

at Rappahannock Community College. She is a founding member of the Virginia Autism Council and is certified in behavior analysis. Noel joined the ACE team in 2011 and supports public school divisions in the Northern Neck of Virginia, Hampton City, and Spotsylvania County.

**March 13, 2018**

### Summer in My Community

Summer is right around the corner. For most students, that means a long break from school. Summer brings opportunities to get involved with camps, programs, teams and much more! This webcast will discuss various summer options that are out in the community for children with autism to participate in, and how to find those things that will interest your child.

**Presenter:** Tammy Burns, M.Ed.



Tammy is the Outreach and Program Director at the Autism Society Central Virginia. Tammy has held leadership positions with the Society, including Board President and Office Manager. She received her BA from Virginia Tech in Elementary Education, and received her Masters of Education in Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) from Arizona State. Tammy is a Partners in Policymaking Graduate, and a volunteer Family Navigator for the Partnership for People with Disabilities at Virginia Commonwealth University Health System (VCUHS). She is a Certified Sibshop leader and also serves at the Chair of the Chesterfield County Special Education Advisory Committee.

**April 10, 2018**

### Summer is Almost Here: Now what do I do? A Parents Perspective

Summer is right around the corner. That means warmer weather, longer days, and of course schools out! As summer approaches, parents are asking "now what?" This webcast will focus on the parent's perspective of summer and what summer means for families of individuals with autism. Tips will be shared on how to really know what type of activities to look for based upon the child's strengths and interest, as well as how to open doors to opportunities in the community.

**Presenter:** Tammy Burns, M.Ed. (see previous bio)

**May 8, 2017**

### Understanding and Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders

Persons with ASD have an increased risk of developing psychiatric disorders when compared to the general population. Studies over the past 10 years indicate that between 67% and 71% of individuals with ASD have a comorbid psychiatric condition. Often, diagnosis overshadowing occurs, attributing behaviors with autism, not with a co-occurring mental health issues. Additionally, there are socioeconomic and cultural discrepancies in diagnosis. During this webcast, you will learn the co-occurring conditions often associated with ASD, characteristics, and how to get the support you need as well as things that you can do at home or school to make sure that your concerns are documented.

**Presenter:** Staci Carr, Ph.D.



Dr. Carr received a master's degree in education from Harvard University and a Ph.D. in Developmental Psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University. Since 1993, Staci has been working and conducting research in the field of Autism Spectrum Disorder, specifically addressing Social Skills Training and Social Competence, Quality of Life, Transition to College, and Relationships and Sexuality, and first responder training and preparedness. She has worked in Michigan, New York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Virginia developing programs to support individuals in a variety of settings with varying abilities. Additionally, Dr. Carr has consulted nationally on issues related to adolescents and young adults with ASD.

### HOW TO REGISTER

**Participation is free to anyone in the Virginia.** The webcasts are streamed live over the Internet at **3:30 p.m.** on the date listed. Individuals will receive confirmation of participation once registration online has been completed.

**Registration is quick and easy at the following URL:**

<http://www.vcuautismcenter.org/training/webcasts/upcoming.cfm>

Individuals and groups may register for a single webcast or the entire series. If you are unable to view a webcast live, you will be able to do so after the event through the ACE webcast archives.

**For additional information on this webcast series, contact:**  
[autismcenter@vcu.edu](mailto:autismcenter@vcu.edu) or call (855) 711-6987

**For technical questions about the webcasts, e-mail:**  
Teri Blankenship -- [tcblanke@vcu.edu](mailto:tcblanke@vcu.edu)



# 2017-2018 Webcast Schedule

**September 12, 2017** • The College Experience: Lessons Learned

**October 10, 2017** • ASD & Regulation: The Brain, Meltdowns, and Evidence-Based Practices -- Part 1

**November 14, 2017** • ASD & Regulation: The Brain, Meltdowns, and Evidence-Based Practices -- Part 2

**December 12, 2017** • Teachers as Instructional Leaders: Building Exemplary Teacher Paraprofessional Teams

**January 9, 2018** • Including Students with Autism in General Education Classrooms: Tips for Teacher

**February 13, 2018** • Tips for Administrators

**March 13, 2018** • Summer in My Community

**April 10, 2018** • Summer is Almost Here: Now What Do I Do? A Parent's Perspective

**May 8, 2018** • Understanding and Supporting the Mental Health Needs of Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders



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**September 12, 2017**

## The College Experience: Lessons Learned

Benjamin Allen, a veteran of Virginia's "I'm Determined" program, talks about the lessons learned in his recent college experience at the University of Mary Washington from the viewpoint of someone with Asperger's Syndrome. The advice and stories he shares will benefit anyone in the disability community who is planning to attend college.

**Presenter:** Benjamin Allen



Benjamin Allen is a 2016 graduate of the University of Mary Washington where he majored in history with a concentration in military history. He also pursued his interests in art and theatre. Having participated in Virginia's "I'm Determined" program for nearly 10 years -- first as a participant and then as a student leader -- Ben has embraced the principles of self-determination in pursuing his life goals. He is currently spending his time painting while he contemplates seeking a master's degree in military history.

**October 10, 2017**

## ASD & Regulation: The Brain, Meltdowns, and Evidence-Based Practices -- PART 1

The majority of learners on the spectrum experience self-regulation and sensory issues that can lead to meltdowns. This escalating sequence seems to follow a three-stage cycle: rumbling, rage, and recovery. This sequence can be problematic as many children and youth with ASD often endure the cycle unaware they are under stress. This session will give an overview of the issues related to self-regulation and sensory issues, highlighting research and interventions that address these needs.

**Presenter:** Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D.



Dr. Myles is an international speaker and consultant for the Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence, is the recipient of the Autism Society of America's Outstanding Professional Award, the Princeton Fellowship Award, and the Council for Exceptional Children, Division on Developmental Disabilities Burton Blatt Humanitarian Award. Brenda has made over 500 presentations all over the world and written more than 150 articles and books on ASD including *Asperger's Syndrome and Difficult Moments: Practical Solutions for Tantrums, Rage, and Meltdowns* (with Southwick) and *The Hidden Curriculum: Practical Solutions for Understanding Unstated rules in Social Situations*.

**November 14, 2017**

## ASD & Regulation: The Brain, Meltdowns, and Evidence-Based Practices -- PART 2

Stress and anxiety are common in children and youth with high functioning autism and Asperger Syndrome and is one of the most frequently observed symptoms. The stress experienced by individuals with ASD may manifest itself in many ways, but it sometimes leads to meltdowns. This session will overview the cycle and discuss evidence-based strategies that can be used at each stage. In addition, prevention strategies will be discussed because of the combination of innate stress and anxiety and the difficulty that children and youth with ASD have in understanding how they feel, it is important that those who work and live with them understand the cycle of tantrums, rage, and meltdowns as well as interventions that can be used during this cycle.

**Presenter:** Brenda Smith Myles, Ph.D. (see previous bio)

**December 12, 2017**

## Teachers as Instructional Leaders: Building Exemplary Teacher Paraprofessional Teams

Teachers often find themselves in the role of manager in the classroom and school because much of the teacher's job must be accomplished through others. Organizing schedules, planning for instruction and managing IEP accommodations for students often involve managing people. Staff, volunteers and parents are all part of the team that often need direction and encouragement so that they can contribute to the learning process. Many teachers report feeling unprepared for this part of their job. Teacher preparation programs often do not include strategies for working with support staff and other adults. This webcast includes strategies for establishing positive working relationships through planning, organization and communication with others who help with instruction.

**Presenter:** Paige Carter, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA,



Paige joined VCU ACE in 2015 as a technical assistance associate. She is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. She served as a special education teacher beginning in 1991, supporting mainly with students with autism and developmental delays in Hanover, Caroline and Spotsylvania school divisions. In 2006 Paige earned distinction as a National Board Certified Teacher. Paige is currently pursuing a PhD in Special Education and Disability Policy at VCU. Paige lives with her family in Caroline County, VA.

**January 9, 2018**

## Including Students with Autism in General Education Classrooms: Tips for Teacher

Students with autism are increasingly taught in inclusive and co-taught settings with high academic and social expectations. While education in the least restrictive environment is an exciting trend for students, meeting diverse needs of learners with autism can be a challenge for teachers whose preparation and experience did not include autism-specific strategies and content. This webcast, designed for teachers working with students with autism in general education and co-taught classrooms, will discuss successful strategies, tips for collaboration and support, and recommend resources to continue learning and expanding the professional toolkit.

**Presenter:** Joshua Taylor, M.Ed.



Josh is a Training Associate for Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Autism Center for Excellence and a Ph.D. student in the Special Education and Disability Policy program at VCU. He advocates for community inclusion through his work as an educational consultant with museums and cultural centers such as the Smithsonian, Richmond Symphony Orchestra, and the Kennedy Center. He previously worked an Autism Specialist in Arlington Public Schools, and has classroom experience supporting the inclusion of high school students with autism

**February 13, 2018**

## Tips for Administrators

Research suggests that successful inclusionary practices lead to great benefits for students with autism. While successful inclusion may be challenging, practical suggestions have been shown to lead school teams to successful outcomes for all students, not only those with ASD. The presenters will explore research related to outcomes of successful inclusive practices and examine perceptions that may support or preclude inclusion. The purpose of this webcast is to equip school personnel with tools and strategies needed to build inclusive schools.

**Presenters:** Paige Carter, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA (see previous bio) and Noel Woolard, M.Ed., BCBA, LBA



Noel has been working with people with autism since 1994. She holds degrees from the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and Rutgers University. In 2001 Noel worked as Program Director for Commonwealth Autism Services. In 2008, Noel created and is currently teaching autism coursework endorsed by the Virginia Autism Council