

Upcoming 2018 – Webcast Schedule

Webcasts are aired at 3:30 Eastern Time but can also be seen in as an Archived Webcast



October 9, 2018

Technology at School & Home for Students with Autism

We often hear that we live in a digital age in which there's an app for everything. While there is no question that recent technology has dramatically changed our day-to-day lives, how has it changed how we teach and learn? As we support our students and children to become independent in a digital world, how are we making sure that they have the technological tools and skills to be successful? This session will give a brief overview of what we know about how technology can best be used to increase learning. We will also look at how technology fits in with other evidence-based practices to maximize instruction and independence.

Presenter: Josh Taylor, M.Ed. -- Josh is a Training and Technical Assistance Associate for VCU's Autism Center for Excellence and Rehabilitation Research and Training Center. In these roles, he develops training, provides technical support, and conducts research into best practices for promoting lifelong success for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in school, work, and community settings. Josh is also a PhD student in the Special Education and Disability Policy program at VCU. He has over 10 years experience in public schools, most recently as an Autism Specialist in Arlington Public Schools, where he trained and coached teachers of students with autism spectrum disorders, grades Pre-K through age 22.

November 13, 2018

Increasing Student Achievement Through Family Engagement

This webcast was developed for Alexandria City Public Schools' teachers and other staff to become more aware of the importance of family engagement as well as to self reflect about their own levels and types of family engagement practices. This production was developed by the ACPS Autism and Behavior Team in collaboration with the Virginia Commonwealth University Autism Center for Excellence. The resources were made possible by a generous grant from the Virginia Department of Education.

Presenters: Erin Stone, BCBA -- Erin was first a special education teacher for students with emotional and behavioral disabilities before returning to school to receive her doctorate in Clinical & School Psychology from Hofstra University in Long Island, NY. She worked as a school psychologist while completing her dissertation then became a school administrator of a special education early childhood center in Brooklyn, NY. In her positions as psychologist and administrator, Erin began to specialize in autism to support students in her schools. She received her BCBA-D in 2008. Erin moved to Alexandria, VA in 2010 as a BCBA for Alexandria City Public Schools and is currently their Autism Services Coordinator.

Emily Helmboldt, BCBA, LBA, LPC -- Emily is currently a faculty member with the Autism Center of Excellence at the Rehabilitation Research and Training Center at VCU. She serves as a coordinator staff for the intensive school division technical assistance initiative, primary technical assistance provider for Alexandria City Public Schools and the Richmond Career, Education, and Employment Academy. She holds a Master's Degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from VCU/MCV and is licensed as a Professional Counselor and is a licensed Board Certified Behavior Analyst in Virginia. Ms Helmboldt previously served as a community resource manager with the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services, behavior consultant, job coach, and residential counselor.

December 11, 2018

Enjoying the Journey: How One Mom Embraced Autism One Step at a Time

Every parent's experience with Autism is different. This webcast will focus on how one parent learned to tap into social capital by developing support systems to help her family and her son understand Autism. Nicci is transparent and shares that although she is not an "Autism expert", she recognizes that the tips shared could benefit any parent who is beginning their journey with Autism.

Presenter: Nicci T. Dowd, Ed.S. -- Nicci received her Master's degree from Marymount University and is currently a doctoral candidate at Regent University. She has served on school and county committees related to advancing educational experiences for students with diverse learning needs. She initiated and currently serves as the chair of her school's I'M Determined Committee where she works alongside its members by connecting with key stakeholders while providing self-determination opportunities for students with disabilities. She actively participated in the Virginia Department of Education Applied Studies Diploma pilot project. She has served as an Advisory Board Member for the State of the Art Conference for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities. Nicci serves as a Parent Leader for the VDOE I'm Determined project.

March 13, 2018

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, P.Ed. 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.