

“WHAT MATTERS”

A Family Centered Transition Event



The purpose of this outreach conference is to give families of youth with developmental disabilities, including autism, an opportunity to attend a conference that will encourage and support them in their journey of raising a young person with developmental disabilities. The conference will provide families, especially those from rural communities throughout West Texas, an opportunity to gain valuable information about resources for their youth with developmental disabilities and give them a venue where they can network and share their life experiences with other families across West Texas.

Our guest speakers are young adults with developmental disabilities and family members of individuals with developmental disabilities. Faculty and staff from the Burkhart Center for Autism Education and Research will provide logistical support to produce this event, including local volunteers from the Lubbock community and students from Texas Tech University.

PARTICIPANTS WILL BE PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Setting goals for transition to adulthood
- Encouraging self-advocacy and self-determination
- Building job skills and preparing for employment
- Living independently
- Developing healthy relationships
- Identifying postsecondary educational programs
- ADA compliance for colleges vs IDEA for public schools

Participants will start with dinner and two inspirational speakers on Friday evening, April 22. On Saturday, April 23rd, they will enjoy speakers who have walked the walk of living with an individual with developmental disabilities.

FRIDAY, APRIL 22 5:30 - 6:00 PM: REGISTRATION

6:00 - 8:00 PM: DINNER RECEPTION

- Welcome by Dr. Scott Ridley, Dean, College of Education, Texas Tech University.
- Dinner will be provided for families and inspirational speakers at the conference center.

“DREAMS MATTER” with Justin and Hali Thompson

We are privileged to have Hali Thompson and her brother Justin Thompson as our guest speakers for our Friday evening session. They will share their experience of growing up together and how their family chose to dream big dreams in the face of the challenges their family has faced.



SATURDAY, APRIL 23

8:00 AM: REGISTRATION (For those unable to attend Friday evening; *continental breakfast provided*)

8:30 AM: WELCOME/ AGENDA OVERVIEW/ PURPOSE OF THE EVENT

8:45 - 9:45 AM:

“TRANSITION MATTERS” with James Williams, National Director of Independent Living Experience

James is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor with a passion for meeting the unique needs of clients with various disabilities and challenges. As a former Special Education teacher, James has dedicated his career to helping those with disabilities overcome learning, social, and employment barriers to become fully independent and successful adults in their communities.



9:45 - 10:45 AM:

“EMPLOYMENT MATTERS” with Jennifer & Kevin Kaut

Jennifer Kaut M.Ed., BCBA, is a mother of a teenage son with autism and is currently the State Autism Specialist for The Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS). In addition, Jennifer is the founder and director of Inspire Behavior Therapy located in Austin, Texas. Kevin is a 21 year old man with Autism and DiGeorge Syndrome.



10:45 - 11:00 AM: BREAK

11:00 AM - 12 NOON: STUDENT PANEL

Young adults with developmental disabilities from the Burkhart Transition Academy and Project CASE: Connections for Academic Success & Employment will share their experiences. Possible topics may include employment, having friends, dating, self-care and independent living, and leisure time activities.

12 NOON – 1:00 PM LUNCH/TABLE TALKS *(Lunch provided)*

Conference speakers, as well as students, faculty & staff from the Burkhart Center for Autism Education & Research will be available to sit at tables with families to discuss a variety of topics and network during lunch.

1:00 – 1:45 PM Paul Loudon

Paul Loudon is a public speaker, radio show host, and autism advocate. As an adult on the autism spectrum, Paul is able to provide a unique perspective into the autism mind. For several years he was the co-host of the Understanding Autism Radio Show in Phoenix. He is currently hosting a new show on the Bloomberg affiliate radio channel in Houston, TX. The show can be heard live on KTEK 1110 AM at 10:00am every Tuesday or live online at www.business1110ktek.com. You can visit Paul's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/TheoriesofMind/?pnref=lhc> and his website www.theoriesofmindradio.com.



1:45 - 2:00 PM: BREAK *(snacks provided)*

2:00 - 3:00 PM: PARENT PANEL

Parents of young adults with developmental disabilities from the Burkhart Transition Academy and Project CASE: Connections for Academic Success & Employment will share their experiences. Possible topics may include: how to provide respite to families, preparing your young adult for work/college or both, learning to “let go” so they can live as adults, and safety issues (dating, internet, driving).

3:00 - 4:00 PM: “RELATIONSHIPS MATTER” with Mr. and Mrs. James Williams

James and Chrissy Williams will share their life experiences of being married to someone who is on the spectrum. They have assured us that there will be some comical stories! The focus of this presentation will be to stress the importance of establishing “healthy relationships” with friends as well as dating.



4:00 - 4:30 PM:

- WIND UP/ EVALUATION - INVITATION TO ATTEND THE
- BURKHART WALK FOR AUTISM AWARENESS ON SUNDAY



REGISTRATION

Attendance is limited to individuals over 15 and accompanying family members.

Registration is required.

**PLEASE RETURN FORM VIA MAIL OR EMAIL
BY THE DEADLINE, APRIL 4th**

Event Location:

The Conference Center
Prosperity Bank Operations Annex
1501 Avenue Q
Lubbock, Texas • 79401

*Reduced rates for hotel accommodations are available at:

MCM Elegante Hotel Suites
801 Avenue Q
Lubbock, Texas • 79401
Phone: 806.763.1200

**Please indicate reservation is for group "Burkhart Center" for the reduced rate of \$89/ night plus tax.
Reservations must be made by March 25, 2016 for reduced rate.*

Please make check or money order payable to: The Burkhart Center

Mail to: The Burkhart Center

2902 18th Street

Box 41071

Lubbock, TX 79409-1071

To make payment by credit card, please call Dede Brocklehurst, 806-834-4751.

PLEASE CHECK ONE (1):

\$25 for an individual

\$50 for a family – Please indicate number of people attending _____

Seating is limited. Registrations will be taken on a first come, first serve basis.

Name _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Check here if you would like to receive a registration confirmation & receipt via email.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

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