

MTSA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

February 21-23, 2023
The Lansing Center
Lansing, Michigan



www.MichiganTSA.org



Tuesday, February 21, 2023

Registration
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Main Concourse



WiFi
Username: **MTSA23**
Password: **Transition**

Sponsors and Exhibitors
11 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Exhibitor Halls

Tuesday Keynote
12:15 p.m. - 12:30 p.m. Welcome and Announcements
12:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker - Dr. Adam Saenz
Exhibitor Halls

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Keynote Speakers & Panelists Tuesday-Thursday

Tuesday Keynote

Wednesday Keynote

Thursday Keynotes



Dr. Adam Saenz
Founder and CEO of Applied EQ is an expert on emotional intelligence, stress management and effective relationship building.



Katherine "Katy" Neas
Deputy Assistant Secretary and acting Assistant Secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).



Teri Rink, Ed.S.
Director, Office of Special Education at the Michigan Department of Education.



Dr. Scott Koenigs knecht
Deputy Superintendent, P-20 System, and Student Transitions.

Thursday Panelists



Jordan Bullinger
Clark Hill Law



Robert Lusk
Educators Legal Services



Robert Dietzel
Thrun Law



Support for this conference was provided using *Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)* funds from the Michigan Department of Education.

Wednesday, February 22, 2022

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Buffet Breakfast <i>Banquet Rooms 1-8</i>	11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. Breakout Session B
8:30 a.m. – 8:55 a.m. Welcome & Announcements MTSA Recognition Award <i>Banquet Rooms 1-8</i>	12:15 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Buffet Lunch <i>Banquet Rooms 1-8</i>
8:55 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Keynote: Katherine Neas <i>Banquet Rooms 1-8</i>	1:15 p.m. – 2:15 p.m. Breakout Session C
10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Breakout Session A	2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. Breakout Session D
4:00 – 5:00 p.m. Annual MTSA General Membership Meeting <i>Room 204</i>	
ALL Breakout Sessions are in Rooms 101-104 (first floor) and 201-205 (second floor)	

Room	Session A 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.	Session B 11:15 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	Session C 1:15 – 2:15 p.m.	Session D 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Room 101	Transition from Special Education to Adults Services		Imagine a World Where All People are Empowered and Have the Knowledge and Skills to Have Healthy Relationships	
Room 102	How do you get help in paying for post school supports for training.	STEP's Earn and Learn: A Hybrid Approach to the Summer Work Experience	Everything You've Been Told About Transition Assessment is WRONG!!	Planning for the Future: How to Protect Your Loved One's Benefits and Ensure Their Financial Stability
Room 103	Michigan State University's Project STEMM-Up	Increasing employment success and quality of life for individuals with disabilities through the MSU STRIDE Center	Why Resources Matter: Self-advocacy and the "village" concept in transitioning from high school to post-secondary education	Dispelling Myths and Improving Employment Outcomes for Transition Youth
Room 104	The Delta Project	Risky Business- Decisions & Consequences	How Mentoring Can Pave the Way: Supporting Effective Transition through Career-Focused Mentoring for All Youth	Developing Student-Run Businesses as a Stepping Stone to Employer-Paid Jobs
Room 201	Preparing Today's Workforce Through MCTI Vocational Services	Improving Employment Outcomes for Students with Complex Barriers to Work	MiABLE 101	Law and Transition Issues
Room 202	The Use of Life Skills Simulations to Connect Tradition with Innovation for Students with Disabilities to Create Success	How apprenticeships can be a pipeline after work-based youth programs	Educating, Empowering & Employing: Collaborative School to Work and Transition Programs	Transition Resources for Blind and Visually Impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
Room 203	Certificate of Career Pathways	3 Effective Strategies to Support Appropriate Student Behavior in Classrooms	Bring on the Businesses: How to Pitch the Project SEARCH Transition Program!	
Room 204	Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT)	The Replicated Reality Classroom: An engaging Independent Living, SEL, and Personal Finance Experience	SHOW ME How to be INDEPENDENT Developing Ind. Living Skills into Transition Plans & Voc. Training	__NO SESSION__ Join us from 4-5pm in this room for the Annual General Membership Board
Room 205	Adult Transition Micro-Businesses/Partnerships	Requesting Accommodations in College	Non-CTE Transition Work Based Learning	Leadership, Mindfulness and More

Breakout Session Descriptions - Session A

Room 101: *Transition from Special Education to Adults Services*

Presenter: Karen Wang (1st Hour of 2 Hour Session)

Session Description: Students who have IEPs face uncertainty when planning the transition out of the school system. This presentation will review each step in the transition to adulthood, including IEP transition planning and how to access the services available to young adults with disabilities. The goal of this presentation is to increase awareness of services and organizations that support young adults in the transition process. The target audience includes self-advocates and family members of people with disabilities.

Credits Available: **SCECH (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended); **CRCC (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended)
Credit Hours will *NOT* be split.

Room 102: *How to Succeed and Communicate Effectively with the Most Challenging Personalities - How to get along when you don't get along*

Presenter: Cheryl Levine

Session Description: True family and school collaboration is what we all strive to accomplish, but sometimes personalities and disagreements over how best to educate children create roadblocks to our success. How do you rebuild a trusting relationship when that trust has been broken? What are the most common barriers to collaboration? What is our role, and how do we move forward successfully?

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 103: *Michigan State University's Project STEMM-Up*

Presenter: Eric Roberts

Session Description: Project STEMM-Up is a two-state, multi-year, and multi-partner collaboration collaborative in which Michigan and Louisiana aim to create and strengthen career pathways for transition-aged individuals with disabilities from racial and ethnic minority and other marginalized (IWD-REM) groups who are interested in pursuing careers in STEMM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and medicine). The project will increase the quality of employment and promote upward mobility for IWD-REM through Social Cognitive Career Theory (SCCT)-based interventions. Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS) and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) have teamed up with Michigan State University and Southern University Baton Rouge to implement this project in two phases. In phase 1, a comprehensive statewide needs assessment examined MRS/LRS policies and procedures, and surveys and focus groups were conducted to evaluate MRS and LRS policies and practices regarding tech readiness and MRS/LRS diversity, equity, access and inclusion, and technology readiness practices. In phase 2, the findings of the needs assessments will be used to develop and implement virtual, in-person, and hybrid interventions within MRS and LRS, as well as with project community stakeholders, with the aim of improving career pathways and employment outcomes, academic and career placements of IWD-REM in the STEMM fields.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 104: *The Delta Project*

Presenter: Denise Wickham

Session Description: The Delta Project is a college preparatory program for students with disabilities within the Saginaw County area. The program is designed to support students throughout their sophomore, junior, and senior years in high school and for their first two years in College or Trade School. This ensures that students with disabilities can and will successfully enroll in, attend, and graduate from College with an Associate Degree or Certificate. The students participate in numerous workshops and activities designed to assist them in selecting a career based on interest and skills, advocating for their own needs, becoming comfortable with a College campus, and much more.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 201: *Preparing Today's Workforce Through MCTI Vocational Services*

Presenter: Amanda Matthews

Session Description: Discussion of available MCTI services and training and how each impacts students/young adults seeking training to enter the workforce. Student success stories, current initiatives and updates.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 202: *The Use of Life Skills Simulations to Connect Tradition with Innovation for Students with Disabilities to Create Success*

Presenter: Ashleigh Moro

Session Description: Creating equity in education, especially for those with disabilities, is a necessary focus for evolving our educational practices. In partnership with Michigan CEC and Great Lakes Reality Labs, MAASE, we created a series of virtual reality modules that teachers can utilize to support the development of Life-Skill Activities for students with moderate to severe disabilities. Through the use of modules in conjunction with existing curriculum, educators will be able to see the benefit of integrating VR to their current classroom practices to help bridge gaps between traditional educational practices and the needs of students with disabilities.

Credits Available: [SCECH \(1\)](#); [CRCC \(1\)](#)

Room 203: *Certificate of Career Pathways*

Presenter: Mitch Wheatcraft

Session Description: The Saginaw CI Network Team, made up of (7th-12th) CI teachers throughout Saginaw County, developed and implemented the Certificate of Career Pathways that replaced the Certificate of Attendance/Completion in Saginaw County. This session will identify the benefits and challenges behind the county-wide initiative to implement a new certificate for students on a non-diploma track. This session will highlight 5 endorsements that students can earn during their time in school. Participants will also be provided information on how the Certificate of Career Pathways encompasses essential skills students need to be successful once they exit the school system such as: vocational training, adult daily living skills, academic skills and social skills.

Credits Available: [SCECH \(1\)](#); [CRCC \(1\)](#)

Room 204: *Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT)*

Presenter: Jeanne Anderson Tippett

Session Description: The Michigan Interagency Transition Team (MITT) is a state level collaborative infrastructure to align supports and services to ensure a seamless transition for all students with disabilities on the K-12 system (up to age 26) into adult life. Learn about the MITT framework and how it was designed to assist services across the state agencies to avoid duplication of services, promote a common understanding of secondary transition, and improve student outcomes.

Credits Available: [SCECH \(1\)](#); [CRCC \(1\)](#)

Room 205: *Adult Transition Micro-Businesses/Partnerships*

Presenter: Kristin Corrion

Session Description: Thinking out of the box and into... A Mobile Mart! The Novi Adult Transition Center partnered with their local Educational Foundation and a local business (National Food Group) to purchase a Mobile Mart trailer. The Mobile Mart is used to sell items that are student made as well as support district events. Learn how this partnership developed as well as the positive impact of this program, along with other micro-business ideas.

Credits Available: [SCECH \(1\)](#); [CRCC \(1\)](#)

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Breakout Session Descriptions - Session B

Room 101: *Transition from Special Education to Adults Services*

Presenter: Karen Wang (*2nd Hour of 2 Hour Session*)

Session Description: SEE Session A for Description

Credits Available: **SCECH (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended); **CRCC (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended)
Credit Hours will NOT be split

Room 102: *STEP's Earn and Learn: A Hybrid Approach to the Summer Work Experience*

Presenter: Carla Dean

Session Description: STEP's Earn and Learn™ program offers a new take on the traditional summer work experience for transition-age young adults. Utilizing a hybrid approach, the program offers jobseekers a robust soft skills curriculum via a weekly virtual forum, in addition to 6 weeks of hands-on work experience in the community. Each intern's strengths, interests and contributions are matched to a local employer who offers an opportunity to learn new skills and to gain practical experience. This presentation will target pre-ETS counselors, transition coordinators, instructors, and other vocational professionals who are interested in learning how to provide innovative summer work experience. This presentation will outline the program's structure and its curriculum, whilst highlighting the benefits of adopting the hybrid approach to summer learning. Audience members will leave the session knowing how to tailor the summer work experience to each intern's needs and interests, how to navigate the needs of employer partners and how to overcome barriers. Presenters will share samples from the virtual curriculum, exploring the topics of each module and emphasizing the importance of peer interaction and self-advocacy. At the end of the presentation, the audience will have an opportunity to ask questions and request additional information.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 103: *Increasing Employment Success and Quality of Life for Individuals with Disabilities through the MSU STRIDE Center*

Presenter: Connie Sung

Session Description: Employment is essential for those with and without disabilities to achieve financial independence, form a positive self-concept, and engage in the community (Roux et al., 2013). Despite these benefits, the employment rate of individuals with disabilities is far below those without disabilities (i.e., 19.1, 63.7 % each; Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021), and Michigan's rate is even farther below this dismal statistic with an average employment rate for this population (i.e., 33.6, 36.2 %; Disability Statistics, 2016). In response to this concerning employment outcome, MSU STRIDE Center (Michigan State University Services, Training, and Research for Independence and Desired Employment) newly opened its door to support and train underserved individuals with disabilities to increase their independent living and employment success. The mission of STRIDE Center lies in (a) providing resources and training for employment and community independence for those with disabilities; (b) training future professionals and service providers through internship and practicum placements; (c) conducting research to improve outcomes and services; (d) engaging with communities to promote knowledge transfer from research to practice. The currently available services include disability awareness and accommodation training for employers as well as soft skills, employment preparation, and community navigation training for those with disabilities. MSU STRIDE center is expected to serve as an avenue for better supporting individuals with disabilities in their desired careers and fostering disability-inclusive community environments. We will present the STRIDE center's mission, available services, and future plans and engage with community partners at the conference.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 104: *Risky Business Decisions & Consequences*

Presenter: Ron Sandison

Session Description: For us on the spectrum decision-making is often exhausting, overwhelming, and anxiety-provoking. Individuals with autism will gain practical insight for making decisions, evaluating their choices, and taking healthy risks to achieve their goals. Professionals and parents will be equipped for empowering those on the spectrum to understand the seven steps of the decision-making process, the different types of choices, and ways to improve decision-making skills. Ron shares his struggles with executive function and how he learned to make sound decisions to accomplish his goals and become a husband, dad, author, and a professional in the medical field.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 201: *Improving Employment Outcomes for Students with Complex Barriers to Work*

Presenter: Kelly Rogers

Session Description: This session will cover the processes and interventions necessary to ensure a seamless transition from school to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) for students with complex barriers to employment. Processes and interventions discussed will include Guiding Principles, Seamless Transition Mapping, V3 Discovery, Customized Employment, and Natural Supports.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 202: *How Apprenticeships Can be a Pipeline after Work-Based Youth Programs*

Presenter: Keisha Hall Dilligard

Session Description: Learn how the State of Michigan is working to increase opportunities for students with disabilities. Discussion will highlight new funding available to businesses promoting apprenticeships for underrepresented populations. Michigan Rehabilitation Services will share how they have collaborated with business to establish apprenticeship opportunities.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 203: *3 Effective Strategies to Support Appropriate Student Behavior in Classrooms*

Presenter: Scott Wyzgoski

Session Description:

Credits Available: **NONE**

Room 204: *The Replicated Reality Classroom: An Engaging Independent Living, SEL, and Personal Finance Experience*

Presenter: Lori Groos

Session Description: Are you looking for an engaging way to teach independent living skills, personal finance and SEL competencies that is fun and creative? In this fully immersive, interactive demonstration of Replicated Reality, we will be introducing a new platform that provides real world experiences through project-based and work-based learning.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 205: *Requesting Accommodations in College*

Presenter: Michele Strasz

Session Description: It is critical for transition staff, students and parents to understand the expectations and steps to explore, apply and navigate the college-going process. Join Michele Strasz, the executive director of the Capital Area College Access Network, as she shares tips and tools to support students with disabilities for whom college is their transition plan. Learn from Alana Anderson, a Transition professional, and Michele about best practices of collaboration between local schools, an ISD/RESA, and a local community college to ensure equitable postsecondary access for students with learning differences.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

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Breakout



Descriptions -



Room 101: *Imagine a World Where All People are Empowered and Have the Knowledge and Skills to Have Healthy Relationships*

Presenter: Mary Shehan (*1st Hour of 2 Hour Session*)

Session Description: We understand what the lack of sexuality and relationship education for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) can lead to: High rates of abuse, being charged with a sex crime, unplanned pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, and isolation and loneliness. We also know that self-advocates want to learn about this topic and often say they are still healing from the trauma of learning the hard way. These statistics can improve by providing medically accurate, age-appropriate sexuality and healthy relationship education for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Another reason this is so important is there are ways to provide this education by having self-advocates become one of the sexuality and relationship instructors or peer educators of this topic which provides them with leadership opportunities that will be part of the solution.

Credits Available: **SCECH (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended); **CRCC (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended) Credit Hours will NOT be split.

Room 102: *Everything You've Been Told About Transition Assessment Is WRONG!*

Presenter: Matt Korolden

Session Description: Enough with the STAT - R already! Transition Assessment is the backbone of a Transition Plan that ensures students are being prepared for employment, further learning and independent living: the whole purpose of the IDEA to begin with. Unfortunately, transition assessment has been reduced to a perfunctory activity designed to assure data is available for reporting purposes. Oakland Schools is actively engaging with partners in Career Focused Education and School Counselors to leverage the College and Career Readiness work and MI's EDP requirement. We can work smarter and not harder - our students are depending on it.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 103: *Why Resources Matter: Self-advocacy and the "village" concept in transitioning from high school to post-secondary education*

Presenter: Cody Marie Mathis

Session Description: The transition from high school to college is both an incredible, and sometimes terrifying, experience for many students. Transition planning and self-advocacy skills are imperative in prepping a student for higher education options. One of those areas is learning to use existing resources, locating new resources, self-advocacy, and the ways each person in a student's life can support the student's (and their own) use of resources. This presentation will touch on the roles in a student's transition and how to encourage a student to own their journey and use the resources they have available for direct services to students, as well as resources for transition team members themselves to use.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 104: *How Mentoring Can Pave the Way: Supporting Effective Transition through Career-Focused Mentoring for All Youth*

Presenter: Gabriela Manriquez-Eschbach

Session Description: Mentoring, at its core, empowers young people to go through the self-journey of creating the best version of themselves. The Ready to Achieve Mentoring Program (RAMP) is a national multi-state career-focused initiative that supports mentees along their journey to personalize their goal planning, community and career connections, and increase their knowledge, skills, and abilities to better prepare for their transition into adulthood. The local RAMP program site at Peckham in Lansing, MI has had great success transitioning their youth using the RAMP model. With Peckham serving as a case study, attendees will learn how the RAMP model uses a combination of one-on-one, group, and peer mentoring to promote the successful transition of youth to employment, continued learning opportunities, and independent living. Youth service professionals, educators, families, and anyone who is interested in learning about the benefits of mentoring is welcome to join us. Our session will be led by one of our very own RAMP youth, and the local RAMP coordinator at Peckham for an interactive dialogue about what works: connecting mentors, employers, educators, and youth.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 201: *MiABLE 101*

Presenter: Scott de Varona

Session Description: An examination into the MiABLE program, its history, its benefits and how it can be used by individuals with disabilities and their families to Invest, Save and Spend their own money on Qualified Disability Expenses.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 202: *Post-Secondary Education for Individuals with I/DD in Michigan*

Presenter: Emily Pertou

Session Description: Ready For Life offers a comprehensive post-secondary education for individuals with intellectual disabilities at Hope College, Calvin University and Ferris State University. Students are given the full college experience through auditing college classes, job internships, participating in campus clubs and activities and living in the dorms. In this session you will learn how the Ready For Life Academy provides a place of belonging for students where they are able to believe in themselves and become independent adults.

Credits Available: SCECH (1); CRCC (1)

Room 203: *Bring on the Businesses: How to Pitch the Project SEARCH Transition Program!*

Presenter: Sarah Winslow

Session Description: Many school districts know that a Project SEARCH Program would fill a need on their continuum of transition services and they know what to do in house. But how do you find a host business to partner with you? This session will provide you with practical strategies (and a take home guide) to secure an excited host business who will champion your program. Transformational collaboration with community business partners is one of the key model fidelity components of a Project SEARCH program. We are here to help you create a plan to get started!

Credits Available: SCECH (1); CRCC (1)

Room 204: *SHOW ME How to be INDEPENDENT Developing Ind. Living Skills into Transition Plans & Voc. Training*

Presenter: Renee Lyon

Session Description: This presentation will take a closer look at a high school student who lives with his family and relies on them for executive level Activities of Daily Living (cooking, budgeting and money management, transportation, laundry, organization and time management, medical appointments, medication management, etc.). This student has a goal of learning a trade (becoming a cook in a restaurant or IT specialist or RM cashier), getting a job and living independently. MCTI and BSBP training centers prepare them for this work but without developing the needed independent living skills, will he be successful? For success we must be intentional with this type of planning.

- Does he plan to live with his parents forever? In supported living? With roommates or independently?
- What skills does he have now that support his goals? What skills does he need to develop?
- Does his family (natural support system) agree with his IL goals? Is he legally responsible for himself or will this need to be addressed?

Credits Available: SCECH (1); CRCC (1)

Room 205: *Non-CTE Transition Work Based Learning*

Presenter: Tammy Rutledge

Session Description: Non-CTE Transition Work Based Learning will focus on key elements for a work based learning placement in special education. Everything you need to know about work based learning focuses on the required documentation, sample forms, aligning with post secondary visions, and best practices.

Credits Available: SCECH (1); CRCC (1)

Silver Sponsors



Bronze Sponsors



Breakout Session Descriptions - Session D

Room 101: *Imagine a World Where All People are Empowered and Have the Knowledge and Skills to Have Healthy Relationships*

Presenter: Mary Shehan (2nd Hour of 2 Hour Session)

Session Description: SEE Session C for Description

Credits Available: **SCECH (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended); **CRCC (2)** –only if full 2 Hours attended) Credit Hours will NOT be split.

Room 102: *Planning for the Future: How to Protect Your Loved One's Benefits and Ensure Their Financial Stability*

Presenter: Molly David

Session Description: Did you know there are ways to help people with disabilities financially without them losing government benefits? Are you worried about who will support your child once you are gone? Estate planning for families who have loved ones with disabilities does not have to be as hard as it sounds. This presentation will review the application for SSI, compare Special Needs Trusts and ABLE accounts, and discuss how you can provide for your loved one with disabilities without jeopardizing their benefits. This presentation is from the perspective of a parent who has gone through setting up a Special Needs Trust. Let me explain my experiences, good and bad, and help you understand your options. As a parent of a child with disabilities, I understand how overwhelming things can be. This is not a sales pitch and I do not work for a financial institution. The goal is to share my experiences with you and answer your questions. Thinking about protecting and providing for your loved one's financial security can be scary, but it is important.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 103: *Dispelling Myths and Improving Employment Outcomes for Transition Youth*

Presenter: Anna Warbach

Session Description: Disability awareness training improves hiring and retention outcomes for transition youth by dispelling myths related to disability and employment. Learn about MRS' disability awareness and customized training, created to enhance employment opportunities for youth with disabilities.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 104: *Developing Student-Run Businesses as a Stepping Stone to Employer-Paid Jobs*

Presenter: Corey Fineran

Session Description: Participating in a student-run business provides students with a unique and experiential learning opportunity to develop hard and soft work skills necessary for successful competitive employment. Today's presentation will help educators develop, implement, and evaluate meaningful student-operated enterprises designed to help students achieve future self-sufficiency in an employer-paid workplace. In addition, educators will be provided with tips, resources, and first-hand experiences to help navigate the challenges of building and promoting work-based learning within the school environment. A well-planned student-operated business can provide your students and your school community with a positive social, economic, and educational return.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 201: *Law and Transition Issues*

Presenter: Rob Dietzel

Session Description: As a current attorney addressing issues in education specifically secondary transition issues Rob will provide a unique perspective on current transition-related legal issues.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 202: *Transition Resources for Blind and Visually Impaired and Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students*

Presenter: John Kirsh

Session Description: Join Michigan Department of Education - Low Incidence Outreach (MDE-LIO) Education Consultants to learn about transition resources available for students who are BVI and DHH. Also, learn about the services and supports MDE-LIO can provide to teachers, families, and students.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 203: *Educating, Empowering & Employing: Collaborative School to Work and Transition Programs*

Presenter: Jennifer Zimmerman

Session Description: Saginaw ISD and Michigan Rehabilitation Services is a MASA recognized comprehensive School to Work program. The partnership, developed over the past 35 years, has continued to add innovative tools and programs to increase employment and training outcomes for LLL students beginning as early as ninth grade. Through multi-agency collaboration, students with disabilities participate in: mapping, vocational instruction, career assessment, college readiness training, on the job evaluations, work study, job fairs, internships, and more. Participants will gain insight into implementing similar programming within their districts. Through our School to Work Team and relationship with MRS, we are able to implement job readiness instruction and employment evaluations while continuing to build strong relationships with employers in Saginaw County. This presentation will provide the program evaluation and implementation process. As a team, we are able to meet with students on an individual basis and help determine services that are needed to build job readiness skills and job placements within local businesses in Saginaw County. Each service that we are able to offer students allows them to work toward being competitively employed in numerous career fields.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Room 204: *__NO SESSION__ Join us from 4-5pm in this room for the Annual General Membership Board Meeting. Light refreshments and RAFFLE prizes will be given out (Must be PRESENT to win).*

Room 205: *Leadership, Mindfulness and More*

Presenter: Steve Norman

Session Description: Participants will explore leadership skills and building classroom culture through experiential activities and the processing that takes place after each activity. Mindfulness is a practice in awareness. Being aware of your inner subjective landscape provides you with a better understanding of your bias, and what may work or doesn't work in the outer, more objective landscape. This session will be interactive to benefit participants and provide activities that can be taken back to your students.

Credits Available: **SCECH (1); CRCC (1)**

Thursday, February 23, 2023

****ALL Thursday events are in the Banquet Rooms (1-8)****

7:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m. Buffet Breakfast

8:15 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. Welcome and Announcements

8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. - Keynotes: Teri Rink and Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Legal Panelists: Rob Deitzel, Jordan Bullinger, and Robert Lusk

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Conference Information: For most up-to-the-moment information, sign up for alerts via the REMIND app by sending the text message [@mtsa23](sms:81010) to 81010. PLEASE NOTE: Text/data fees may apply, based on your cell phone plan.

You can access electronic information and details regarding this year's conference:

Word document at: [MS Word version MTSA 2023 Conference](#) or Google doc at: [Google Doc Version MTSA 2023 Conference Program](#)

Photography: Please be aware that photographs and/or videos will be taken throughout the conference. These photos may be used in future written or electronic publications related to MTSA. If you would prefer not to be photographed, kindly notify the photographer or step to the side if you are in a group scene.

Questions? Any questions regarding the conference can be addressed at the Conference Registration Table.

Exhibitors:

COR Counseling, Community Services and Clinical Supervision

Disability Network Eastern Michigan

Disability Rights Michigan

Services To Enhance Potential

Special Education Mediation Services
STRIDE Center

Resolution Services Center of Central Michigan

Welcome to the 2023 Michigan Transition Services Association Annual Conference!

It is amazing to see the progress we have made as an association; from a grassroots group of individuals who wanted to make a difference in the lives of young adults to where we are today as an association providing relevant information and training, networking and a statewide conference that is the Premier Transition Event in Michigan. However, the most exciting thing to do is see where we are going!

Over the last two years we have moved the location of our conference to be more centrally located in the state, changed and updated our website, and added expanded training opportunities through our popular Transition Training Series for MTSA Members. MTSA provided education scholarships, conference sponsorship, and mini-grants, even when Covid made us cancel in-person events and really made things tough on our organization. We hope you take time to not just see this year's mini-grant recipients, but to also get an idea of how you can take advantage of being an MTSA member by applying for a mini-grant next school year.

This year's conference would not have been possible without the generous support of our sponsors and exhibitors. You will find their information throughout this program. Please be sure to visit them in-person in the Banquet Hall throughout the conference and visit their websites to find out more information!

Thank you to this year's amazing keynote speakers and panelists. Dr. Adam Saenz brings a wealth of information and experience about Emotional Intelligence (EQ) that is applicable throughout all aspects of life. Dr. Saenz was also generous enough to provide a code for all of our conference attendees to gain access to specialized training and information from his company Applied EQ—make sure to take advantage of this valuable resource! Katherine Neas brings a much-needed perspective and insight from the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS). Teri Rink has been the Director of Michigan's Office of Special Education (OSE) for over a decade and brings current information and priorities from the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). Dr. Scott Koenigsnecht brings nearly three decades of experience, a unique perspective as a father of a son with Autism, and up to date information about the The Path Forward, strategic action plan. Our legal panelists, Jordan Bullinger of Clark Hill Law, Robert Lusk of Educators Legal Services and Rob Dietzel of Thrun Law, bring a combined experience of 72 years working in the field of law. Make sure to get your questions asked and answered by this exciting panel!

Thank you to all of the presenters who have brought their vast experience, information, and many resources to this year's conference! We know all of you will leave with tools and resources that will help you plan, organize and implement learning that will benefit students with disabilities as they transition from school to adult/community/work life!

As always, this conference would not be what it is without the countless hours and dedication of the MTSA Board and volunteers who make the conference a beneficial and successful event. The event would also not be what it is, without the great work of the Lansing Center staff who go above and beyond to make the facilities what they are.

As the MTSA presidential team, we hope you value the keynote speakers and sessions that are planned along with the networking opportunities with colleagues from around the state. If you need anything during the conference, please do not hesitate to talk to one of us.

But, most importantly, enjoy the conference and time with your colleagues!

Lastly, we hope you will join us for our open **Board Meeting on Wednesday, in Room 204 at 4 p.m. where you will hear about the MTSA board, enjoy complimentary light refreshments, and hopefully win an amazing prize!**

Respectfully,
Staci Anderson, Past-President & Conference Chair
Eileen Brandt, President
Kristi Janvrin, President-Elect



Raffle tickets will be randomly drawn during the Board Meeting on

Wednesday at 4pm in Room 204

MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN!

See you next year!

Wednesday, February 21 – Friday, February 23, 2024