



# CONFERENCE

The Power of Partnerships:  
Collaborating for Change



OCTOBER 21-23 2024  
WESTIN SAN ANTONIO NORTH  
SAN ANTONIO, TX

# MONDAY

8:00AM - 9:30AM	BREAKFAST AND OPENING KEYNOTE
9:30AM - 9:45AM	BREAK
9:45AM - 10:45AM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
10:45AM - 11:00AM	BREAK
11:00AM - 12:00PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
12:00PM - 1:15PM	PLATED LUNCH & KEYNOTE
1:15PM - 1:45PM	VENDOR EXHIBITS BREAK
1:45PM - 2:45PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
2:45PM - 3:00PM	BREAK
3:00PM- 4:00PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS

In partnership with the Texas  
Governor's Committee on People with  
Disabilities



# TUESDAY

8:00AM - 9:30AM	BREAKFAST AND OPENING KEYNOTE
9:30AM - 9:45AM	BREAK
9:45AM - 10:45AM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
10:45AM - 11:00AM	BREAK
11:00AM - 12:00PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
12:00PM - 1:15PM	AWARDS LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE
1:15PM - 1:45PM	VENDOR EXHIBITS BREAK
1:45PM - 2:45PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS
2:45PM - 3:00PM	BREAK
3:00 PM - 4:00PM	BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thank you TCDD for supporting our keynote speakers and Self-Advocates



**TEXAS COUNCIL for  
DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITIES**

# WEDNESDAY

8:00AM - 8:30AM

HOTEL CHECKOUT AND STORE LUGGAGE

8:30AM - 10:00AM

BREAKFAST AND OPENING KEYNOTE

10:00AM - 10:15AM

BREAK

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

11:15AM - 11:45AM

VENDOR WRAP UP - PRIZES

11:45AM - 1:00PM

PLATED LUNCH AND CLOSING KEYNOTE

Conference Supported by:



## Texas Beacons of Excellence

A Partnership Led by:



**TEXAS**  
**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS**  
\*\*\*\*\*  
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION SERVICES



**Welcome** to the 2024 Texas Association of People Supporting Employment First (TX APSE) second annual conference, in San Antonio, where we celebrate and promote Employment First for people with disabilities. I am Britni Miles, the president of TX APSE, and your host for this event. This year's conference theme is The Power of Partnership - Collaborating for Change.

TX APSE is a diverse organization that supports competitive integrated employment as the first and preferred option for people with disabilities. We believe that everyone can work in the community with fair pay and benefits. At this conference, you have the opportunity to earn CEUs through the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC) and the University of North Texas Workplace Inclusion and Sustainable Employment (UNT WISE). You will learn from experts across the state who will share their insights and success stories on how to advance Employment First in Texas. You will also network with other attendees, exhibitors, and sponsors who share your passion and vision for inclusive employment.

I would like to thank all our speakers, panelists, exhibitors, volunteers, and our Professional Development Committee for making this conference possible. I would also like to thank our sponsors for their generous support: JP Morgan Chase, UNT WISE, Goodwill North Dallas, Wellpoint, Bloom Consulting, UNT College of Health and Public Service, and Imagine Enterprises. The conference would not be possible without the support from Texas Beacons of Excellence and TWC. Additionally, we extend our gratitude to the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities for partnering with us to improve our accessibility.

Be sure to visit our vendors who offer a wealth of resources, services, and products that can support your efforts in promoting inclusive employment. Engaging with them will provide you with valuable insights and tools to enhance your work and advocacy.

We also invite you to join us for the APSE After Hours Event on Tuesday night, October 22nd at 4:30 PM! Enjoy a fun evening of trivia, a cash bar, and exciting prizes. This is a great opportunity to relax, unwind, and connect with fellow attendees in a more informal setting. Don't miss out on the chance to test your knowledge and win some fantastic prizes!

I hope you enjoy this conference and learn something new that will help you in your work or life. I also hope you make new connections and friends along the way. Thank you for being part of TX APSE and our mission to make Employment First a reality for all Texans.

Sincerely,

  
Texas APSE President

P.S. Happy National Disability Employment Awareness Month and 11th Anniversary of Texas passing The Employment First Policy (SB1226)!

# EVENTS

## REGISTRATION OPEN

**MONDAY AND TUESDAY 7:00AM - 4:00PM**

**WEDNESDAY 7:00AM - 11:00AM**

## TEXAS APSE - AWARDS LUNCHEON

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 22ND AT 12:00PM**

Sponsored by JPMorganChase, our 2nd annual Awards luncheon will occur on Tuesday at 12pm. During this time, we will recognize the individuals who will receive awards in 6 different categories. This is an excellent opportunity to hear about the progress that has been made towards Employment First in Texas by these fantastic companies and individuals.

## TEXAS APSE GAME NIGHT

**TUESDAY OCTOBER 22ND AT 4:30PM**

Join us for a fun afternoon of trivia and games. Cash bar is available and prizes will be given out to winners! It's the perfect way to end your day!! Hosted in the main event room.

## Keynote Presenters:

**Dr. Paul Wehman:** A pioneer in supported employment, Dr. Wehman is a Professor of Physical Medicine, Rehabilitation, and Special Education at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, Virginia. He has authored over 200 journal articles and 42 books, focusing on the employment and transition of individuals with disabilities. Dr. Wehman has been instrumental in advancing policies and practices that support competitive integrated employment for people with significant disabilities.

**Shelbi Davenport:** An inspiring advocate for self-advocacy and postsecondary employment training, Shelbi Davenport brings a wealth of personal experience and professional insight. She is known for her engaging presentations that encourage individuals to face the future with enthusiasm and resilience. Shelbi graduated from Texas A&M University and is based in Texas.

**Lora Brugnaro:** Born with cerebral palsy, Lora Brugnaro has dedicated her life to disability advocacy and inclusive employment practices. She has worked in various roles within human services and has been a speaker at national conferences such as The American Association of People with Disabilities. Lora is based in Boston, Massachusetts, and serves as the Vice-Chair of the Massachusetts Developmental Disabilities Council.

**David Hoff:** David Hoff is a Program Director at the Institute for Community Inclusion at UMass Boston. He provides training and technical assistance on the inclusion of people with disabilities into mainstream society, focusing on employment and economic inclusion. David has expertise in public policy's impact on service practices and the lives of individuals. He holds a BS from Cornell University and an MSW from Rutgers University. David is also a former National APSE Board President and MA APSE President.

# SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

-----Corporate-----

JPMorganChase

-----Champion-----



-----Advocate-----



IMAGINE  
ENTERPRISES



-----Supporter-----



# MONDAY SCHEDULE

**8:00AM - 9:30AM**

**Breakfast and Opening Keynote**

**Location - Grand Ballroom C & D**

**Welcome and Texas APSE Conference Kick-OFF**

**Keynote - Texas Beacons of Excellence: The Subminimum Wage Landscape**

**Presenters: Elyse Luke, Ryan Cole and Lucy Gafford**

**9:30AM - 9:45AM**

**Break**

**9:45AM - 10:45AM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Deaf and Hard of Hearing A to Z**

**Presenters - Sara Filippone and Mary Parks**

**Location - LaJoya Ballroom**

Office of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Services contractors DHH Access Resource Specialists and DHH Technology Specialists partner with TWC vocational counselors serving Deaf and HH customers to gain and maintain employment. The Specialist invites providers, advocates, and businesses to join us on topics such as sensitivity, cultural competency, and appropriate provision of services to help create access and inclusion. Specialists help find solutions to accessibility issues including sign language interpreters and captioning to ensure effective communication and provide support for employees and employers. Specialists provide ongoing Deaf and hearing loss communication support and education.

**Using a Variety of Funding Options to Provide a Continuum of Employment Supports**

**Presenters - Sarah Martinez, Kylee Mahaffey and Emely Torres**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

Learn how to effectively implement Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE) in your own programs through the Mission LIFE model. This session focuses on equipping you with practical strategies and tools to guide individuals toward successful employment. We'll share proven methods for providing essential job skills through Employment Assistance and fostering community engagement. Discover real-life success stories and actionable best practices that you can apply to improve employment outcomes in your programs. From resume building to promoting social integration, this session offers step-by-step guidance to help you create inclusive pathways to employment and strengthen your CIE initiatives.



# MONDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**9:45AM - 10:45AM**

**Breakout Sessions Continued:**

**Essential Skills for Supporting Individuals with Disabilities in the Workplace**

**Presenters - Dana MacDonald and Scott Miller**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

This presentation will provide insights from experts on the power of an engaged, responsive, and supported employment provider. Learn how to transform your passion for disability employment by focusing on the unique needs and abilities of a collaborative partnership .

**10:45am- 11:00am**

**Break**

**11:00AM - 12:00PM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Work-based Learning: A Guide to Success**

**Presenters - Joette Hardin and Jana Bishop**

**Location - LaJoya Ballroom**

Work-based learning is a proven model for increasing student employability skills in an educational setting. TAMU's model provides a roadmap to create a project with an environment for students aged 14-22 to develop workplace readiness skills while offering opportunities to explore careers and develop self-advocacy skills related to the workplace.

**Transition to College and College to Employment: Teamwork Makes the Dream Work**

**Presenters - Jade Marth, Aracely Fuentes and Kellie Nix**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

Join us for a best-practice presentation by WISE Transition and the ENGAGE programs, focusing on effective strategies for supporting individuals with disabilities as they transition from secondary education to college and employment. This session emphasizes the critical roles of Person-Centered Planning, Informed Choice, and Self-Determination in fostering long-term success.



# MONDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**11:00PM - 12:00PM**

**Breakout Session Continued**

**Post Secondary Work and the College Experience**

**Presenters - Shelbi Davenport and Ruth Davenport**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

"A Day in the Life" will present a typical day, week, month, and semester in the HOPS Program. Horticultural Options in Plant Sciences is a postsecondary certification program at Texas A&M that teaches participants skills in horticulture AND much more. Please join us as we stroll through this significant time for these amazing students.

**12:00PM - 1:15PM**

**Luncheon and Keynote**

**Location: Grand Ballroom C & D**

**Keynote - Texas Beacons of Excellence: The Goodwill Experience**

**Presenters: Tim Heis and Arden Floren**

**1:15pm - 1:45pm**

**Break with Vendors - Foyer Area**

Please visit our vendors and sponsors. Take time to learn about the services they provide and get some great SWAG! Complete your bingo card to enter our drawing for a free 2025 conference registration.

**1:45pm - 2:45pm**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Building Bridges: Uniting Communities for Inclusive Employment with Texas Beacons of Excellence**

**Presenters: Karina Saucedo, Sonia Martinez, and Ticcara Cassell**

**Location: LaJoya Ballroom**

The Texas Workforce Commission-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWC-VRS) and the University of North Texas-Workplace Inclusion and Sustainable Employment (UNT-WISE) are partnered together to address sub-minimum wage employment for people with IDD. Known as the Texas Beacons of Excellence at the state level, this federally funded initiative empowers individuals with disabilities, particularly those in or considering sub-minimum wage employment, by enhancing access to competitive integrated jobs. Achieving statewide impact necessitates the unity of various community partners. This presentation will highlight outreach and engagement best practices, address encountered obstacles, and propose innovative solutions for fostering community involvement.

# MONDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**1:45PM - 2:45PM**

**Breakout Sessions Continued:**

**Collaborative Pathways: Strengthening Employer and Vocational Rehabilitation Partnerships**

**Presenters- Dara Carrillo and Keri Garza**

**Location- Grand Ballroom E**

Join us for an inspiring journey of collaboration and achievement as we explore "Building Bridges: Strengthening Partnerships between Vocational Rehabilitation Providers and Employers." Discover firsthand success stories and glean invaluable insights into best practices that have transformed lives and communities. From fostering inclusive workplaces to unleashing the potential of diverse talent, this presentation promises to ignite passion, empower action, and pave the way for impactful partnerships. Don't miss this opportunity to be inspired and equipped to create lasting change together.

**Legislative issues impacting employment first and your role as an advocate.**

**Presenters - Norine Gill and Ricky Broussard**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

This session will discuss current and projected legislation for Texans with disabilities. Issues, actions, and necessary outcomes are identified and discussed. Come and be a part of the unified voices of Texan self-advocates, families, guardians, and professionals. Voices must be heard, and change must occur!

**2:45pm - 3:00pm**

**Break**

**3:00pm - 4:00PM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Collaborative Model: The Benefits CBO Partnerships from Morgan's Wonderland**

**Presenters - Dana Lewis, Monique Carter and Mellissa Toler**

**Location - LaJoya Ballroom**

This session will explore how Morgan's Wonderland Workforce Inclusion Network provides employment-related training and support in the local community and the benefits of good working partnerships.



**Texas Beacons  
of Excellence**

# MONDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**3:00pm - 4:00pm**

**Breakout Sessions Continued:**

## **Texas Health and Human Services Vocational Apprenticeship Program**

**Presenters - Glenn Heath**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

The Texas Health and Human Services Vocational Apprenticeship Program serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and those with mental health conditions living in Texas by offering opportunities for vocational training in a supported integrated environment. The program provides both classroom education and work experience by embedding apprentices in a real and practical work environment. With the skills learned through the program, graduates will have increased opportunities to find employment.

## **Empowering Success: Strengthening Collaboration for Employment Opportunities Among Families, Schools, and Communities.**

**Presenter - Judy Averill**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

Join us as we explore the critical components of effective partnerships aimed at preparing students with disabilities for seamless transitions to post-school environments. In this session, participants will gain valuable insights into the significance of fostering trusting relationships among families, schools, and communities to enhance student success. Additionally, we will explore best practices in communication, collaboration, and coordination of services to maximize the impact of partnerships.

**The Association of People Supporting  
Employment First (APSE) is the only  
national membership organization  
focused exclusively on Employment  
First to facilitate the full inclusion of  
people with disabilities in the  
workplace and community.**



**VISIT OUR BOOTH TO JOIN APSE TODAY AND BECOME A MEMBER OF THIS GROWING  
ORGANIZATION AND EMPLOYMENT FIRST MOVEMENT!**

# THANK YOU VENDORS



TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY  
Center on Disability  
and Development  
[cdd.tamu.edu](http://cdd.tamu.edu)



Workforce Inclusion Network



# NOTES

# TUESDAY SCHEDULE

**8:00AM - 9:30AM**

**Breakfast and Opening Keynote**

**Keynote -Dr. Paul Wheman**

**Competitive Integrated Employment: If Not Now, When? If Not Us, Who?**

**Location - Grand Ballroom C & D**

**9:30AM - 9:45AM**

**Break**

**9:45AM - 10:45AM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**What to Expect from Your Job Coach**

**Presenter - Crystal Hence and Austin Miller**

**Location - LaJoya Ballroom**

This session will provide participants an opportunity to learn about the many roles of a Job Coach and what to expect from a Job Coach that is engaging in the field's best practices. A Job Coach that engages in best practices will collaborate with various stakeholders to find Competitive Integrated Employment for an individual with a disability. Stakeholders that a Job Coach can work with to secure Competitive Integrated Employment include; the consumer, the consumer's support system, an employer or business owner, and/or Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. Crystal Hence and Austin Miller have a combined experience of over 15 years with Job Coaching and will provide examples of how high expectations from a Job Coach lead to successful employment in the community. Additionally, a Texas Beacons of Excellence Job Coach will share their experiences from working with job seekers transitioning out of 14c employment.

**The Providers Role in Benefits**

**Presenters - Sandy Smith and Irma Medrano**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

Too many myths and misinformation are still running rampant. It is time to learn the basics of the Social Security Administration and the disability cash benefits they provide. It is time for all of us to speak in one accurate and encouraging voice when talking to beneficiaries and their support systems about applying, going to work, etc. Will you be experts???? NO, but you will be guided to experts in your community. Let's all get together and be the change in the lives of Texans with disabilities.

# TUESDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**9:45AM - 10:45AM**

**Breakout Sessions Continued:**

**Unlocking Opportunity: An In Depth Approach on Transition Aged Youth Obtaining Employment in the Community**

**Presenters - Ticcara Cassell, Judy Averill, Carmen Estrada, and Amber Hardie**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

Join the Texas Beacon of Excellence Project - UNT WISE and TWC Region 1 - as we review our systematic collaboration with the Amarillo Independent School District, Panhandle Independent Living Center (PILC), and other community stakeholders. Together, we are dedicated to cultivating a robust school-to-work pipeline that prioritizes the advancement of competitive integrated employment opportunities within our community. In this presentation, we will explore the intricacies of our multi-layered cyclical triad approach. This innovative methodology is meticulously crafted to provide students with immersive real-world experiences essential for their seamless transition into the workforce. Through a combination of experiential learning and tailored support, our initiative aims to empower students with the skills and confidence needed to thrive in competitive work environments.

**10:45AM - 11:00AM**

**Break**

**11:00AM - 12:00PM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**Shifting Perspectives: Embracing Change and Transforming Mindsets: A Systematic Approach to Section 14(c) and Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE)**

**Presenters - Sonia Martinez and Arden Floren**

**Location -LaJoya Ballroom**

Join the University of North Texas-WISE (Workplace Inclusion & Sustainable Employment) and Goodwill Dallas as we delve into the systematic approach of the Texas Beacons of Excellence program, aimed at facilitating the transition of adults from the 14(c) setting into Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). Our discussion will span the spectrum of fostering a growth mindset, encompassing elements such as informed choice, job coaching, and successful job placement with supported employment. Additionally, we will feature firsthand insights from one of our participants, offering a valuable perspective on their experience with the project.





# TUESDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**11:00AM - 12:00PM**

**Breakout Sessions Continued:**

## **Addressing Challenging Behavior in Supported Employment and Competitive Integrated Employment Environments**

**Presenter - Carol Schall and Lauren Avellone**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

Many employment specialists struggle to develop effective supports for addressing the behavioral needs of their clients with IDD who display challenging behavior at work. This is likely due to a lack of behavior support training available to employment specialists who work on the front lines and who are responsible for providing an array of different services to help their client be successful on-the-job. During this session, the presenters will review the fundamental concepts that will enable employment specialists to provide sound behavior support to their clients with IDD. A case study will be shared from the Texas Beacons of Excellence project to show the support provided to a job seeker exiting 14c employment.

## **Self Advocacy and Education**

**Presenter - Sean Pevsner**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

This presentation will explore the common barriers to students with disabilities in pursuing their education. A person with a developmental disability who has experience in navigating through secondary, college and law school education will deliver this presentation. It will provide some suggestions on self-advocacy skills to students with disabilities on how to combat and break down these barriers. Students with disabilities will receive a basic knowledge of the laws that ensure their rights to an equal access to an education.

**12:00PM - 1:15PM**

**Awards Luncheon**

**Keynote - Shelbi Davenport**

**Location - Grand Ballroom C & D**

**1:15PM - 1:45PM**

**Break with Vendors - Foyer Area**

Please visit our vendors and sponsors. Take time to learn about the services they provide and get some great SWAG! Complete your bingo card to enter our drawing for a free 2025 conference registration.

# TUESDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**1:45PM - 2:45PM**

## **Breakout Sessions**

### **Relationships that Match: Strategies to Sink or Swim**

**Presenter - Jennifer McDonough and Alissa Brooke**

**Location - LaJoya Ballroom**

In order to find meaningful employment for individuals with disabilities, it is important to understand the needs of a business and then match those needs to the skills and abilities of the job seekers we support. In this session, we will share the tools and steps used to learn business needs and job seekers' skills and how matching these two can lead to long-term success for both parties. A case study from the Texas Beacons of Excellence project and other examples of successful partnerships will be shared.

### **The Ethical Responsibility of Cultural Humility in Employment Services**

**Presenter - Brit Miles**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

All employment professionals come to their work with their own cultural identity, experiences, and background. This session will discuss strategies for staff to become more self-aware of their own personal and cultural biases. You will walk away with a better appreciation and sensitivity to the significant cultural identities of the people you serve. Case studies from the College of Employment Services Cultural Humility Course will be used to illustrate how to understand and use cultural competence when providing services.

### **Employment Rights of Applicants and Employees with Hearing Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)**

**Presenters - Meghan Kuelbs**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

This presentation will discuss the employment rights of individuals who have hearing impairments under the Americans with Disabilities Act. Topics will include, but not be limited to: What are the rights of applicants and employees with hearing disabilities? How can such individuals request accommodations when they are applying for a job or working for an employer, and what are some accommodation options, including low or no-cost ones? If these individuals face denials of reasonable accommodation requests, retaliation, harassment, or other discrimination, how can advocates assist them? And recent EEOC case resolutions involving individuals with hearing disabilities.



# TUESDAY SCHEDULE CONTINUED

**2:45PM - 3:00PM**

**Break**

**3:00PM - 4:00PM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**From the Mouth of Employers: Business Practices That Lead to Employment Success**

**Presenters - Alissa Brooke and Jennifer McDonough**

**Location - LaJoya Ballroom**

Through a national research study, employers shared how they made the decision to hire and accommodate individuals with disabilities, which accommodations they provided during the hiring process, and what other employer practices are necessary to make the employee and business relationship successful. This presentation will specifically highlight the value of the Employment Specialist. Additionally, we will share strategies that Employment Specialists can implement in order to market people with varying degrees of work experience to employers, and how to teach skills in real work settings that lead to job retention.

**Turning Lemons into Lemonade: Increasing Positive Employment Outcomes with Self Employment**

**Presenter - Rolanda Parsons**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

Increasing positive employment outcomes amongst justice involved and those with disabilities by considering self employment and inclusive business partnerships.

**The Pathway to Employment: How to Utilize Medicaid Waivers and Vocational Rehabilitation Services When Seeking Competitive Integrated Employment**

**Presenters - Lauren Chenoweth**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

A guide to navigate the intertwined services of Texas Workforce Solutions- Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS) and Home and Community Based Services Medicaid waivers on the pathway to Competitive Integrated Employment (CIE). Beginning with an overview of both programs and finishing by working through the sequencing of services this presentation will address the following common questions: what are waivers, what employment related services do waivers provide, what is the TWS-VRS process, who pays for what and in what order?



TEXAS APSE

# GAME NIGHT

Fun Prizes  
Cash Bar  
430pm in the  
Grand Ballroom



Employment 1st  
Trivia & Loteria

# WEDNESDAY SCHEDULE

**8:30AM - 10:00AM Breakfast and Keynote**

**Keys to Collaboration: Through the Power of a Story**

**Presenter - Lora Burgnaro**

**Location - Grand Ballroom C & D**

**10:15AM - 11:15AM**

**Breakout Sessions**

**SSA Benefits Programs and Work**

**Presenter - Nehtra Davis-Moore**

**Location - Grand Ballroom A/B**

The presentation will focus on SSA disability benefit programs while working. It will cover basic definitions related to SSA disability benefits and help diminish myths about employment and losing benefits. It will touch on work incentives available to individuals who are working and receive benefits from SSA. The presentation will also help show how people can have more of their own money when they are working and receive benefits.

**Collaborating with Advocates: Career Counseling Tools**

**Presenter - Mellissa Toler**

**Location - Grand Ballroom E**

This presentation will explore strategies that advocates can use at home to help the individual prepare to enter the workforce. Topics include assessing how interests can lead to careers, how advocates can prepare the individual for the expectations of the workplace, and how these practices can lead to better employment outcomes.

**Texas State Supported Living Centers: Collaboration at the Center of Building a Community Employment System**

**Presenter - Tony King**

**Location - Grand Ballroom F/G**

The State Supported Living Centers (SSLCs) in Texas serve a significant part of the state's people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Over the past decade, the SSLCs have sought to improve their systems for serving individuals with IDD at our centers through building systems of collaboration that improve vocational services. The reason the SSLCs have been successful is due to building collaboration networks within our centers, across our centers, and with outside partners to help support our projects. This presentation will discuss those changes, how they were built, and share the outcomes of this project.

**11:15AM - 11:45AM**

**Vendor Break - Door Prize Drawing for Vendor Tables**

**11:45AM - 1:00pm - Closing Luncheon and Keynote**

**Avoiding Ableist Services**

**Presenter - David Hoff**

**Location - Grand Ballroom C & D**

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Hotel Information

### Westin San Antonio North

**Hotel Parking: Free**

## Attire

Attire is “business casual” for all meetings and events.

## Badge Identification

Badges are required to enter all meeting rooms, meal functions, and the Exhibit Hall.

There will be a box located at the registration table to collect badges on Wednesday so you can recycle them.

## Concurrent Session Admittance

All sessions are open to conference attendees on a first-come/first-serve basis. As soon as all chairs are occupied, the room monitor will close the session. Fire codes prohibit the attendees from standing in the aisles or against the walls. We appreciate your cooperation.

## Continuing Education Units

CEUs are available for all sessions. Attendees will need to complete a CEU feedback form, including hours requested. Forms will be turned in to:

Lucy Gafford, M.S., CRC, CESP

Director - UNT WISE

Email: [lucy.gafford@unt.edu](mailto:lucy.gafford@unt.edu)

\*\*Complete CEU details and instructions will be announced at the conference.

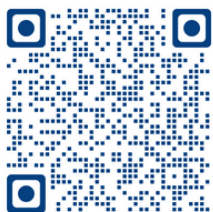
## Conference Evaluation Forms

Please complete the conference evaluation form included in the conference agenda or via the QR code provided. This feedback helps us to plan future conferences.

The contents of this Website and Program for Texas APSE were developed under grant number H421D220004 from the Department of Education. However, those contents do not necessarily represent the policy of the Department of Education, and you should not assume endorsement by the Federal Government. (Authority: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1221e-3 and 3474)”



**Texas Beacons  
of Excellence**



# CONFERENCE EVALUATION

Please complete this paper copy or the online version of the conference Evaluation. Your feedback is important to us as begin to plan for our 3rd annual Conference!

Do you think the conference helped you better understand the Employment First Movement in Texas? Yes or No

Please rate the following questions on a scale of 1 to 5.

1 - Did not like at all, 2 - Did not like, 3 - Neutral, 4 - Liked, 5 - Liked a lot

Please rate, overall, the keynote sessions. \_\_\_\_\_

Provide any specific feedback on all keynote sessions:

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Please rate, overall, the breakout sessions. \_\_\_\_\_

Provide any specific feedback on all breakout sessions:

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Please rate the Awards Luncheon. \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the Vendor room, experience, and selection. \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the meals provided. \_\_\_\_\_

Please rate the materials provided. \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide us with any "ah ha" moments you had during the conference:

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Please provide any additional thoughts to the TX APSE conference planning committee such as future locations for a conference, potential speakers, suggested topics, logistical suggestions, etc \_\_\_\_\_

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**PLEASE TURN IN YOUR FORM AT THE REGISTRATION DESK**