

**IBCCES**

**International Board of Credentialing  
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**Catholic Educator Conference on  
Exceptional Student Education  
2016**

**Adam W. Herbert University Center  
At the University of North Florida  
Jacksonville, FL**



**877-717-6543**

Catholic Educator Conference on Exceptional Student Education, July 27, 2016  
Herbert University Center, University of North Florida, Jacksonville, FL

Location	ROOM 1058-1	ROOM 1058-2	BANQUET HALL
<b>7:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>REGISTRATION &amp; CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST</b>		
	<b>OPENING PRAYER AND WELCOME</b> Deacon Scott Conway, Superintendent of Schools, Diocese of St. Augustine		
<b>8:15 -9:30</b>	<b>KEYNOTE</b> Including Students with Disabilities in Catholic Schools: Why? How? YES!		
<b>9:45 -11:00</b>	<b>PANEL DISCUSSION</b> Challenges and Solutions for supporting nontraditional learners in Catholic settings		
<b>11:15- 12:15</b>	<b>LUNCH (on your own)</b>		
<b>12:30 - 1:45</b> <b>SESSION A</b>	A-1 Bring Every Child to Learn: A Ministry of Inclusion	A-2 Structuring Lessons and Learning Environments for Optimum Access	A-3 Understanding Students with Autism (UF- CARD)
<b>2:00-3:15</b> <b>SESSION B</b>	B-1 Resources for Best Practices in Inclusive Education	B-2 Including Students with Disabilities in a 21st Century Catholic High School	B-3 Pediatric Anxiety-Promoting Bravery in our Students (UF-FDLRS)
<b>3:30 -4:30</b> <b>SESSION C</b>	C-1 The Other M&Ms: Mindfulness and Movement	C-2 Interventions and Strategies to Increase Communications Skills, Motivation and Positive Behaviors	C-3 ADHD in the Classroom (UF-FDLRS)
<b>4:30 -5:30</b>	<b>AFTERNOON RECEPTION</b>		

## Welcome to the University of North Florida in Jacksonville, Florida and to the 2016 Catholic Educator Conference on Exceptional Student Education!

This is an exciting opportunity for the Catholic education community in our region to celebrate the diversity of our 21st century students. With school choice initiatives and special needs scholarships like McKay, more families than ever can afford a Catholic education for their children. This conference offers what is hoped to be the first of many resources available to superintendents, teachers, principals, guidance counselors, support staff and catechists so that they can embrace and serve each and every child and his/her family, regardless of their exceptional needs.

We have a fabulous program to help inspire your start to the 2016-2017 school year.

- **Keynote Speaker: Including Students with Disabilities in Catholic Schools? Why? How? YES!**

Beth Foraker, founder of the National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion, inspires and helps Catholic schools all over the U.S. to welcome and to serve families with children who are nontraditional learners. She presented at the annual NCEA convention in March in San Diego and at the Inclusive Catholic Education (ICE) Summit in Oregon in May. We are grateful she has brought her spark to our coast to kick off our day.

- **Panel Discussion**

Leaders will address topics related to challenges and solutions for supporting nontraditional learners in Catholic settings. This moderated discussion will allow for questions from the audience, so feel free to jump in and join the conversation.

- **Breakout Sessions**

Choose from nine sessions and topics in the afternoon breakout sessions to get you excited and ready for the 2016/17 school year.

The Catholic Schools Office at the Diocese of St. Augustine (DOSA)  
The University of North Florida and the Herbert University Center  
The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education (IBCCES) team  
Catholic Charities and Camp I Am Special (DOSA)  
University of Florida-CARD and FDLRS  
The Florida Inclusion Network  
PlayWorks Therapies  
The Jacksonville School for Autism

### We especially thank our Exhibitors and Sponsors:

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### Benefits:

- Use 6 conference hours + receive 14 hours of online training to fulfill state requirements for teacher license renewal
- Demonstrate to parents a level of competence in teaching non-traditional learners
- Increase enrollment numbers through scholarship programs

### Certification is appropriate for the following:

- Early Childhood and VPK Teachers
- Elementary and Secondary Teachers, and Principals
- Teachers' assistants/Paraprofessionals
- Resource Teachers
- Guidance Counselors and School Psychologists
- Directors of Religious Education and Catechists

"Having the autism certification improves the educational experience for Catholic parents, students, and families in the Cincinnati community because it ensures that teachers and staff are highly trained in the best methods to facilitate the education of students with autism spectrum disorders," Allyse Sonnega, MS.Ed., Intervention Specialist at St. John the Baptist School, said. "By meeting the needs of the whole child and working within the systems of family, school, and community, we are now equipped to help prepare each of our students to be participating members of society."

Keynote Address – **Beth Foraker**  
National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion  
8:15 - 9:30 a.m. Herbert University Center, Banquet Hall

## **Including Students with Disabilities in Catholic Schools? Why? How? YES!**

“It’s a thrilling time for Catholic families who have children with disabilities and wish more than anything that their child could attend Catholic school!” So says Beth Foraker on the National Catholic Board on Full Inclusion’s website. In this Year of Mercy, with our Pope’s guidance and all of the educational research that has been shared, Catholic schools, now more than ever, can include students with disabilities successfully in their typical classroom.

We believe that any professional growth you make as an educator will SERVE ALL STUDENTS. Your teaching gets better. You can’t help but have that expertise seep into the way you teach all the time, every day.

The purpose of education is to ensure that all students gain access to knowledge, skills, and information that will prepare them to contribute



### **Together we can do this!**

Beth Foraker has been a Supervisor/Lecturer at UC Davis’ Multiple Subject Credential Program since 2006 and has over ten years of K-12 teaching experience as an elementary classroom teacher for the Vacaville Unified School District. As an educator, parent, advocate and the founder of The National Catholic Board of Full Inclusion, Beth’s mission is to inspire schools to begin the process of becoming inclusive, to educate teachers, parents, principals and priests on what it takes to be an inclusive school and to provide the educational research and real life experiences that support it.



To connect with Beth and share and read stories about inclusion in Catholic Schools, visit the NCBL online at

<http://fullinclusionforcatholicschools.org>

## Challenges and Solutions for Supporting Nontraditional Learners in Catholic Settings

### Topics:

- How students are being accommodated in Dioceses of St. Aug, Orlando and Toledo, OH
- Funding/School Choice Programs - McKay Scholarship
- Learning about inclusion- fears and realities
- Future of exceptional students in Catholic Education - Building on foundations of the Morningstar program
- Beyond K-12 - Preschool and Transition Programs
- Teacher Training/Resources

### Panel Members:

#### **Jean Barnes, Morning Star Program The Diocese of St. Augustine**

Jean Barnes received her BA in Special Education from UNF, and her Master's in Education Leadership from Nova Southeastern. She is certified in learning disabilities and mental and emotional handicaps. Jean began her special education career 34 years ago as a teacher in both resource and self-contained classes and was assistant principal at Morning Star School for 4 years before beginning her current role there as principal in 2006.



#### **Susan Elain Shott, Morning Star Program The Diocese of St. Augustine**

Susan Elaine Shott has over 18 years of experience in special education as both a teacher and administrator. She graduated from Flagler College with a BA in Business Administration and earned her Educator's Certificate in specific learning disabilities (K-12) from UNF. Elaine also has her Master's in Educational Leadership from Walden University and has been Assistant Principal at Morning Star since 2007.



#### **Dr. Jacquelyn Flanigan, Associate Superintendent The Diocese of Orlando**

Dr. Flanigan returned to the Diocese of Orlando after working at the University of Central Florida as Program Coordinator for Ed.D. in Education. Prior to Dr. Flanigan's experience at the University of Central Florida, she served the Diocese of Orlando as Assistant Principal of Holy Family Catholic School in Orlando. After attending Ohio Dominican College in Columbus, OH, Dr. Flanigan received her B.A. in Speech and Theatre Arts from Indiana University. She received her Master's degree and Doctor of Education degree in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Central Florida. She and her family are members of Corpus Christi Parish in Celebration

#### **Sandra Cooney, Principal, Morning Star Catholic School The Diocese of Orlando**

Sandra has her Bachelor of Science in Special Education and a master's degree in exceptionalities. Prior to her administrative position at Morning Star she was the assistant principal at an elementary school in the Diocese of Orlando for 15 years.



## Challenges and Solutions for Supporting Nontraditional Learners in Catholic Settings



**Dr. Kathy Conroy, Inclusion Consultant  
The Diocese of Toledo**

Kathy Conroy is the Inclusion Education Consultant for the Diocese of Toledo. She services the Diocesan Catholic Schools and their families that covers 19 counties, to ensure a successful education for students with special needs. She received her Masters of Education in the field of Intervention Specialist from Bowling Green State University in Ohio. In the past, Kathy has worked in Catholic Schools specifically geared for students with special needs, as well as other nonpublic schools. She is a long-time member of the Council for Exceptional Children and has been actively involved in their mentoring program. She has also been on the Inclusion Committee for the Diocese of Toledo since its inception in 2011. Kathy has conducted professional development in the catholic schools for UDL, Co-teaching, Differentiated Instruction and Inclusion. She feels very strongly that “all” students gain from the inclusion of special needs students, especially in our religion-based schools.



**Donna Witherspoon, Principal, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School  
The Diocese of Orlando**

Donna Witherspoon is Principal of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School in Melbourne, FL. A graduate of Rollins College and Barry University, she has been part of the Diocese of Orlando since 2001 as a teacher, Technology Coordinator, and Principal. Ms. Witherspoon was named “21st Century Teacher of the Year for Elementary Schools” by the Diocese of Orlando in 2010. In 2012, she was named one of the “Top 50 Innovators in Education” in America by the Center for Digital Education. She has served on several Diocesan committees and has been a presenter at Diocesan In-services, as well as, the NCEA conference. During her time as principal at Our Lady of Lourdes, she has implemented several initiatives to enhance student learning including creating a student service program whose mission is to prepare every student socially, spiritually, physically, academically, and emotionally for whatever challenges he/she may face.

**James Herzog, Associate Director for Education  
FLORIDA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE/ FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC  
BISHOPS**

James Herzog began his service to the Conference as Accreditation Program Manager in August 2005 and became the Associate Director for Education in February 2009. James serves as a professional resource person for the Conference in education matters; coordinates, monitors and advocates issues relating to governmental programs affecting Florida Catholic schools, their administrators, faculty and pupils; represents Catholic education at the state level in Florida and in coordination with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at the federal level; represents the Conference with the Florida Association of Academic Nonpublic Schools (FAANS); maintains relationships with various school-choice organizations and special needs groups; and oversees the Florida Catholic Conference Accreditation Program (FCCAP).



Session A-1, Room 1058-1

### **Bring Every Child to Learn: A Ministry of Inclusion**

As Catholic educators we have the responsibility to form the minds and hearts of all of our students. With this, we must view our daily efforts as a ministry of inclusion. How can we be more intentional about the ways we celebrate the unique gifts of each student? How do we create a culture where all students are not only welcome, but belong? How do we model this ministry of inclusion for our colleagues? And, most importantly, how do we teach our students that a life of discipleship is a life of inclusion?



John Kyler is the Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry at Saint Paul Catholic Newman Center at Fresno State University. Previously, John served as Director of Campus Ministry at Mother McAuley Liberal Arts High School in Chicago, IL, and worked in the Office of Campus Ministry and the Alliance for Catholic Education at the University of Notre Dame. John is a composer of liturgical music through World Library Publications, and has contributed to a number of other publications, including *Five Minutes with the Saints: More Spiritual Nourishment for Busy Teachers* by Ave Maria Press, and *High School Retreats that Work*, a forthcoming book by Saint Mary's Press. John holds a Master of Education from the University of Notre Dame.

Session A-2, Room 1058-2

### **Structuring Lessons and Learning Environments for Optimum Access**

Students enter our schools with differing plans in place. Some have private diagnoses and formal IEPs, and some families look to us for creating a plan for their child's success. Once the plan is in place, teachers need to know how to execute Learning Support Plans. This session will discuss working with wrap around programs/county services, leading Child Study teams, navigating the Response to Intervention (RTI) process and implementing accommodations strategies to help each child access the curriculum.



Presented by Lori Hill, ESE Teacher/Learning Support Director at San Juan Del Rio Catholic School in the Diocese of St. Augustine and a graduate of Bishop Kenny Catholic High School, class of 1993. She earned her Master of Science in 2001 in Specific Learning Disabilities and Emotional Handicaps from Florida State University and has worked in both public and private schools.



Session B-1, Room 1058-1

### **Resources for Best Practices for Inclusive Education**

Participants will receive an overview of the school level BPIE (Best Practices for Inclusive Education) self-assessment, as well as resources that are available to private schools to access professional learning in the areas related to inclusion. Also included in the session will be an opportunity for Q&A related to inclusion.



Presented by Sheryl Sandvoss, Executive Director for the Florida Inclusion Network (FIN). Sheryl has over 17 years of experience in special education administration. Prior to her work with FIN, Sheryl spent ten years with the Florida Department of Education developing policy and programs for students with disabilities at the state level. Her undergraduate degree is in special education, and her Master’s degree is in educational leadership and administration, both from Florida State University. During a breakout session, Sheryl will provide an overview of the School BPIE, a self-assessment designed to look at the best practices for inclusive education at the school level. Sheryl graduated from Saint John Paul II Academy in Boca Raton, and her two children attend Mary Help of Christians Catholic School in Parkland.

Session B-2, Room 1058-2

### **Including Students with Disabilities in a 21st Century Catholic High School**

The responsibility for meeting the needs of students with disabilities in Catholic Schools doesn’t end at 8th grade. Although the challenges may be different, a Catholic High School can create inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities to develop the skills necessary to become academically successful, faith filled, life-long learners. This presentation will review how Catholic High Schools can develop a comprehensive support program, which includes identifying student needs, providing teacher support and accessing available resources.



Presented by Carol Guthrie who has been an advocate, educator, and administrator for students who have special needs in Catholic schools for over 20 years. In her current role as Director of Academic Support at Bishop Moore High School in Orlando, Florida, she created a unique model that helps students with learning challenges succeed within a rigorous academic program. She and her staff empower students to become self-advocates with their peers, in the classroom, and in everyday life. She also works with parents and teachers to help students achieve a fulfilling high school experience that will lead them to be faith-filled life-long learners



Session C-1, Room 1058-1

### **The Other M&Ms: Mindfulness and Movement**

Movement activities, whether in the classroom or physical education class, provide opportunities to activate the brain, improve on-task behavior, and potentially leave students more focused. An inclusive environment ensures that every individual is supported and has the opportunity to participate safely while the use of differentiated instruction maximizes growth by recognizing varied interests, different ways of learning and response to instruction. The ideas presented for all instructors integrate physical activity, academic excellence and spirituality.



Presented by Natalie Bryan, Physical Education Teacher in her 30th year at Morning Star Catholic School in Jacksonville Florida, the only Catholic Special Education School in the Diocese of St. Augustine. She is certified K-12 Physical Education with her Bachelor of Science from Jacksonville University and in the past year became certified in school counseling after completing her Master of Science Degree from Capella University. Natalie frequently integrates academic elements as well as cooperative learning and team building, striving to help students reach their academic, social, emotional, and physical potential

Session C-2, Room 1058-2

### **Interventions and Strategies to Increase Communication, Motivation and Positive Behaviors**

Attendees will learn the differences between language and speech services as well as the differences between auditory and visual processing. Through the use of visual support, we will demonstrate how to increase student performance socially, academically and behaviorally. Although creating visual supports may be time consuming up front, the dividends will pay off in multiple ways. Visual supports can decrease disruptive and anxious behaviors with an overall result of increased student independence and self-esteem to enhance academic performance.



Copresented by Jill Motsett Maliszewski, MA CCC/SLP, President of Play Works Therapies, Speech Therapist for Holy Family Catholic School and the Jacksonville School for Autism and Trina Middleton, Education Director at The Jacksonville School for Autism. Jill earned her BA from Appalachian State University in Communication Disorders and her MA in Communicative Disorders from University of Central Florida. She is a graduate of San Jose Catholic and Bishop Kenny Catholic High School class of 1994. Trina has worked with Catholic schools for push-in services and has over 10 years of teaching experience as a lead teacher for a special needs Sunday, with a soccer program for children with autism and the Sunrise Surf Shop surf camp. She became a Nationally Board Certified Teacher in 2007 as an Early Childhood Through Adulthood/Exceptional Needs Specialist and has worked with UF-CARD for two years helping set up effective teaching environments for children with autism.







## THE YEAR OF MERCY IN CATHOLIC EDUCATION



Autism is the fastest-growing developmental disorder in the U.S. About 1 in 68 children eight years of age have autism, according to The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Roughly two million Americans carry a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder with a wide range of symptoms and impairment levels ranging from mild to severe. No two people with autism will exhibit the same behavioral characteristics. While researchers don't know the exact cause, it's generally thought to be related to brain structure abnormalities. As a result, there's a need to expand autism-related services in education, and many parents are struggling to find the right school for their child.

The Catholic Church operates the world's largest non-governmental school system, with 6,836 elementary schools, 1,203 high schools and 221 colleges and universities in the U.S. alone, according to the 2013 book, "Catholic Identity or Identities?: Refounding Ministries in Chaotic Times." Teachers consistently report they don't have the training and skills to effectively instruct diverse learners, particularly students with disabilities. Yet there are limited resources for professional development in special needs education.



Traditionally, teachers who plan to work with students with special needs will get a master's degree in special education, or take one or two college courses in that field. But for many teachers this option is too expensive and time consuming. In some districts teachers and administrators attend in-service faculty meetings, book studies and working lunches to expand their knowledge, or seek help from intervention specialists. One special needs educator said her colleagues have taken advantage of public school in-service training by tagging along with parents of her students who were invited to participate. There is an easier way for educators to gain high quality professional development in the field of autism regardless of where they live.

Reputable online certificate programs, like those offered by the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES), are an affordable and convenient way to gain credentials with or without a master's degree. Formed in 2001, IBCCES is the leading credentialing organization for professionals in the field of autism and the first to develop industry standards for the Certified Autism Specialist. Offering comprehensive coursework in 10 areas of autism competency, IBCCES provides interactive online knowledge and strategies that exceed physical, occupational, and educational goals for children and adults with autism.

Teachers at St. John the Baptist School in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati were the first Catholic school instructors to enroll in the IBCCES teacher training program. Six of that Catholic elementary school's teachers and administrators recently became certified through IBCCES. The certification ensures they know the best methods to improve the educational experience of students with autism spectrum disorder and their families, said the school's intervention specialist, Allyse Sonnega.

"By meeting the needs of the whole child and working within the systems of family, school, and community, we are now equipped to help prepare each of our students to be participating members of society," Sonnega said.

**IBCCES** International Board of Credentialing  
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Ready to take this Diocese-wide?  
Contact Kelly Noda at [Melanie@ibcces.org](mailto:Melanie@ibcces.org)

Call  
**877-717-6543**

## EXHIBIT HOURS

7:30– 12:30 p.m. 1:30 – 6:00 p.m.

## Exhibitor and Sponsor Listings

### FACTS Tuition Management

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FACTS, a Nelnet company (NYSE: NNI), is located in Lincoln, Neb., and is committed to making educational dreams possible for families and students, as well as enhancing the financial stability and affordability of educational institutions. FACTS serves more than two million students and families at over 9,400 schools, and manages \$7.1 billion in tuition funds annually. FACTS offers a comprehensive suite of services including tuition management, payment administration and processing, financial needs assessment, online application and enrollment, and RenWeb student administration software.

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### **Autism2Ability, Inc. App2Talk**

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Autism2Ability, a 501c3 organization, has developed a results-oriented, online learning resource that provides a personalized curriculum for kids with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and resources for their families and schools. We offer support and provide direction as you do your best to raise your kids in a world of changing rules and exhausting days. App2Talk is a tool designed to help give a voice to all non-verbal individuals. It contains a series of customizable pictures that allow words to be quickly and easily formed to communicate the needs of the person. Instead of reinventing the wheel, we are improving upon tried and true communication techniques with new technologies, while at the same time making App2Talk affordable and accessible for all. Our app will be available on the iOS and Android markets. Everyone has a voice and it is time to be heard.







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IBCCES was formed in 2001 and is the leading credentialing organization for professionals in the field of autism and currently offers the Certified Autism Specialist®, Autism Certificate and the Certified Autism Center designations. Autism, commonly known as ASD, is a neurodevelopmental disorder with a wide range of symptoms and impairment levels.



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