general education and special education teachers, school administrators, related services staff, and parents. In addition, she provides consultation services on individual student case management and district program development. She has served as a special education coordinator and supervisor, and as a consultant to the Utah State Office of Education. She has written and produced training videos for the education and law publishing company, LRP Publications, and is a speaker at the LRP Institute on Legal Issues of Educating Students with Disabilities.

Title: *Promoting Social Play Through Systematic Prompting Procedures*

Link:

Presenter: Summer Gunn

Bio: Summer Gunn works as a Clinical Instructor for the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Utah State University. She is primarily responsible for the instruction and supervision of undergraduate students seeking certification in Early Childhood Special Education. She spent a number of years working in the public schools as a special education preschool teacher and autism specialist. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst and Chair Elect for the Utah Special Education Advisory Panel. She is a member of the Utah Division of Early Childhood, a division of the Council for Exceptional Children and is currently serving as the Secretary/ Treasurer.

Title: *Striking a Balance: A Guide to Promote Technically Adequate, Feasible Behavior*

Link:

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Bio: Dr. Cade Charlton is an Assistant Professor at Brigham Young University in Special Education. He received his MBA and doctorate at Utah State University and is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA). Cade's research focuses on identifying empirically-supported practices and designing organizational supports to ensure these practices are implemented with fidelity in a Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS). This focus has led to consulting opportunities with priority schools around the intermountain west, work on federally- and locally-funded research projects, disseminating evidence-based practices in rural schools, and enhancing the impact of resources from school trust lands. In addition, Cade is passionate about the application of the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) to improve supports for individuals with disabilities outside of school including at home, at work, and other meaningful community contexts.

Title: *Literacy Character Analysis to Promote Social And Emotional Competency Development (Secondary Focus)*

Link:

Presenters: Dr. Cindy Jones, Neil Carpenter, Janet Breitenstein

Bios: Dr. Cindy Jones is a Professor and Director of the Literacy Clinic in the Department of Teacher Education and Leadership at Utah State University, specializing in literacy education and classroom instruction. Prior to working at Utah State University, she was a public school teacher for over 20 years. Her research has included work on the development of social-emotional learning through literacy experiences for over five years.

Neil Carpenter is a doctoral student at USU focusing on the design and use of digital sacred texts. He lives with his wife and five children in rural Tooele County where he has worked as a religious educator for 10 years.

Janet Breitenstein holds a bachelor's degree in Social Science with a minor in Language Arts from California State University Chico. She earned her masters' degree in education in curriculum and instruction through Concordia University, Portland. Currently, she is a doctoral candidate in Literacy Education and Leadership at Utah State University. Janet just completed her 20th year of teaching in secondary education. She has taught in both Language Arts and Social Studies in California and Idaho.

Title: *Supporting Secondary Students with Disabilities in Mathematics: Research-Based Strategies to Improve Access and Outcomes*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Katlyn Bundock

Bio: Dr. Kaitlin Bundock is an Assistant Professor of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Utah State University. She earned her PhD in Special Education from the University of Utah in 2015. Dr. Bundock's work is motivated by and stems from her experiences as a high-school special education teacher in the Salt Lake City Area as well as in Kona, Hawaii. Dr. Bundock's primary area of focus in both her research and teaching is effective instruction and intervention for students struggling in mathematics at the secondary level. Dr. Bundock also focuses on behavioral interventions and supports in secondary schools. Dr. Bundock has provided school and district teams with training in the Check-in/Check-out (CICO) intervention, and has assisted with implementing CICO in elementary and middle schools. Dr. Bundock has also trained special and general education co-teaching pairs in effective methods for teaching mathematics to students with disabilities in inclusive settings. Dr. Bundock is a co-author on the 3rd edition of the book, *Responding to Problem Behavior in Schools*, which is due to be released Fall of 2020, and has also published her research in respected journals in the field of Special Education, including *Learning Disability Quarterly*, *Intervention in School and Clinic*, *Remedial and Special Education*, and *Teaching Exceptional Children*.

Title: *Establishing Peer Tutor Programs to Support Inclusion*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Shamby Polychronis

Bio: Shamby holds a current license in severe special education and taught in a post-high setting in the Jordan School District. She has served on multiple grant projects, co-authored several articles, and presented at state and national conferences. Her scholarly interests include post-school outcomes for students, family support services, and teacher education. She advocates for social justice issues including alternatives to guardianship, full inclusion in school and community environments, eliminating aversive interventions, and meaningful employment. Prior to joining the University of Utah, Dr. Polychronis received Westminster College's Gore Excellence in Teaching Award in 2018 and taught courses on the Disability Rights Movement, autism (debunking myths and stereotypes), inclusive educational practices, and effective methodologies for individualizing instruction.

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Title: *Self-Determination: Sounds Good, But How Does A Teacher Make It Happen?*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Bob Morgan

Bio: Dr. Bob Morgan is a Professor in the Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation at Utah State University and serves as the Chair of the SPED Masters Committee. Bob worked in schools, adult residential facilities, and supported employment programs for 11 years. His research interests include transition from school to adult roles and

applied behavior analysis. Bob works with local school districts and community groups to promote identification of preferred and well-matched employment options for young adults with disabilities. He helped develop Aggies Elevated, an on-campus transition program for students with intellectual disabilities for young adults ages 18-26 years. He has published three books, five book chapters, over 100 refereed and nonrefereed journal articles, and 13 educational products. Bob has authored and managed 40 grants and contracts awarded to Utah State University totaling over \$11,000,000.

1:30pm - 1:45pm - Afternoon Break (Get a Snack)

1:45pm - 3:00pm - Administrative Session #3

Title: Special Education Services: What Happens When We Come Back from a Soft Closure

Link:

Presenter: Kim Lloyd

Bio: Kim Lloyd is the Special Education Director in the Jordan School District. She has 29 years experience in education. She has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education from UNLV and a master's degree in Leadership and Policy from the U of U. Kim has taught as a first, second and fifth grader teacher, and a secondary resource and ED teacher. She was an assistant principal in a secondary school, an elementary principal and a special education director for ten years.

1:45pm - 3:00pm - General Session #3

Title: Transition Takes A Team: How to Develop and Carry Out an Effective, Collaborative Effort Leading to Positive Post-School Outcomes.

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Title: Y'all Are About to Lose Recess: A Guide to More Efficient & Effective Classroom Management

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Keith Radley

Bio: Dr. Radley is an associate professor in Educational Psychology at the University of Utah and is currently the program director for School Psychology. His research focuses on the application of behavior analytic interventions within schools. His research has focused on the evaluation of social skills interventions and peer-mediated behavioral interventions. His work has also focused on the implementation of practitioner-friendly interventions for addressing challenging behaviors.

Title: *A Snapshot of A Preschooler...Why Do They Behave The Way They Do? What Can We Do About It?*

Link:

Presenter: Rachelle Blair

Bio: D. Rachelle Blair has over 28 years of experience working with individuals with disabilities and special needs across her lifespan. She has over 18 years of experience with young children 0 to 5. She is currently an Instructional Coach and Behavior Specialist at the Jordan Child Development Center and assists Early Childhood Special Education Teachers and students in 27 inclusive preschool classrooms. She has experience in the private, public, and non-profit sector and has functioned as a Special Educator, Behavior Specialist, and Program Director for over two decades. She has a Master's Degree in Education - Applied Behavior Analysis and a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Special Education. She is a Certified Early Childhood Special Educator and Level II Early Interventions. Her passion is to empower teachers and parents with skills to assist young children with developmentally appropriate practices. She is a mother to many and loves it.

Title: Legalities of Special Education

Link:

Presenter: Joan Andrews

Bio: Joan Andrews focuses her practice on employment and education law, assisting her clients with both litigation and litigation prevention. She regularly helps clients draft employee handbooks, conducts anti-harassment training, directs internal investigations of allegations of discrimination or harassment and advises employers on critical employment law issues. As a litigator, Joan has tried cases involving the Fair Labor Standards Act, noncompetition agreements and Title VII. She was part of a team of Fabian Vancott attorneys with expertise in a number of core competency areas who worked together on a widely reported case involving the False Claims Act. In the area of education law, Joan represents school districts, with her expertise in special education, as well as employment, student discipline, First Amendment and Title IX issues. She has successfully defended school districts in court and administrative hearings. In the community, Joan was a volunteer mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Utah for nine years. She is admitted to practice in Utah state and federal courts as well as the Tenth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Joan obtained a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College and received her law degree at the University of Utah where she was a member of the Utah Law Review and a William H. Leary Scholar.

Title: *Dealing with Difficult Situations: Do's & Don'ts for Staying Calm, Keeping the Peace & Following the Law*

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Title: *Social and Emotional Learning Strategies for the School and Classroom*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Mckinley Withers

Bio: Dr. Withers started his career as a middle school social studies teacher and taught for 5 years, his favorite teaching assignment was AP Psychology at West Jordan High School. He loved being a teacher! After finishing his Master's Degree he moved to Valley High School to be a counselor and loved his role as a counselor at Valley. In 2018 he applied for the District's Health and Wellness Specialist position and has been working in that role ever since that summer. He loves the role and the opportunity to work with so many amazing people in the District. In Spring 2020 he completed his Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Policy at the University of Utah and studied teacher wellness for his capstone. Student and faculty/staff wellness has been a passion of his since he began his career in education and is excited to be a part of Jordan School District's journey towards improved wellness.

Title: *Adding Fractions Using the Concrete Representational Abstract Strategy*

Link:

Presenter: Dr. Malynda Tolbert

Bio: Malynda has been a special educator for many years as an adjunct professor, student teacher supervisor, classroom teacher, teacher coach, and professional development specialist. She is completing her doctoral studies in the next couple of weeks and is thrilled to be joining Jordan School District as the Special Education Mathematics Specialist this fall.

Title: *Work Refusal: Can't Do Or Won't Do?*

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Presenter: Toni Lee

Bio: Toni Lee is currently a Behavior Specialist in Jordan School District. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Westminster College in the School of Education. Previously, she taught in a Self-Contained Special Education Classroom. Her interests include video modeling, self-regulation, and social skills. She is passionate about working with students, teachers, parents, and other professionals to provide the best services for all students. Outside of work, she can be found spending time with her family camping and recreating outdoors.

Title: *End the RTI Guessing Game: What Works for ELs and Why*

Link:

Presenter(s): JSD Alternative Language Services Department - Krista Mecham and Sheri Sample

Bios: