

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF LEARNING SPECIALISTS' 20TH ANNIVERSARY MEMBERS' CONFERENCE AND CELEBRATION



WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY, APRIL 3-5, 2019

Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center
219 Littleton Road
Westford, MA 01886

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF LEARNING SPECIALISTS MEMBERS' CONFERENCE 2019



DAY 1

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

**5:00 P.M.
BOARD MEETING**

**7:30-10:00 P.M.
MEMBERS' RECEPTION WITH CUPCAKES AND COCKTAILS**

Whittier Room

Join fellow members and invited guests to kick off our 20th Anniversary Conference and Celebration!

DAY 2

Thursday, April 4, 2019

**8:30-9:00 A.M.
REGISTRATION**

**8:30-9:00 A.M.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND VENDORS**



9:00-10:00 A.M.

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - SUSAN COLE ROSS
2019 BARBARA A. KENEFICK AWARD FOR SERVICE - ELIZABETH RADDAY
MELISSA RUBIN**

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER - MELISSA RUBIN

Ballroom

9:30-11:00 A.M.

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS - DR. GEORGE MCCLOSKEY, PH.D.
"IMPROVING EXECUTIVE CAPACITIES AT MULTIPLE LEVELS"**



Ballroom

This presentation will describe a multilevel model of executive capacities that can be used to guide case conceptualization and intervention selection and implementation. Descriptions of executive function and skill difficulties and intervention strategies for children and adolescents ages 4-25 will be discussed.

**11:00-11:15 A.M.
SNACK BREAK/VENDORS**

Post about the conference to
Twitter and Instagram! #NEALS20

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF LEARNING SPECIALISTS MEMBERS' CONFERENCE 2019



11:15-12:15 P.M.

KEYNOTE CONTINUED - DR. GEORGE MCCLOSKEY, PH.D.

"IMPROVING EXECUTIVE CAPACITIES AT MULTIPLE LEVELS"

12:30-1:15 P.M.

SICILIAN LUNCH BUFFET



Manju Banerjee, Vice President for Educational Research and Innovation/
Associate Professor, Landmark College will speak about Landmark's new dual enrollment program

We invite you to sit with your region: NH/VT; ME; MA/RI; CT; Berkshires/NY

1:15-3:00 P.M.

AFTERNOON SESSIONS

DR. GEORGE MCCLOSKEY, PH.D.

"EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONING IMPLEMENTATIONS"

Ballroom

Information from case studies will be discussed with emphasis on intervention implementation and progress monitoring for improving student executive functioning capacities.

SHARON LEPAGE PLANTE, M.ED.

"TECHNOL-O.G.: ENHANCING STRUCTURED LITERACY INSTRUCTION WITH EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY"

Regency III

The utilization of technology (Interactive screens, iPads, apps, and websites) can make Structured Literacy instruction (decoding/encoding, fluency, and comprehension) a multi-sensory process that is engaging and explicit while maintaining the individualization and diagnostic-prescriptive aspects of the lesson. It can support the organizational challenges for necessary lesson materials that can occur when working with multiple students at once, while also allowing for ease of differentiation within a small group format. Additionally, educational technology can provide ways for the teacher to collect work samples and data from multiple students simultaneously and allow for individualized feedback. The session will focus on the use of various tools that can support differentiated and individualized engagement during small group multi-sensory Structured Literacy instruction.

Post about the conference to
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NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF LEARNING SPECIALISTS' MEMBERS' CONFERENCE 2019



**3:30-5:30 P.M. AND BY APPOINTMENT
EDUCATOR'S ALLY - MEET WITH US**



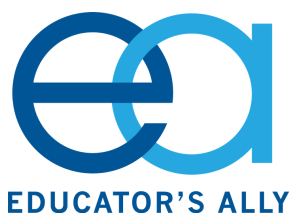
Emerson Room

Lisa Lovering, President, and representatives from Educator's Ally can be found in the Emerson Room. Feel free to stop by to discuss your job search or how Educator's Ally can help with your school's hiring. Educator's Ally, a highly personalized placement agency, connects teachers and administrators with independent day and boarding schools. With New York roots and a national reach, EA's thoughtful approach to recruiting has been valued by schools and candidates alike since 1975. To schedule a time to meet with the EA team at the conference, please email us at info@educatorsally.com.

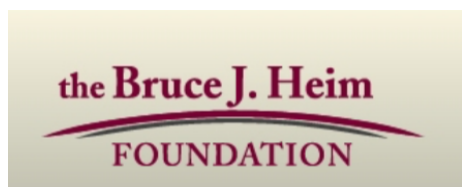
**3:30 P.M.
BREAK**

Walk nearby trails (maps available), enjoy a yoga class in the Health Center (4:15-5:15 P.M.), visit local locales, or meet members in the lobby.

Thank you to our sponsors!



HONORED



A Special Thank You

A heartfelt thank you to Sarah Ross, consultant to NEALS' Board and learning specialist at the University of New England, for her wisdom, creativity, and dedication to making NEALS the premier professional development resource empowering learning specialists in supporting all learners.

*20th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner
Thursday, April 4, 2019
Regency Ballroom
Tickets required*



6:00 P.M. Sponsored Cocktail Reception for Learning Specialists
Musical performance by pianist Phil Wilson and bassist Bruce Gertz

7:00 P.M. NEALS 20th Celebration
Appreciations & Presentation of the Founders' Award
Susan Cole Ross, President

7:30 P.M. Plated Dinner
Film: *Reservation With You: Learning Specialists - Who We Are & What We Do*
Featuring Ned Hallowell

9:00 -11:00 P.M. Dessert Reception with Coffee & Cash Bar

*The Institute for Learning and Development is
dedicated to transforming the lives of students
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Contact Donna Kincaid, M.Ed., Assistant Director, ILD,
for more information: dkincaid@ildlex.org
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www.ildlex.org, www.researchild.org



DID YOU KNOW?

NEALS *hosts Regional Meetings in the
fall, winter and spring!*

- Mingle with fellow learning specialists
- Teach and/or learn new skills in a relaxed setting
- Get feedback on your school projects
- Share upcoming professional development opportunities

*Please contact your regional director through NEALS'
website if you would like to host a small meeting at your
learning center or to invite nearby members to an event.*

NH/VT: Jen McMahon, Boston area/RI: Laura
Foody, Berkshires: Chris Ouellette,
ME: Bill Flynn, CT: Open! (Please contact
sross@nealsonline.org.)

Keep our conferences free!
Please donate to NEALS

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF LEARNING SPECIALISTS MEMBERS' CONFERENCE 2019



DAY 3

Friday, April 5, 2019

**7:05-8:05 A.M.
YOGA**

Health Center

**8:30-10:00 A.M.
CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND VENDORS**



**9:05-9:45 A.M.
LISTEN AND CHAT**

BILL FLYNN, M.ED.

"AN IN-HOUSE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM"

Regency III

Our in-house professional development series has created an atmosphere of enhanced practical learning for our school's faculty that is as empowering as attending an off campus workshop. Each 30 minute presentation within our series, facilitated by an on-campus faculty member, is geared towards the academic culture within our school, and is presented within our daily academic schedule.

SUSAN COLE ROSS, M.A., C.E.T., M.A.

ACADEMIC MINDFULNESS WORKSHOP AND DISCUSSION

Whittier

Practicing mindful breathing, eating, and thinking techniques ignites imagination, intelligence, and inspiration.

CHRIS OUELETTE, M.ED.

"CAMPFIRE" GROUP ICE BREAKER/DISCUSSION TOOL (Limited to 12)

Thoreau

The Campfire activity is a listening/discussion tool that can be used for many types of activities including as an ice breaker for a new group/class, discussion for last night's reading, for a new topic, and for professional development.

10:00 A.M.-1:00 P.M.

INTRODUCTION OF KEYNOTE SPEAKER - TRICIA MACKAY MONHEIM

KEYNOTE SPEAKER - NANCI SHEPARDSON, M.S.ED., ED.S., W.D.P.

**"ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ABOUT WHICH
TECHNOLOGIES SUPPORT SKILL ACQUISITION"**



Ballroom

What does the research say about technologies that truly support all learners? What tools should we be investing our time, talent, and resources into? Participants will learn about well- done research that points out the best parts of technology to harness to facilitate positive student outcomes. Bringing your own device to this presentation will enhance the attendee's experience.

NORTHEAST ASSOCIATION OF LEARNING SPECIALISTS MEMBERS' CONFERENCE 2019



1:00-2:00 P.M.

DELI BUFFET LUNCH AND VENDORS



Affinity discussion tables including: Bill Flynn - Concussion Management: Working with the Whole Student - A Team Approach; Liz Radday - Secondary School Academic Support; Amanda Howe - Middle School Academic Support; Laura Foody - Elementary School Academic Support; Sarah Ross - Collegiate Academic Support

2:00-3:30 P.M.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

SHARON LEPAGE PLANTE, M.ED.

"TECHNOLOGY FOR EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS: ORGANIZATION, NOTE TAKING, AND MULTIPLE MEANS OF ENGAGEMENT"

Ballroom

Educational technology provides many tools that teachers can use in the classroom to deliver content by removing text barriers, differentiating instruction, and promoting student's voice. Participants will weigh the pros and cons of apps and websites that can support students with organization, time-management, and note-taking. We will investigate tools that can provide teachers and students the opportunities to demonstrate knowledge in ways beyond traditional paper formats that can be so challenging for those who have learning differences.

NOEL FOY, M.A.

"TIPS AND TOOLS FOR MANAGING ANXIETY"

Whittier

Is anxiety holding back some of your students from facing challenges, succeeding in school or developing friendships? With anxiety among children at double-digit growth, educators are looking for tips and tools to help children manage anxious thoughts and feelings. Using an actionable approach to worry from ABC Worry Free, learn how worry works and what can be done to help children shift their perspective and take control of the vicious anxiety cycle.

MELISSA GARNER, CO-DIRECTOR OF LINDAMOOD-BELL FOR SCHOOLS

"LEARNING DISABILITY OR LITERACY DEFICIT?"

Regency III

This presentation from Lindamood-Bell will examine student learning profiles and their literacy deficits which prevent access to curricula, resulting in profound achievement gaps and often result in SLD diagnoses. The presentation will include school and district case studies as they address students' literacy and language development, as well as tracking progress and SPED exit rates longitudinally.

3:30-3:45 P.M.

DRAWINGS FOR NEALS' CENTERPIECES, T-SHIRT, WINE BASKET FROM SOTER VINEYARDS, OREGON & READ NATURALLY GIFT CARD - SUSAN COLE ROSS



Post about the conference to
Twitter and Instagram! #NEALS20

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

GEORGE MCCLOSKEY, PH.D.

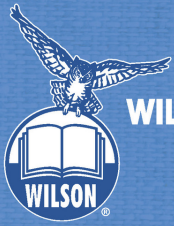


Dr. McCloskey is a professor and Director of School Psychology Research in the School of Professional and Applied Psychology of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and holds Diplomate status with the American Academy of Pediatric Neuropsychology. Dr. McCloskey has amassed 35 years of experience in test development, teaching, research and assessment and intervention work with a wide range of clients and has developed a comprehensive model of executive capacities that can be used to assess strengths and deficits and guide efforts to foster growth and intervene with difficulties. He frequently presents at international, national, and state conferences and consults with a number of school districts and private schools nationwide on issues related to improving students' executive capacities. Dr. McCloskey is the lead author of the books *Assessment and Intervention for Executive Function Difficulties* and *Essentials of Executive Functions Assessment* and his most recent writing on interventions for executive function and executive skills difficulties appears in Chapter 10 of the book *Essentials of Planning, Selecting, and Tailoring Interventions for Unique Learners*. He also is the author of the *McCloskey Executive Functions Scales (MEFS)* that have been standardized and published with Schoolhouse Educational Services.

NANCI KING SHEPARDSON, M.S.ED., ED.S., W.D.P.



Nanci Shepardson is a Reading and Educational Specialist. She graduated from Wheelock College in 1989 with a bachelor's degree in Preschool/Kindergarten Curriculum and Infant/ Toddler Development. In 2010, she graduated from Simmons College with an M.S.Ed. in Language and Literacy and an Ed.S. in Assistive Technology. She is a seasoned teacher, a credentialed K-12 Reading Specialist, and an International Dyslexia Association and Wilson Reading System Dyslexia Practitioner (WRS Level 1 Certified). Nanci has taught kindergarten, second grade, and fourth grade, was a Reading and Educational Specialist for grades 7 through postgraduate, and has tutored all ages. She consults for the International Dyslexia Association, she is an advocate for students with disabilities and their families, and is also a professional speaker on dyslexia, language-based disabilities, and assistive technology throughout the country. Prior to joining Wilson Language Training, she was the Head of Learning Resources at The Chapin School in Manhattan. As the Senior Educational Technologist at Wilson Language Training, she works in the Program Development Department. In her role she works with the Wilson Reading System (WRS) Team and the Technology Team to create traditional and digital tools that will augment the current WRS curriculum and materials. She stays abreast of the current technological trends and serves as a resource for parents, teachers, and schools on Assistive Technology. Nanci is also a parent of a grown child with dyslexia.



WILSON LANGUAGE TRAINING®

WILSON AT WORK Achieving Literacy FOR LIFE



PREVENTION/EARLY INTERVENTION
Grades K-3



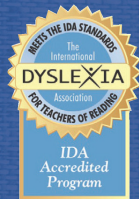
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Grades 4-12, adult

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SHARON LEPAGE PLANTE, M.ED.



Sharon Plante, an educator with over 22 years teaching experience in special education, currently serves as teacher and Director of Technology at The Southport School. As a Classroom Educator certified Orton-Gillingham tutor (CE/AOGPE), she uses her training and understanding of technology to empower students with learning disabilities. Sharon is the co-author of *Using Technology to Engage Students with Learning Disabilities*, which highlights the incorporation of technology through the Universal Design Model to reach all learners. She has presented at IDA, The Dyslexia Foundation, Everyone Reading, EdRev, ATIA, New York Chapter of ALTA, Spotlight on Dyslexia and AssisTechKnow. Sharon is a member of the Connecticut Association of Independent Schools Commission on Technology. Additionally, she was awarded the 2016 Distinguished Alumni Award from George Mason University College of Education and Human Development.

NOEL FOY, M.A.



A former classroom teacher and Learning Specialist, Noel is the founder of AMMPE Neuroeducational Consulting. Her mission is to empower teachers, parents, counselors, coaches and students with quick, user friendly ways to decrease stress and boost engagement, learning, executive function and performance.

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MELISSA GARNER



Melissa has worked in education for over 20 years. She began her career as a classroom teacher at the secondary level, and has been with Lindamood-Bell for 16 years. Initially in Research & Development, Melissa has spent the last 10 years designing and implementing partnerships in Lindamood-Bell's for Schools Division. Melissa has worked with schools in over 20 states, collaborating on a wide range of initiatives including Special Education grants, second language acquisition and school turn-around efforts. Having been a classroom teacher herself, Melissa presents to educators all over the country in an effort to build awareness on the importance of a scientifically-based approach to literacy and language acquisition.



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PERFORMER BIOGRAPHIES

PHIL WILSON



Phil Wilson began taking piano lessons at the age of four. By the time he was six, a piano teacher discovered that he had dyslexia; Wilson had been playing almost completely by ear. The teacher suggested he take up a single-line instrument that didn't require reading dense notation, so Wilson began playing trombone. Wilson excelled, and was playing with professionals near his Belmont, MA home at age 15. He attended the New England Conservatory of Music (where he later served as chairman of the Jazz department) and the Navy School of Music; he also played in Herb Pomeroy's Boston-based big band (1955-1957). Wilson left New England Conservatory after two years to go on the road with the Dorsey Brothers Orchestra. After military service he played with Woody Herman (1962-1965). In 1966 he joined the faculty at the Berklee School of Music, where he has taught for 51 years. An educator, he is also a big band arranger and leader of note. He wrote extensively for Buddy Rich in the late '60s, and was nominated for a Grammy Award for his arrangement of Rich's "Mercy, Mercy, Mercy." It became the last big band recording to hit Billboard's top forty. The City of Boston proclaimed December 9th, 1995 Phil Wilson Day, recognizing his contributions to jazz education. His arrangements are staples of the standard collegiate stage band repertoire. He has also played as a sideman with Rich, Louis Armstrong, Frank Sinatra, and Clark Terry, among others. Since 1966 Wilson led an after-hours rehearsal band at Berklee. Originally called the Thursday Night Dues Band, its name was changed to the Rainbow Band in 1985. Past members include drummer Terri Lyne Carrington, pianist Cyrus Chestnut, guitarist John Scofield, saxophonist Ernie Watts, and trumpeter Roy Hargrove.

BRUCE GERTZ



As an award winning bassist and composer Bruce Gertz is the recipient of National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Performance Award Grant, Massachusetts Cultural Council Musical Composition Award and numerous awards for outstanding Bassist from Boston Music Awards, A.S.C.A.P. Plus Popular Awards plus multiple recognition awards from The International Association of Jazz Educators and the Jazz Education Network, Bruce also served on the board of directors of the International Society of Bassists and now serves the Advisory Board and is a contributing editor in Bass World. Bruce has performed and recorded with such artists as Gary Burton, Jerry Bergonzi, John Abercrombie, Joey Calderazzo, Kenny Werner, Mick Goodrick, Kurt Rosenwinkel, Billy Hart, George Garzone, Mike Stern, Larry Coryell, Joe Lovano, Cab Calloway, Count Basie and many others. There is an extensive discography and more information to be found at: <http://www.openmindjazz.com/brucegertz>



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resource empowering learning specialists in
supporting all learners

www.nealsonline.org

ABOUT NEALS

Founded in 1999 by a small group of learning specialists in response to the growth of academic support programs and learning centers in independent schools, *NEALS' mission is to promote professional development for learning specialists, creating community through collaboration, support, and advocacy.* Recognized as a 501(c)(3) organization since 2004, and now managed and run by a Board of nine dedicated and passionate volunteer learning specialists, NEALS is proud to be the largest nonprofit for learning specialists in the world. *We aim to be the preeminent resource for strengthening knowledge, communication, and collaboration among learning specialists* and improving academic support services for all learners in northeast U.S. independent schools and beyond.

To this end, NEALS offers its members annual conferences with nationally renowned speakers as well as more intimate regional gatherings for members to share resources and strategies for students with learning disabilities or from other underrepresented populations. At meetings and on their private, online discussion board, members network with fellow learning specialists and discuss common issues and innovations in the profession. NEALS also offers its members private online access to peer-reviewed professional development resources and a regularly updated website with information and news pertinent to its members. We bring together learning specialists, often isolated in their schools, who are eager to provide the most efficacious support for children with learning disabilities.

In the spring of 2019 we celebrate our 20th anniversary with a two-day conference and gala to honor our mentors and a new generation of learning specialists, educators who tirelessly help students with learning challenges and disabilities to realize their full potential. Our conference will positively impact hundreds of teachers and, by extension, thousands of students in independent schools.

NEALS is rooted in the belief that ongoing professional development and networking are necessary for professional growth and program enhancement. The sustaining collaboration of our membership invigorates our mission and expands our initiatives for members' enduring support for students who rely on our strength and leadership.

Collaborate, Support, Advocate

