

Conference Session Descriptions

Keynote: From Longing to Belonging - Beyond Inclusion - Shelly Christensen, Inclusion Innovations LLC



Inclusion isn’t enough. People want to belong, share their gifts, and contribute and participate in the things that are important to them. Author and inclusion movement leader, Shelly Christensen, will discuss a new perspective – the importance of belonging and supporting people to achieve their hopes, dreams, and goals. Shelly will provide an overview of what the community, congregations, service providers, and family members can do in the light of the Home and Community Based Services rulings.

Breakout Sessions (A-C; 11:15 a.m.-12:00 p.m.)

A. Spirit of Belonging - Shelly Christensen, Inclusion Innovations LLC

The Spirit of Belonging is a new way to think about participation in one’s chosen faith community. This session will guide participants through the process of supporting a person with a disability or mental health condition to learn what is important to them as they begin a deeper journey toward a true sense of belonging.

B. Trauma and Opioid Abuse - Donna Peissner, M.A.

Trauma and opioid abuse both impact the brain and have many adverse effects. This session, presented by Donna Peissner, M.A., will discuss those effects as well as the Adverse Childhood Experiences Study (ACEs).

C. What Is In It for Me (WILL-FM) - Sandy Keyser, Employment First Specialist, Department of Mental Health

One statement often heard in today’s workforce is that employers have a hard time finding quality staff and retaining them long-term. In this session you will learn about the benefits of hiring employees with disabilities, such as higher retention rates, productivity, and company loyalty.

Breakout Sessions (D-F; 1:00 p.m.-1:45 p.m.)

D. Structure of Inclusion - Shelly Christensen, Inclusion Innovations LLC

This session discusses strategies that faith-based organizations can follow to achieve a more balanced and inclusive culture. Participants will learn how to assess the current landscape, incorporate community conversations, set priorities, and develop a vision and accompanying “roadmap” to advance belonging and inclusion.

E. Missouri Connections - Polly Matteson, M.A.E., Missouri Career Pathways Regional Consultant

Missouri Connections is a comprehensive, online, career development and planning program that is provided free of charge to all Missouri citizens. Funded by the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, this program supports the career development efforts of schools, community organizations, and adult job seeker programs. Missouri Connections helps individuals learn about their talents, skills, and interests and makes the connection between planning for continued education and the work world. In this session, you will learn how to access Missouri Connections and all that it has to offer in supporting your career development and job search.

F. Guardianship Alternatives - Dolores Sparks, Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council

This session will highlight the new changes to guardianship law and provide a brief overview of the other available options to guardianship, including supported decision making.

Breakout Sessions (G-I; 2:15 p.m.-3:00 p.m.)

G. The Arc of Northeast Missouri - Deb Wohlers, Arc of Northeast Missouri

How can we all work together to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have a voice at local, state, and national levels? Through Northeast Missouri’s new Arc chapter! Come find out what the Arc of Northeast Missouri is, what it has to offer, and how you can get involved.

H. Therapy Panel - Ashley Anselmo, Terri Clay, Jessica Hall, David McLain, Kelly Sadler, Amanda Turnbull

There are a several types of therapies available in Northeast Missouri including equine therapy, music therapy, occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. This distinguished panel will discuss what they are, the benefits and how to access them.

I. DSP Crisis – What Can I Do? - Cyndi Johns, Human Resources Coordinator, LOQW, Inc. & MCCDDC

Whether you hire your own Direct Support Professionals, you are with an organization that provides supports and services to individuals with disabilities and their families, or you are a business owner or other community member; the DSP workforce crisis affects you. In this session, we will discuss how and why there is a crisis, and brainstorm ways to help with recruitment and retention of a qualified DSP workforce and increased community engagement.

Other Conference Opportunities - (\*Must Pre-Register)

\*Muffins and Manners - Brooke Bailey

Start the day off right by having a light breakfast and learning about proper manners during a meal. Through short videos and the help of the Truman State University Basketball teams, you will be shown the dos and don’ts of meal-time etiquette.

\*Planetarium Visit - Jared Young

Take the opportunity to visit the Del and Norma Robison Planetarium at Truman State University to watch a presentation showing the journey of protons racing through the world’s largest particle collider in Europe to up-close views of the Big Bang and emergent cosmos in *Phantom of the Universe*.

\*Career Tracks

Explore potential careers and jobs in the area and skills you would need for employment.

Vendors: Vendor booths will be available to visit during the conference registration and breaks.

Conference Committee:





# More Alike Than Different

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT CONFERENCE

*(formerly disAbility Awareness Day Conference)*

8:00 a.m.	-	9:00 a.m.	Muffins and Manners*
9:00 a.m.	-	9:45 a.m.	Registration and Vendors
9:10 a.m.	-	9:35 a.m.	Planetarium Visit*
9:45 a.m.	-	10:45 a.m.	Keynote: Shelly Christensen, Inclusion Innovations From Longing to Belonging – Beyond Inclusion
10:45 a.m.	-	11:15 a.m.	Break and Vendors
11:15 a.m.	-	12:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions (A, B, C)
12:00 p.m.	-	1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Vendors
12:00 p.m.	-	12:25 p.m.	Planetarium Visit*
12:35 p.m.	-	1:00 p.m.	Planetarium Visit*
1:00 p.m.	-	1:45 p.m.	Breakout Sessions (D, E, F)
1:45 p.m.	-	2:15 p.m.	Break and Vendors
2:15 p.m.	-	3:00 p.m.	Breakout Sessions (G, H, I)
3:00 p.m.	-	5:00 p.m.	Career Tracks

\*Optional – advance registration required

October 16, 2018

8 AM - 5 PM

Truman State University  
Student Union Building

**FREE**

Register online at  
[sb40life.org](http://sb40life.org)