Self-Advocacy and ASD: Theory and Practice for All Ages -- PART 1

This session will introduce the core components of self-advocacy. Essential self-advocacy theory will be connected directly to strategies people with ASD use to self-advocate. An emphasis on self-advocacy across the lifespan will be made, and resources and ideas will be shared to help attendees get started with self-advocacy supports.

Presenter: Andrew Nelson, M.Ed., ISA-CI is the Director of Direct Services with the West Virginia Autism Training Center at Marshall University where he is also a doctoral candidate in Educational Leadership Studies. In his role, Andrew leads the center’s statewide mult-tiered direct service effort that supports individuals with autism. He has traveled globally to expand self-advocacy and leadership opportunities for people with ASD and to train others to use theatre-based techniques for ASD. Andrew is an Integrated Self-Advocacy Certified Instructor and founder of the Autism Theatre Network. He is the author of Foundation Role Plays for Autism, as well as several papers and publications on theatre and self-advocacy.

Self-Advocacy and ASD: Theory and Practice for All Ages -- PART 2

This session will continue to discuss the core components of self-advocacy, emphasizing the importance of disclosure, individual strengths and interests as well as civil rights. Essential self-advocacy theory will be connected directly to strategies people with ASD use to self-advocate. An emphasis on self-advocacy across the lifespan will be made, and resources and ideas will be shared to help attendees get started with self-advocacy supports.

Presenters: Andrew Nelson, M.Ed., ISA-CI

Systems to Support Inclusion

In this session, administrators from Evendale Elementary will share systems the school has in place to support all students of all abilities in an inclusive environment. This session will provide examples of ways teachers, service providers, support staff and administration work together on IEP development, service delivery, classroom supports, and data monitoring.

Presenter: Elizabeth Misretta and Kylan Coffman -- Elizabeth and Kylan serve the community of Evendale Elementary in Frederick Co., VA. Evendale is a school-wide Title I school with a regional program serving students with multiple disabilities. Elizabeth has served the Evendale community for the past eight years, three as assistant principal and five as principal. Kylan has recently completed her first year as assistant principal at Evendale. Her prior experience includes positions as an instructional coach, Title I math teacher, and general education teacher.

Virginia Commonwealth University’s Autism Center for Excellence (VCU-ACE) is funded by the Virginia State Department of Education (Grant #881-61172-H027A180107). VCU is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution providing access to education and employment without regard to age, race, color, national origin, gender, religion, sexual orientation, veteran’s status, political affiliation, or disability. If special accommodations or language translation are needed contact Valerie Brooke -- Voice (804) 828-1851 | TTY (804) 828-2494.