Smart Moves Toward Student Success:
EXPANDING HORIZONS FOR STUDENTS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Thursday, November 19 – Friday, November 20, 2015
Lone Star College-Tomball, Beckendorf Conference Center
30555 Tomball Parkway, Tomball, TX 77375

LoneStar.edu/horizon-conference
Dear Expanding Horizons Attendees,

Welcome to Lone Star College and the 9th Annual Institute on Learning Differences, Expanding Horizons Conference. We are excited to hold this year’s conference at LSC-Tomball, where we are piloting the first national replication of Bellevue College’s OLS® degree with a cohort of eight students for the Fall 2015 semester.

OLS® at LSC-Tomball is a part-time, 4-year associate’s degree program in occupational and life skills specifically designed for students with cognitive disabilities. We have had an extraordinary level of community and trustee support for this program. In fact, Dr. Holsey, one of our trustees asked that we bring this program to Lone Star College after attending a presentation by Bellevue College at the Association of Community College Trustees Annual Congress in October 2015! He saw the need and asked that we do the right thing. OLS® at LSC-Tomball will be highlighted in the keynote event and two other sessions.

LSC is honored to welcome our conference foundational partner and sponsor, Landmark College and to thank our second sponsor, AHEAD in Texas. We have a long history with Landmark College and are proud of our partnership. Lone Star College values our community collaborations, both new and old. Together, we can learn about, implement, and support best practices in serving students who learn differently. Partnership is just one of the ways we are working towards student success and towards expanding horizons for students with learning differences. Thank you for joining us.

Again, welcome and enjoy the conference!

Stephen C. Head, Ph.D.
Chancellor, Lone Star College
Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Lone Star College Expanding Horizons Conference. We are honored to provide this opportunity, and we appreciate your presence and participation.

Four key values define the culture and vision of LSC-Tomball: Community, Connection, Leadership & Learning. Serving as host of the 9th Annual Institute on Learning Differences enables us to fulfill each of these values. By having this important conference at our college we are able to: (1) engage with a community of educators who have hearts for students with learning differences, (2) interact with colleagues from all over the country, (3) demonstrate our commitment as a college to lead the way in serving this student population, and (4) give others an opportunity to acquire new knowledge and understanding.

As participants in this conference you have demonstrated your own commitment to serving some of our most deserving students. Thank you for taking your time to be here, to contribute, and to take back new information to your respective institutions.

Sincerely,

Lee Ann Nutt, Ed.D.
President, Lone Star College-Tomball
What is OLS® at LSC-Tomball?

This innovative program gives adults with cognitive disabilities the opportunity to obtain an accredited college degree that leads to post-graduation employment rates well above the national average. Lone Star College is modeling this program after OLS® at Bellevue College.

OLS® students complete courses that are occupational and life skills based. The OLS® curriculum facilitates creation of a career pathway that is specific to their skills, strengths, and passions. An internship of over 200+ hours related to their career pathway is completed during their last two semesters.
Featuring Keynote Speaker

Marci Muhlestein

Marci Muhlestein, Director of OLS National Network located at Bellevue College, has spent her career working with individuals with varying disabilities of all ages. With an extensive background in the field of education of persons with disabilities, she has assisted many with successful transitions into the workplace and independent living arrangements. A key aspect of Marci’s focus is the creation, development, and implementation of a successful working model for OLS at other community colleges. Under Marci’s direction, Bellevue College is currently putting resources into developing an OLS National Network that supports, empowers, and propels this higher education model into existence in multiple locations around the nation. For more information about Marci and OLS visit: olsatbellevuecollege.com.

Linda Hecker, M.Ed.

At Landmark, Linda has directed tutorial and teacher training programs, taught English, study skills, and music classes, and served as an academic advisor and academic dean. She was appointed to the Landmark College Institute for Research and Training in 2001, and currently serves as a Lead Education Specialist. She frequently presents workshops, seminars and graduate courses for educators and parents. Ms. Hecker is the author of numerous articles and book chapters, including work on multi-sensory learning and assistive technology. She received her B.A. from Brandeis University and her M.Ed. from the University of Hartford. Linda has an active second life as an avid amateur violinist/violist who performs in many regional orchestras and ensembles. She also loves hiking, kayaking and biking the by-ways of Vermont. See more at: landmark.edu/institute/meet-the-institute.

Special Thursday Evening Session

Daniel J. Fox, Ph.D.

“Path to Empowerment: Overcoming Intellectual Disability and Autism to Achieve Vocational & Academic Success”

Specializing in intellectual, cognitive, academic, and neuropsychological assessment with children and adults. Over 15 plus years of experience in providing therapy and assessment services to children and adults, as well as an international presenter to psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, psychiatric nurses and other mental health professionals. He has two locations in The Woodlands and north Houston. More information about Dr. Fox is available online at drdfox.com
7:30 - 8:30 am  REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

8:30 - 9 am  WELCOME TO LONE STAR COLLEGE!
Dr. Lee Ann Nutt, President, LSC-Tomball
Dr. Steve Head, Chancellor, Lone Star College

9:15 - 10:30 am  KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
“Socially Infused Classrooms”
Marci Muhlestein, OLS Bellevue College

10:30 - 10:45 am  BREAK

10:45 - 11:45 am  CONCURRENT BLOCK I
Session A: “Introduction to LSC’s new Degree: OLS an Associate Degree for Adults with Cognitive Disabilities”
Marci Muhlestein, OLS Bellevue College & Dr. Anne Ginnett: LSC-Tomball
Session B: “Understanding Executive Function: Smart but Scattered”
Linda Hecker, M.Ed., Landmark College

12 - 12:45 pm  LUNCH

1 - 2 pm  CONCURRENT BLOCK II
Session A: “Veterans’ Experiences and Transitioning to the Classroom”
Steven Hall MPA, AF (Ret), LSC Veterans Services
Session B: “Disability Issues and Faculty Rights”
Lee Ann Leibst, LSC-Kingwood & Carolyn DeFlanders: LSC-Tomball

2 - 3 pm  CONCURRENT BLOCK III
Session A: “Accommodations: The Woes and Cons?”
Seth J. Batiste, Ph.D., LSC-North Harris
Session B: “Collaborative Problem Solving: Empowering Student Led Change”
Marci Muhlestein, OLS Bellevue College

3 - 3:15 pm  BREAK

3:15 - 5 pm  CLOSING ADDRESS DAY 1
“Cognitive Diversity: Meeting the Challenge of Serving All Students”
Linda Hecker, M.Ed., Landmark College

5 - 6:30 pm  VIP EVENT

6:30 - 8 pm  SPECIAL EVENING BLOCK: “Path to Empowerment: Overcoming Intellectual Disability and Autism to Achieve Vocational & Academic Success”
Daniel J. Fox, Ph.D., Applied Psychological Services, PLLC
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<td>Dr. Meagan Sumbera, Texas A&amp;M University &amp; Cheryl Grenwelge, Texas</td>
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CONCURRENT BLOCK I
10:45 - 11:45 am

Session A: “Introduction to the new LSC degree: OLS an Associate Degree for Adults with Cognitive Disabilities”
Marci Muhlestein, OLS Bellevue College & Dr. Anne Ginnett, LSC-Tomball

OLS is an innovative degree program for adults with cognitive disabilities that had its first LSC cohort start fall of 2015. This presentation will introduce the OLS program including the students, the replicating model, and the beginnings here at Lone Star College-Tomball. Unique elements of this successful program will be discussed with suggestions for enhancing the success of other college classrooms specific to students with disabilities.

Session B: “Partying, Procrastination and Panic: Executive Function Goes to College”
Linda Hecker, M.Ed., Landmark College

Why do many bright students spin their wheels when they get to college, struggling with organization, sustaining effort or attention, and getting their work done on time? These could be signs of Executive Function (EF) challenges. EF refers to brain-based abilities that allow us to harness our energy and focus on goals—in short, EF allow us to manage ourselves and get things done. This session will provide a practical model of executive function and explore how educators can support students in learning to successfully manage the EF challenges inherent in an academic setting.

Special Lunch Break out Session: Audience – Disability Service Providers
“A Case Study of Four Directors of Disability Resources and Services: Their Narratives on Accessible-izing the College Experience for Students with Disabilities”
Ken Breslow, M.A., LSSP, APCE Doctoral Candidate

CONCURRENT BLOCK II
1 - 2 pm

Session A: “Veterans’ Experiences and Transitioning to the Classroom”
Steven Hall MPA, AF (Ret), LSC Veterans Services

Faculty and Staff will gain a richer understanding of Veterans’, Active Duty, and Military-Affiliated experiences/perspectives and gain additional insight into developing ways in assisting to successfully facilitate transitioning into the classroom.

Session B: “Disability Issues and Faculty Rights”
Lee Ann Liebst, LSC-Kingwood & Carolyn DeFlanders, LSC-Tomball

Higher education instructors have a responsibility to implement ADA classroom accommodations, once they receive information about the accommodation from the student or the disability services provider. Join this session to learn about faculty rights and responsibilities regarding ADA from counselors who are experienced at working collaboratively with faculty and students to create successful strategies for implementing classroom accommodations.
CONCURRENT BLOCK III
2 - 3 pm

**Session A:** “Accommodations: The Woes and Cons?”
Seth J. Batiste, Ph.D., LSC-North Harris

Brief anecdotes of successful and unsuccessful strategies of working with students who are using accommodations in Developmental English courses. Strategies that have worked, and strategies that have not worked will be presented.

**Session B:** “Collaborative Problem Solving: Empowering Student Led Change”
Marci Muhlestein, OLS Bellevue College

Understanding the concepts of Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) – collaborating with a student to come up with a livable solution to an unsolved problem getting in the way of student success. Empowering a student to change through a using a framework of student driven problem solving. Practical application of CPS with a college student.

Everyone wants to look good, especially college students with their instructors. So why are there times when students who want to look good, mess up? CPS is a way to dig, find ah-ha moments and create a student driven action plan to empower the student to make a change and get results. Participants will first learn the framework of CPS. Listen to examples of this process being successful and not so successful. And end with time to practice this new framework with simulations of likely student/instructor scenarios.

CLOSING ADDRESS DAY 1
3:15 - 5 pm
“Celebrating Cognitive Diversity”
Linda Hecker, M.Ed., Landmark College

Colleges traditionally value many kinds of student diversity, including ethnic, gender, and socio-economic status. What about cognitive diversity? How do students with alternative learning profiles contribute to the discourse of ideas and problem-solving activities we associate with higher learning? This session reframes traditional notions of learning disability as cognitive diversity, offering examples from current research. It also suggests ways to capitalize on students’ unique strengths while scaffolding areas of challenge so they can persist and thrive in a college setting.

SPECIAL EVENING BLOCK
6:30 pm
“Path to Empowerment: Overcoming Intellectual Disability and Autism to Achieve Vocational & Academic Success”
Daniel J. Fox, Ph.D., Applied Psychological Services, PLLC

Dr. Fox will be discussing the identification and differentiation between intellectual disability and autism, and how the various levels of functioning relates to knowledge, skills, and ability within an academic and employment environment.
CONCURRENT BLOCK IV
9 - 9:45 am

Session A: “Classroom Accommodations - Doing the Right Thing”
Stephanie Dillon, MHS, CRC, LSC-CyFair, Vicky Saunders, MA, CRC, LSC-Montgomery, and Kristin Lue King, MSW, LSC-System Office

Reasonable accommodations include adjustments to policy, procedure or practice and the provision of auxiliary aids and services, designed to provide equal access to programs and services for qualified individuals with disabilities. Emphasizing the importance of the interactive process, this session examines the process of determining accommodations and working with the student and faculty to support the student’s academic goals.

Session B: “Work, College, Self-Advocacy: Three Opportunities for a Successful Adult Life”
Meagan Sumbera, Ph.D., Texas A&M University & Cheryl Grenwelge, Ph.D., Texas A&M University, PATHS Certificate Program

To provide individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (ID/DD) access to an inclusive postsecondary education program, which prepares them for employment in the health and human service field at Texas A&M University

Partnerships: Brazos Valley Center for Independent Living (BVCL), Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS), Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, other local agencies, health care providers, and individuals with disabilities seeking direct support.

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS:
“Best Practice: Those Who Learn Differently”
10 - 11:30 am
Power Blocks: Rotate Through Table Presentations (25 minutes each)

Gail Fisher, M.Ed.
This round table discussion compresses 4 hours of instruction covering learning differences in the areas of sensory integration and behavior interventions as previously presented in the community, to families & professionals.

Jenise Cronan
Stop by this round table discussion to learn about Autumn’s Dawn, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) adult service provider. We are devoted to helping young adults with Autism Spectrum Disorders prepare for life as independent adults and make a successful transition full of new beginnings.

Claudine Simpson, Ph.D.
This round table discussion will focus on smart steps to ensure success at the college through the eyes of the Humble ISD MOSAIC Transition Program.

Benjamin Gregersen, M.A.
The ALEKS web-based program is an artificial intelligence that helps to address where a student is and delivers the material that is most appropriate for that particular student at any given time. As an “emporium style” Open Lab, students do not attend at a specific scheduled time and the instructor becomes a facilitator and on-demand tutor. This round table discussion provides an overview of the course design, with focus on how the software works and how it is applied in an emporium classroom.

Gwen Vastine, B.S.
Helping Students Who Learn Differently Succeed in Math – I will be relating my experience working with students from the last few years, especially those identified as having accommodations, as to what helped them succeed in math. We have had some real success stories!
CONCURRENT BLOCK VI
12:30 - 1:15 pm

Session A: “Video Captioning: A Faculty Sample of the Process”
Erika Landry, M.Ed. & Cynthia Shade, B.F.A.

Follow the journey that one Lone Star College faculty member took to add her own captions to a short video created for her online course. Learn about the tasks and tools needed to caption a video for online instruction.

Session B: “Assistive Technology at Lone Star College, What’s at Hand?”
Kelly Green & Iris Hansen, M.S.

Do you want to know what assistive technology (AT) students can use to accomplish class goals? This session tells you what AT is available at Lone Star College, how it works, and where to access it.

CLOSING ADDRESS DAY II
“Universal Design in the Online Environment”
Eric Nathan, Ed.D., Director Online Faculty Support & Michael Fine, LSC-Instructional Technologist II

The topics primarily covered during this session will include ways to design and develop your online course based on principles of Universal Design such as making non-html content (PDFs, Word docs and PowerPoints) accessible; and adding captions and providing transcripts for rich media content such as audio and video.