

Parent Scholarships Available

**NEW!**

We are bringing the  
PEAL Conference  
to your community!



3 different locations in 3 days!  
March 28, 29 and 30

¡Traemos la  
Conferencia de PEAL  
a su comunidad!

¡3 diferentes localizaciones  
en 3 días!  
28, 29 y 30 de Marzo

**Northwest PA - Noroeste PA**

Wednesday, March 28  
Miércoles 28 de Marzo  
Edinboro, PA

**Southwest PA - Suroeste PA**

Thursday, March 29 - Jueves 29 de Marzo  
Washington, PA

**Central PA - Centro PA**

Friday, March 30 - Viernes 30 de Marzo  
State College, PA

**Keynote Speakers**

Destacado Orador Principal



**Christi Kasa**  
University of Colorado



**Julie Causton-Theoharis**  
Syracuse University



Sponsored by

- PEAL Center
- PA Developmental Disabilities Council
- PA Training and Technical Assistance Center (PaTTAN)
- Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit #5
- Disability Rights Network of Pennsylvania

Community Sponsors

- Mission Empower
- Parent to Parent of PA
- Pennsylvania Department of Health-Bureau of Family Health Programs
- Pressley Ridge School for Autism
- Value Behavioral Health of PA



# Keynote Speakers



## **Christi Kasa, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Department Chair Special Education  
College of Education  
University of Colorado at Colorado Springs



## **Julie Causton-Theoharis, Ph.D.**

Associate Professor  
Inclusive and Special Education Program in  
the Department of Teaching and Leadership  
The Center on Human Policy,  
Law and Disability Studies  
Syracuse University

# Keynote Address

## ***Include, Belong, Learn: Creating Successful Inclusive Schools and Classrooms***

How do we create inclusive schools for ALL students? This keynote focuses on why inclusive classrooms are the most effective educational placement for students with and without disabilities. The goal is to inspire all who attend to re-think our traditional systems of segregation for students with disabilities to create inclusive schools and communities.

# Conference at a Glance

**8:00-9:00**

Registration & Continental Breakfast

**9:00-10:15**

Keynote

**10:15-10:30**

Break & Chinese Auction

**10:30-12:00**

Breakout Session

**12:00-1:00**

LUNCH & Chinese Auction

**1:00-2:30**

Breakout Session

**2:30-3:00**

Closing & Auction Drawings

## **Two Great New Resources from PEAL funded by the PA Developmental Disabilities Council**

Good news for parents and educators!  
All conference participants will receive two strategy packed resources by our Keynote Speakers, Julie and Christi, written specifically for the PEAL Center.

### ***Achieving Inclusion: What Every Parent Should Know When Advocating for their Child***

Review what the research says about inclusion and find answers to questions parents have about inclusive education. This booklet is packed with strategies for working collaboratively with your school team to make inclusive education a reality.

### ***Top 10 Most Effective Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms***

Not sure where to start? You'll want to keep this resource handy! In here you will find strategies to support students with disabilities to be active participants and learners in the general education classroom.



# Inclusion L-CONNECT

create your own community

## NEW this year

We are bringing the annual PEAL Conference closer to your neighborhood!

Join us at a location near you and connect to parents and professionals in your community.

### Northwest PA

Wednesday, March 28  
The Northwest Tri-County Intermediate Unit  
252 Waterford Street  
Edinboro, PA 16412

### Southwest PA

Thursday, March 29  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh  
Meadow Lands  
340 Racetrack Road  
Washington, PA 15301

### Central PA

Friday, March 30  
Ramada Conference Center State College  
1450 S Atherton Street  
State College, PA 16801

## Chinese Auction

A Chinese Auction will be held at each location featuring items donated by local merchants and community groups. Buy tickets and shop for your favorite prizes! You could go home with a gift card for dinner at a local restaurant, bath and beauty products or tickets for a local attraction.

### Presenters' Titles available for purchase at the Conference



#### *Through the Same Door: Inclusion Includes College*

A Film by Paul Rossen

Winner of the 2006 TASH Image Award for the Positive Portrayal of People with Disabilities



The survival guide every paraprofessional needs

#### *The Paraprofessional's Handbook for Effective Support in Inclusive Classrooms*

By Julie Causton-Theoharis, Ph.D.



DVD from Rebecca Klaw

#### *Thoughtful Response to Agitation, Escalation and Meltdowns in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders*

Valuable advice with understanding, compassion and humor.

## Northwest PA

Wednesday, March 28th

8:00-9:00		Registration & Continental Breakfast
9:00-10:15	KEYNOTE	Include, Belong, Learn — Kasa
10:15-10:30		BREAK
10:30-12:00	BREAKOUT	Achieving Inclusion — Kasa Perspectives on Dyslexia — Paluselli Through Same Door — Fialka-Feldman
12:00-1:00		LUNCH & Chinese Auction
1:00-2:30	BREAKOUT	Top 10 Strategies – Kasa Thoughtful Response – Klaw Let's Get Social – Lubetsky
2:30-3:00		Closing & Auction Drawing

### ***Achieving Inclusion: What Every Parent and Educator Should Know When Advocating for Students***

**Christi Kasa**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Colorado  
**Julie Causton-Theoharis**, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Syracuse Univ.

What do you do when your school isn't offering an inclusive placement? All students can be educated within the context of the general education setting with appropriate supports. This interactive session will provide strategies to parents and educators who wish to have students educated in the general education classroom, but have had limited success or are just beginning this journey. Our goal is to share specific strategies for working collaboratively with a school team to make inclusive education a reality.

**Wednesday, March 28 in Edinboro, PA (Northwest PA)**  
**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**  
**Friday, March 30 in State College, PA (Central PA)**

### ***Perspectives on Dyslexia***

**Maria Paluselli**, M.S.Ed.  
Educational Consultant/Trainer, Winsor Learning

This presentation will describe the characteristics of dyslexia, the most common learning disability. Participants will learn how dyslexia can be identified and what resources are available for help. An overview of the Orton-Gillingham Approach will be described and instructional strategies will be modeled.

**Wednesday, March 28 in Edinboro, PA (Northwest PA)**  
**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**

### ***Through the Same Door: Living an Inclusive Life***

**Micah Fialka-Feldman**, Disability Activist, Syracuse University

Join Micah as he shares his life experiences and commitment to building community for himself and others. He recently completed the OPTIONS program at Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Since first grade, when he told his parents he wanted to go in the same door as all of his friends, he has been fully included in his school, in his community, and on a college campus. He will share his award-winning video about his college experience, "Through the Same Door".

Along with Micah's social and political commitments and pioneering spirit, he has a cognitive impairment.

**Wednesday, March 28 in Edinboro, PA (Northwest PA)**  
**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**  
**Friday, March 30 in State College, PA (Central PA)**

### ***Top 10 Most Effective Strategies in Inclusive Classrooms***

**Christi Kasa**, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Colorado  
**Julie Causton-Theoharis**, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Syracuse Univ.

What is the most effective way to educate students with disabilities within the inclusive classroom? Students with disabilities can thrive in the general education classroom when curriculum is designed to allow access for all. During this interactive session, the speaker will both demonstrate strategies and teach participants to construct materials that can support students with disabilities to actively participate in the inclusive classroom. This presentation also includes the most successful paraprofessional supports.

**Wednesday, March 28 in Edinboro, PA (Northwest PA)**  
**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**  
**Friday, March 30 in State College, PA (Central PA)**

### ***Thoughtful Response to Agitation, Escalation and Meltdowns in Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders***

**Rebecca Klaw**, MS, M.Ed.  
Autism Consultant, Autism Services by Klaw

This workshop will propose a way of understanding individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) and using that understanding to guide both proactive and, if necessary, reactive responses to escalating agitation. The premise of this presentation is that consequences don't always, or even often, work with individuals with ASD who are, by the nature of their diagnosis, easily frustrated and often inflexible. A familiarity with the characteristics of autism is recommended for this workshop.

**Wednesday, March 28 in Edinboro, PA (Northwest PA)**  
**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**

## Southwest PA

Thursday, March 29th

Registration & Continental Breakfast

Include, Belong, Learn — Theoharis/Kasa

### BREAK

Achieving Inclusion – Kasa/Theoharis  
Perspectives on Dyslexia — Paluselli  
Writing Standards-Aligned – Nilles  
Thoughtful Response – Klaw

### LUNCH & Chinese Auction

Top 10 Strategies – Theoharis  
Successful Inclusion/Autism - Kasa  
Through Same Door – Fialka-Feldman  
Let's Get Social – Frohnapfel  
Closing & Auction Drawing

## Central PA

Friday, March 30th

Registration & Continental Breakfast

Include, Belong, Learn — Theoharis

### BREAK

Achieving Inclusion — Kasa / Theoharis  
Let's Get Social – Frohnapfel  
Through Same Door – Fialka-Feldman

### LUNCH & Chinese Auction

Top 10 Strategies – Kasa  
The iPad – Campbell  
Paraprofessional - Theoharis  
Closing & Auction Drawing

### ***Let's Get Social, Understanding the Components of a Social Skills Program!***

**Michelle Lubetsky, M.Ed., BCBA**  
**Carrie Frohnapfel**

IDEA Training and Consultation Coordinators, AIU 3

This session will discuss the rationale and components of a social skills training approach, choosing specific social skills for training, development of goals for the IEP, implementation of social skills training programs, and data collection for progress monitoring. We will focus on utilizing student strengths to build and generalize the social skills necessary to form lasting relationships.

**Wednesday, March 28 in Edinboro, PA (Northwest PA)**  
**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**  
**Friday, March 30 in State College, PA (Central PA)**

### ***Writing Standards-Aligned Measurable Goals for Secondary IEPs***

**Rosemary Nilles, M.Ed. BCBA, Educational Consultant, PaTTAN**

Federal requirements for IEPs for students ages 14 and older include "coordinated, measurable, annual IEP goals, and transition services that will lead to post-secondary goals." Measurable annual goals aligned to Pennsylvania Academic Standards for reading and/or math are required for students who will take the PSSA-M, and recommended as effective practice for all students. This session will review the process for developing standards-aligned measurable annual goals that contain the four required parts: condition, student name, clearly defined behavior, and performance criteria.

**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**

### ***Successful Inclusion for Students with Autism***

**Christi Kasa, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Colorado**

Increasingly people labeled with autism are sharing their insights as to how they experience school, community participation, and autism. This session is designed to engage the audience in considering autism from the perspective of people who have autism. Successful strategies for creating a quality inclusive program will be discussed.

**Thursday, March 29 in Washington, PA (Southwest PA)**

### ***The iPad: How this mainstream device is changing the world of disability***

**Jonathan Campbell, Assistive Technology Specialist,**  
**Simon Technology Center, PACER Center**

The iPad is barely 2 years old and not only has it changed computing, it has made a huge impact on the disability community. The iPad was designed to be a universal device, with buttons that can move and be any size, where the slightest touch is all that is needed to use it. We'll take a closer look at how the iPad is being used at schools, by therapists and families to help children with disabilities reach their full potential. We'll even take a look at the steps Apple has taken to make the iPad truly universal and accessible to everyone, even if you can't see the screen or have motor difficulties.

**Friday, March 30 in State College, PA (Central PA)**

### ***Making Paraprofessional and Adult Support Most Effective in the Inclusive Classroom***

**Julie Causton-Theoharis, Ph.D., Assoc. Professor, Syracuse Univ.**

This interactive presentation focuses on supporting students in the inclusive classroom. Topics include how to effectively support students academically, behaviorally, and socially. We will explore topics of increasing independence, fading support, and peer interdependence. This presentation will be filled with useful ideas that you can take and use tomorrow to make your classrooms more inclusive.

**Friday, March 30 in State College, PA (Central PA)**

# General Information

## Conference Locations and Dates

### Northwest PA

Wednesday, March 28  
The Northwest Tri-County  
Intermediate Unit  
252 Waterford Street  
Edinboro, PA 16412

#### Driving Directions:

From I-79 exit onto US 6N East

### Southwest PA

Thursday, March 29  
DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Pittsburgh  
Meadow Lands  
340 Racetrack Road  
Washington, PA 15301

#### Driving Directions:

From I-79 exit onto Racetrack Road

### Central PA

Friday, March 30  
Ramada Conference Center State  
College  
1450 S. Atherton Street  
State College, PA 16801

#### Driving Directions:

On Business Route 322 in State College

## Registration Options

Conference Registration deadline  
Monday, March 20, 2012 at Midnight.

There is a \$10 fee for on-site  
registration and registrations received  
after the deadline.

Online registration is available at  
[www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org) or submit your  
registration form by mail or fax  
412-281-4408.

We accept checks, cash, purchase  
orders, credit cards or online payments  
through our website.

Payment in full or proof of purchase  
order must be received in advance or  
on-site at Conference Registration.

## NO REFUNDS

All Conference plans and costs are  
based upon pre-registration. If you  
must cancel or leave early during the  
conference, we regret that we cannot  
offer refunds or release purchase  
orders.

## Note to Parents and Persons with Disabilities

If the Registration Fee would prohibit  
your participation, please contact  
Cindy Duch at the PEAL Center,  
1-866-950-1040.

## Meals

Continental Breakfast and Lunch  
is covered by the conference  
registration fee.

Coffee and tea will be provided  
during the morning break.

Please indicate on the registration  
form if you are requesting a vegetarian  
meal or have any other dietary  
restrictions.

## Sponsors & Donors

Additional sponsorships opportunities  
are available. Go to the Sponsor &  
Donor link on the PEAL website,  
[www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org) to review the many  
options.

Advertise your business by donating  
an item or gift card to the Chinese  
Auction.

Contact Ceil Belasco, 412-281-4404,  
1-866-950-1040 or e-mail  
[cbelasco@pealcenter.org](mailto:cbelasco@pealcenter.org) with  
questions.

## Exhibitors

This year's conference venues have  
very limited exhibit spaces available.  
Organizations interested in exhibiting  
should explore the exhibitor options at  
the Sponsors and Donors link on the  
PEAL website, [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)

Call Ceil Belasco with questions at 412-  
281-4404, 1-866-950-1040 or e-mail  
Ceil at [cbelasco@pealcenter.org](mailto:cbelasco@pealcenter.org)

## Request Accommodations in Advance

Persons requiring accommodations  
under the Americans with Disabilities  
Act (ADA) contact Ceil Belasco, 412-  
281-4404, 1-866-950-1040 or e-mail  
[cbelasco@pealcenter.org](mailto:cbelasco@pealcenter.org) to discuss  
needed accommodations.

ASL and Spanish Interpreters  
will be available for the keynote  
presentations.

Interpretation for Breakout Sessions  
will be available upon request.

**ASL e Interpretación en Español será  
disponible para las presentaciones  
de apertura. Interpretación  
para sesiones de trabajo estarán  
disponibles a petición.**

## Registration Rates

Parent, Persons with  
Disabilities, Family Members,  
Paraprofessionals and Students  
—\$50 per day

Educators, Professionals & Agency  
Representatives  
—\$100 per day

Scholarship Rate for Parents and  
Persons with Disabilities  
—\$25 per day

You can choose to attend at  
more than one location. The  
registration fee will be charged  
for each day.

# Conference Registration Form

Register and pay on-line at [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  Home  Work  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home phone \_\_\_\_\_ Alternate phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Email Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 School District \_\_\_\_\_ IU \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
 Employer \_\_\_\_\_

## PLEASE INDICATE TITLE

- Check all that apply:  
 Parent/Family Member  
 Person with a disability  
 Student: School \_\_\_\_\_  
 Professional/Other  
 Paraprofessional  
 (Optional) I would identify myself as culturally and/or racially diverse

## CHOOSE your Conference LOCATION(S)

### Edinboro/Erie County

#### Wednesday, March 28

CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME SLOT

10:30-12:00

- Achieving Inclusion – Kasa  
 Perspectives on Dyslexia – Paluselli  
 Through Same Door – Fialka-Feldman

1:00-2:30

- Top 10 Strategies – Kasa  
 Thoughtful Response – Klaw  
 Let's Get Social – Lubetsky

### Meadowlands/Washington Co.

#### Thursday, March 29

CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME SLOT

10:30-12:00

- Achieving Inclusion – Kasa/Theoharis  
 Perspectives on Dyslexia – Paluselli  
 Writing Standards-Aligned – Nilles  
 Thoughtful Response – Klaw

1:00-2:30

- Top 10 Strategies – Theoharis  
 Successful Inclusion/Autism - Kasa  
 Through Same Door – Fialka-Feldman  
 Let's Get Social – Frohnapfel

### State College/Centre Co.

#### Friday, March 30

CHOOSE ONE SESSION PER TIME SLOT

10:30-12:00

- Achieving Inclusion – Kasa/Theoharis  
 Let's Get Social – Frohnapfel  
 Through Same Door – Fialka-Feldman

1:00-2:30

- Top 10 Strategies – Kasa  
 The iPad – Campbell  
 Paraprofessional - Theoharis

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEES

Students, Parents, Persons with Disabilities, Family Members, Paraprofessionals

\$50 per day \_\_\_\_\_

Educators, Professionals & Agency Representatives

\$100 per day \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship for Parents, Persons with Disabilities, Family Members

\$25 per day \_\_\_\_\_

DONATION: I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to PEAL Center

PEAL is a 501(c)3 organization and all gifts are tax deductible

DONATION AMOUNT = \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL DUE** . . . . . \_\_\_\_\_

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION DEADLINE — Tuesday, March 20, 2012, at Midnight.

There is a \$10 fee for on-site registration and registrations received after the deadline.

### I need the following:

- Veggie Meal  
 ASL Interpreter  
 Spanish Interpreter  
 Other Accommodations \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Pending approval, Act 48 credits will be offered.  
 I want to earn Act 48 credits  Yes  No

### PAYMENT METHOD

Register and pay online at [www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)

Or send your registration form and payment or purchase order to:

PEAL Center  
 1119 Penn Ave., Suite 400  
 Pittsburgh, PA 15222

Charge to my  VISA  Mastercard  American Express  
 Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name on card \_\_\_\_\_

Purchase Order Enclosed # \_\_\_\_\_

(Tax ID for PO - 20-2943378)

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ (Payable to PEAL Center)

Money Order





The PEAL Center is an organization of parents of children with special health care needs and disabilities reaching out to assist other parents and professionals.

El Centro de PEAL es una organización de padres de niños impedidos y con necesidades de cuidado de salud especial, extendiendo la mano para asistir a otros padres y profesionales.

## Regional Conferences

**March  
28, 29 & 30  
2012  
Register  
Online  
Today!**

[www.pealcenter.org](http://www.pealcenter.org)

Available in alternate formats upon request, including Spanish  
Disponible en español por solicitud

[aaroyo@pealcenter.org](mailto:aaroyo@pealcenter.org)  
1-866-950-1040 x13

Parent Education &  
Advocacy Leadership Center  
1119 Penn Avenue, STE 400  
Pittsburgh, PA 15222

412-281-4404  
Toll Free 1-866-950-1040  
Fax 412-281-4408  
TTY 412-281-4409

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PITTSBURGH, PA  
PERMIT NO. 377



## Register today!

You will find that the PEAL Conference is the place to be if you are looking to build and expand your community.

Here you will connect with a group of educators and parents who embrace and celebrate diversity with you.

