

The Future of Disability: a Big Ideas event!



Speaker Biographies



Jessica Allen is an Experiential Learning Scholar at Middle Tennessee State University and is expected to graduate in May 2018 as a Scholar of Organizational Communication and with a minor in Business Management. She is a member of the National Communication Association as well as the national honor society, Phi Kappa Phi ranking her in the top 5% of her graduating class. In 2016 she earned an Academic Excellence Award and Outstanding Volunteer Services in 2017. Jessica became an intern for Borderless Arts Tennessee, (formerly VSA TN) in the Spring of 2017 and has continued in that role. Her primary responsibilities have been the assistance of a Mosaic Wall Project, the Young Soloist Music Competition, the spring fund raiser and the Teapot Diplomat program. She has worked on the Teapot Diplomat program since its inception and assisted with the induction of the first Teapot Diplomats.



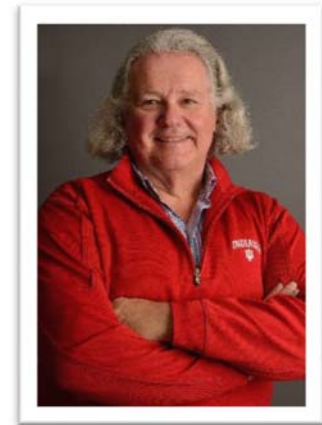
Susan Arwood, Executive Director of Core Services of Northeast Tennessee, has 35 years of experience supporting persons with disabilities in leading self-directed lives. This includes a thirty-year career with the Tennessee Division of Rehabilitation Services. Susan has certification as an Employment Support Professional and holds a master's degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from the University of Wisconsin.



Andrea Barbour is the Special Projects Coordinator at the University of Tennessee, Center for Transportation Research and currently works with Tennessee Department of Transportation's Long-Range Planning Division. Her background includes environmental planning, environmental justice, transportation planning and public involvement. Andrea is a graduate of Xavier University with a Bachelor of Arts and Sciences in Sociology. She obtained a Masters of City and Regional Planning from the University of Memphis in 2012. Andrea is from Kokomo, Indiana and enjoys podcasts, greenways and museums.



Erik Carter, Ph.D., is Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Special Education at Vanderbilt University. His research and teaching focuses on evidence-based strategies for supporting access to the general curriculum and promoting valued roles in school, work, community, and congregational settings for children and adults with intellectual disability, autism, and multiple disabilities. Prior to receiving his doctorate, Dr. Carter worked as a high school teacher and transition specialist. He has published widely in the areas of educational and transition services for children and youth with disabilities, including nearly 200 articles and chapters as well as 6 books. He is an active member of the Vanderbilt Kennedy Center and invests in collaborative partnerships across the university, state and country.



John Dickerson has spent 44 years in the field of developmental disabilities including 42 years with The Arc in South Dakota, Indiana, and The Arc US. The last 32 years were as Executive Director of The Arc of Indiana. John is currently CEO of Quillo, an exciting new mobile platform designed to change the dynamic of our workforce and work experience for people supporting people with developmental disabilities. John is a past president of the National Council of Executive Directors of The Arc, currently on the Board of Disability Rights Indiana and the National Down Syndrome Congress. John was born and raised on a Lakota reservation in South Dakota where his extended family resides. He lives in Indianapolis, IN with his two children and three grandchildren.



Nick Filarelli, Program Coordinator at Core Services of Northeast Tennessee, has spent the past 12 years as a Direct Support Professional, Weekend Coordinator and most recently, Program Coordinator. First entering the field with an agency whose program philosophy was to shelter and protect, Nick has had a front row view of the difference in the quality of life when individuals direct their own lives.



Scott Finney, Self-Advocate, has worked for The Arc Tennessee for nearly thirty years. Scott has extensive experience in public policy advocacy, public speaking, and training on a variety of topics including the history of disability, self-determination and the history of The Arc. He also serves as The Arc Tennessee's historian and provides administrative support to the office staff. Scott's picture was part of a disability exhibit at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C. He is an active member of People First, The Arc National Self-Advocate Council, and serves on the Board of Directors for STEP.



Alison A. Gauld joined the Tennessee Department of Education as the Behavior and Low Incidence Coordinator for Special Populations in January 2014. She taught special education for children with low incidence disabilities within the public schools for more than 20 years, most recently, students with significant disabilities within the public-school setting in Colorado. She created programs for individual student needs and collaborated with a variety of services, itinerant support personnel, and general education teachers to ensure students received both instruction and intervention in their least restrictive environment (LRE). She has a BA in Special Education and a MA in Educational Leadership from Arizona State University. She completed all the

coursework for an Ed.D in Special Education at the University of Northern Colorado.



Nan Kennedy boasts over 25 years' experience as the mother of and advocate for a person on the autism spectrum. She is a graduate of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute and works full-time as an editor of scientific manuscripts and grant proposals in the Division of Epidemiology at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.



Larry McGoggin is an Assistant Director in TDOT's Long Range Planning Division. His broad-based background includes master planning, major investment studies, transit oriented development, public involvement, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and various land use and transportation planning issues. Larry is a graduate of Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Community and Regional Planning. He obtained a Master of Community Planning from the University of Cincinnati in 2001. Larry is from Cincinnati and he enjoys spending time with his wife and two children.



Alicia Searcy is Nashville's fashion and style blogger with a disability. Her brand, [Spashionista](#) (founded April 2012), promotes representation, empathy, and garment options for women of every age, size, and ability level. As Executive Director of [Fashion is for Every Body](#), she advocates self-care through style and fashion with interviews, photo shoots and an annual runway show.



Keivan Stassun is the Stevenson Endowed Professor of Physics & Astronomy at Vanderbilt University, where he also serves as director of the Vanderbilt Initiative in Data-intensive Astrophysics and the newly launched Initiative for Autism & Innovation. Stassun's research on the birth of stars and planetary systems has appeared in more than 200 peer-reviewed journal articles. He is a deputy investigator for the NASA Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite mission, and is a Fellow of both the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. To date, three individuals with autism have received PhDs and developed patents through Stassun's research group. On January 1, 2018, Stassun was selected by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute to

receive a \$1 million prize that Stassun will use to support the development of a model employment pipeline in Nashville for adults with autism.



Jen Vogus is a photographer, teacher, advocate, and parent of a child with a disability. She is a graduate of the Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities' Partners in Policymaking Leadership Institute, a board member of The Arc Williamson County, and a founding and continuing parent advisory council member of WCSLink in Williamson County. Jen has enjoyed in-school residencies working with students with disabilities as a teaching artist for Borderless Arts Tennessee and the Arts Council Williamson County.



Jeremy Norden-Paul is the State Director of Employment and Day Services for the Tennessee Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD). He believes equitable access to employment is a matter of civil rights, and we must not rest until all individuals have the opportunity to pursue competitive, integrated employment. He lives in Nashville and you can follow him on Twitter at @jeremyTNDIDD.



John Shouse and his wife Janet are parents to three children, including a young adult son with autism. John served as the president of the Autism Society of Middle Tennessee (now Autism Tennessee) for 6 years, and for nearly 4 years as a Vice Chair of the national board of the Autism Society of America. He is currently serving as Past President of The Arc Tennessee. A graduate of Partners In Policymaking, John has been an engaged and active advocate for enhanced services and supports for people with disabilities. He has been a frequent speaker at national and regional conferences on the special issues faced by fathers of children with autism and other disabilities.

John was one of three finalists in 2008 for the Center for Nonprofit Management's "Board Member of the Year" award. He is co-author, with Paula Kluth, of *The Autism Checklist: A Practical Reference for Parents and Teachers*, John Wiley & Sons, 2009.



Waverly Ann Harris has spent most of her career in diversity and inclusion. After completing her Bachelor's degree at Western Kentucky University in Sociology, she traveled nationally and internationally working with diverse populations from disaster relief to managing business in Uganda. She returned to Nashville in 2009 to create Project HEALTH, a state-wide curriculum for Sprots4All that teaches exercise and nutrition to individuals with disabilities. Waverly Ann is currently the Executive Director of Friends Life Community, a nonprofit organization that provides

opportunities for teenagers and adults with intellectual disabilities to grow socially, develop personally, and be actively engaged in the community. Waverly Ann has a Masters' degree in Applied Behavior Analysis and Conflict Management. However, it's working with the "Friends" (individuals with disabilities) that has taught her to lead more inclusively, manage more equitably, and communicate more effectively with ALL individuals.

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