

Distinguished Speaker Bios:

Steven G. Feifer, DEd, ABSNP is an internationally renowned speaker and author in the field of learning disabilities, and has authored six books on learning and emotional disorders in children. He has 19 years of experience as a school psychologist, and was voted the Maryland School Psychologist of the Year in 2008, and awarded the 2009 National School Psychologist of the Year. Dr. Feifer is a diplomate in school neuropsychology, and currently works as a faculty instructor in the ABSNP school neuropsychology training program. He continues to evaluate children in private practice at the Monocacy Neurodevelopmental Center in Frederick, MD, and consults with numerous school districts throughout the country. Dr. Feifer has authored two tests on diagnosing learning disabilities in children: the FAR and the FAM, both published by PAR.

Kurt Metz, Ph.D., NCSP, ABSNP, is Psychologist/Director – Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning (CETL) with The West Virginia Schools for the Deaf and the Blind. He holds a Master's degree in school counseling from Gallaudet University, an Ed.S. degree in school psychology from Auburn University, and a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Kentucky. Dr. Metz is also a Diplomate of the American Board of School Neuropsychology. As an individual who is hard of hearing since an early age, he has been involved in the specialty area of deafness and psychological assessments since 1994 and has acquired increasing mastery of American Sign Language (ASL) as a second language since 1989. Finally, Dr. Metz is co-author of a 2016 text on deafness and assessment, "Psychological and Psychoeducational Assessment of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children and Adolescents."

Lauren Kenworthy, PhD, is an associate professor of Neurology, Pediatrics, and Psychiatry at the George Washington University School of Medicine, and director of the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders at Children's National Health System. Kenworthy received her BA from Yale University and PhD from the University of Maryland. She did internship and residency training in clinical psychology/pediatric neuropsychology at Harvard Medical School, Children's Hospital Boston, Johns Hopkins Medical School and Mount Washington Pediatric Hospital. She has been on the faculty at Children's National and George Washington University School of Medicine since 1995. She is a co-author of the Behavior Rating Inventory of Executive Function (BRIEF), and her recent publications have focused on the role of executive dysfunction in autism and its treatment. She is author of a school based executive function intervention for children on the autism spectrum, "Unstuck and On Target," recently proven effective in a National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) funded trial of the intervention in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Amy Patenaude, Ed.S. NCSP is an Assessment Consultant for Multi-Health Systems (MHS) for the southeast region. Prior to working at MHS, Amy worked in Hillsborough County Public Schools for 6 years as a special education teacher, elementary education teacher, and school psychologist. Her areas of expertise include assessment, RtI/MTSS, PBS, and crisis intervention.

Jeff Tysinger, Ph.D. is an Associate Professor at Georgia Southern University. From 2003 to 2007, he was a member of the faculty at Emporia State University, in the nationally accredited School Psychology Program. He has worked as a school psychologist in Anchorage, Alaska and Louisiana in Lafourche Parish. He obtained his Ph.D. in school psychology with an emphasis in counseling and interventions from the University of Memphis. Working at all levels of the profession (specialist and doctoral practitioner and now a trainer) has given him a unique perspective and influenced his philosophy of school psychology. He regularly presents at the local, state, regional, and national conferences. He has been the President of the Kansas Association of School Psychologists (KASP), Editor of the KASP Newsletter, KASP Futures committee member, KASP NCSP committee member, member of National Association of School Psychologists (NASP) since 1997, Nationally Certified School Psychologist since 1997, NASP Program Reviewer, NCSP Portfolio Reviewer, Member of Georgia Association of School Psychologists, Red Cross Volunteer, member of the Journal of School Psychology Editorial Board, and member of the GSU Institute Review Board.

Maggie Kjer, Ph.D. is Pearson Assessment Consultant for Georgia and Regional Manager for the Clinical Assessment team in the southeastern United States. Maggie's background is in special education and assessment. Maggie's teaching career spans over 20 years and includes teaching experiences on three continents and several different states. Maggie primarily worked in self contained EBD programs with struggling high school students. She has been with Pearson since 2000 and currently resides in Georgia.

S. Kathleen Krach, Ph.D., NCSP is Assistant Professor, Educational Psychology and Learning Systems: School Psychology at Florida State University. She earned her undergraduate, master's and education specialists degrees in school psychology at University of Georgia. In 2003, she was awarded her Ph.D. in school psychology from Texas A&M University. She was a bilingual school psychologist with Henry County Schools in McDonough, GA for several years. In addition to FSU, she has taught at Troy University and University of Nevada Las Vegas. Dr. Krach is an accomplished author and researcher. The primary purpose of her research is to improve the practice of school psychology. This is accomplished through research in training, assessment, and intervention practices; specifically in the field of social-emotional / behavioral skills with a particular emphasis in the use of emerging technologies. Dr. Krach's end goal is to produce excellent school practitioners and tools for them to use in their work.