



Arizona's 2022 IDEA Conference

Join us from September 7–9, 2022, at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge in Phoenix. Check out this highlight of the Premier Speakers and other exciting events at this year's conference. [Visit the IDEA Conference website](#) to learn more.

Premier Speakers:

Carol Kosnitsky

Carol Kosnitsky is the nationally recognized and popular author of *IEP Goals That Make a Difference: An Administrator's Guide to Improving the Process* (2018, LRP Publications). This book is used widely by teachers as well as administrators. As a distinguished special education consultant with more than 35 years in the field, Carol provides consultation and professional development services across the country, traveling from her home base in New England.



Her work focuses on improving outcomes for students with disabilities through increased access to the general education curriculum.

She is particularly sought after for her expertise regarding the development of relevant and measurable IEPs, the aligning of IEPs with the Common Core, and the collaboration between general and special education to improve education for all students. Ms. Kosnitsky was a special education director for 20 years in New Hampshire, served as President of the New Hampshire Association for Special Education Administrators, and developed the New Hampshire Academy for Special Education Directors.

Dr. Erik Carter

Erik Carter is *Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Special Education* at Vanderbilt University and co-Director of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center UCEDD. He began his career as a high school special education teacher in San Antonio, Texas. His scholarship focuses on research-based and principle-driven strategies for supporting inclusion and valued roles for students with disabilities in school, community, and congregational settings. He has published more than 250 articles and chapters, along with six books.



Dr. Phil Strain

Dr. Phil S. Strain is James C. Kennedy Endowed Chair in Urban Education at the Morgridge College of Education and Director of the PELE Center, University of Denver. He is the author of over 300 scientific publications, has served on the editorial boards of 22 professional journals and has been Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator of grants and contracts totaling over 80 million dollars. He is particularly interested in expanding inclusive preschool options, comprehensive services for young children with autism, and prevention and intervention for children with challenging behaviors.



Sarah Ward

Sarah Ward, M.S., CCC/SLP has over 25 years of experience in the treatment of executive dysfunction. Sarah is an internationally recognized expert on executive function and presents seminars on the programs and strategies she has developed with her Co-Director Kristen Jacobsen. Their *360 Thinking Executive Function Program* received the Innovative Promising Practices Award from the National Organization CHADD. She has presented to over 1,600 public and private schools and organizations worldwide.



Want more information about the conference?

[Visit the IDEA Conference website](#) to learn more about registration and lodging, the Youth and Family Scholarship Opportunity, Display of Student Artwork, Secondary Transition Services Awards, and more!

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Check out other exciting speakers, topics, and events at this year's conference.



Additional National Speakers from:

Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL)

Since 1964, IEL has developed leaders who disrupt generational poverty and eliminate systemic racial, class, and disability barriers in order to achieve greater equity for all. With expertise in national policy and a deep network of relationships at the community level, IEL works collaboratively to increase access to education and workforce opportunities so that all children and families can create the lives they want to live.



Job Accommodation Network (JAN)

The Job Accommodation Network (JAN) is the leading source of free, expert, and confidential guidance on job accommodations and disability employment issues. Serving customers across the United States and around the world for more than 35 years, JAN provides free, one-on-one, practical guidance and technical assistance on job accommodation solutions, Title I of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and related legislation, and self-employment and entrepreneurship options for people with disabilities.



National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative (NTACT:C)

The National Technical Assistance Network on Transition: the Collaborative (NTACT:C) is a Technical Assistance Center co-funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA). NTACT:C offers information, tools, and supports to assist multiple stakeholders to deliver effective services and instruction for students and out-of-school youth with disabilities to ensure that all students and youth with disabilities experience increased:

- Enrollment in postsecondary education
- Graduation
- Credential attainment
- Competitive integrated employment
- Community engagement



Youth Engagement Transition Initiative (YETI)

The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition: the Collaborative's (NTACT:C's) Youth Engagement Transition Initiative (YETI) is a national youth engagement and leadership advisory group. NTACT:C recruited and established the group of young adults with disabilities to ensure that youth engagement and perspective are foundational to NTACT:C's work. YETI will co-construct resources and training, as well as inform other technical assistance focused on improving secondary transition services and instruction for students and out-of-school youth with disabilities. YETI is designed to support NTACT:C and simultaneously support the leadership development of its members. YETI is comprised of a diverse group of students, youth, and young adults with disabilities from across the United States who are committed to sharing their lived experiences and providing guidance and support to NTACT:C.

Visit the [National Presenters page](#) to learn more about these speakers.

Exciting Topics from Arizona:

Learn with experts from around Arizona:

- Arizona Department of Education/Exceptional Student Services units
- Other Arizona Department of Education teams
- Agencies such as Vocational Rehabilitation, Division of Developmental Disabilities, Raising Special Kids, Diverse Ability Incorporated, Sonoran UCEDD, Arizona school districts, and more
- Session tracks for youths/young adults with disabilities and family members/caregivers
- In-person and virtual vendors and exhibitors

A full conference agenda will be posted online during the summer.

Evening Events:

Screening of *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*

Down the road from Woodstock, a revolution blossomed in a ramshackle summer camp for teenagers with disabilities, transforming their lives and igniting a landmark movement.



[Watch the trailer for *Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution*.](#)

Visit the [Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution website](#) to learn more.

Photo credit: Steve Honigsbaum

Virtual Q&A with Co-Director, Jim LeBrecht

James LeBrecht has over 40 years of experience as a film and theater sound designer and mixer, filmmaker, author, and disability rights activist.

LeBrecht co-directed and co-produced, with Nicole Newnham, the 2021 Oscar-nominated feature-length documentary, *Crip Camp*.

Crip Camp received the 2020 Sundance Film Festival Audience Award for Feature Length Documentary, the 2021 Independent Spirit Award for Best Feature Documentary, and a 2021 Peabody Award.



[Read more about Jim on our website.](#)

Stay tuned for more information about the Youth/Young Adult and Parent Evening Events!

[Stay up-to-date on the IDEA Conference website.](#)

[Please send questions to the IDEA Conference inbox.](#)