

Keynote Speakers:
Suzanne D'Annolfo, Ed.D.
Thomas J. Butcher

Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities



April 26, 2012 ❖ Hartford Marriott Farmington
15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT

Co-Sponsors:



CREC
Capitol Region Education Council

**Adult Training and
Development Network**



**Connecticut State
Department of Education
Adult Education
and Literacy**

Participating Sponsors:

State of Connecticut Bureau of Rehabilitation Services
Connecticut Department of Labor
Connect-Ability (Connecticut Department of Social Services)
State of Connecticut Board of Education and Services for the Blind

Promoter:

Connecticut Association for Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities

The annual Conference on Serving Adults with Disabilities provides an excellent opportunity for participants to meet with a wide representation of experts and professionals, along with family and friends of individuals with disabilities, to discuss current strategies and knowledge on the broad spectrum of disabilities.

Conference Goals

To share current knowledge and strategies and to provide answers, direction and support to

- ❖ adult education teachers
- ❖ workforce practitioners
- ❖ employers
- ❖ counselors
- ❖ families and friends of individuals with disabilities.

2012 Conference Registration

To register, please visit www.crec.org.

CREC utilizes the Protraxx online registration system for all participants. The online registration system uses an encryption process to ensure the security of your personal information.

If you need assistance with online registration, contact the conference helpline at 860-524-4024.

For additional information on session content, contact Carol Boin at cboin@crec.org or call 860-524-4048.

Continuing Education Units are available for certified teachers at the professional level.

Payment and Cancellation Policy

The conference registration fee is \$119. If you are not paying by credit card, please make your check or purchase order payable to:

CREC Disabilities Conference

Send payment to:

Capitol Region Education Council

Dana Little

111 Charter Oak Avenue

Hartford, CT 06106

Cancellations for a full refund will be accepted until April 16, 2012.

Lodging

Overnight rooms are available at the Hartford Marriott Farmington, 15 Farm Springs Road, Farmington, CT. Call 888-236-2427 by April 26, 2012 to obtain the conference rate.

Reasonable Accommodations

If you have a disability for which you require assistance, please notify us by April 12, 2012, so that proper accommodations may be made. Contact Carol Boin at 860-424-4048. This brochure can also be accessed online at www.crec.org.

Conference Schedule

8:00 – 8:45 a.m.	Registration
8:45 – 9:00 a.m.	Welcome
9:00 – 10:15 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	Break
10:30 – 11:45 a.m.	Keynote Speaker
11:45 – Noon	Break
Noon – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Networking
1:15 – 2:30 p.m.	Workshop Session 1
2:45 – 4:00 p.m.	Workshop Session 2

Keynote Speaker: Suzanne D'Annolfo, Ed.D. **Looking through the Eyes of the Adult Learner: Understanding How the Brain Engages in Learning**



Suzi D'Annolfo, Ed.D., has invested her professional life working with children, young adults, and adults in the capacity of a teacher, coach, school leader, mentor, and college professor. "Looking through the eyes of the learner" has consistently grounded her work in cognitive processing and translating that into practical application to benefit the learner as well as those facilitating the learner. Using this foundation, Dr. D'Annolfo has developed a protocol, Building Blocks of Student (Learner) Engagement (BBSE) that has been implemented and researched in a variety of environments. Her work with learner engagement, the information processing model and understanding the primacy-recency effect in teaching and learning has been enthusiastically received for its adaptability to practical application.

Dr. D'Annolfo has had a distinguished and rewarding 38-year career in public school education, working with students, teachers, and school leaders in West Hartford, Farmington, Litchfield, Newington and CREC. She served as principal of Litchfield High School when the school received a National Blue Ribbon award and was honored by President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore in Washington, D.C. The same year she was named a Milken National Educator recipient.

Dr. D'Annolfo has also served as principal of the CREC-Metropolitan Learning Center Interdistrict Magnet School when it received the prestigious Goldman-Sachs award for the top Global-International School in the country and also the National Magnet School of Distinction Award. She has presented at numerous conferences, served as an adjunct professor in Educational Leadership at CCSU and currently teaches at the University of Hartford in the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions where she is also the Coordinator of School Partnerships and a member of the Institute for Translational Research.

Keynote Speaker: Thomas J. (TJ) Butcher **Creating More Effective Learning Environments; It's All About Love**



Thomas Butcher has been a private practice psychotherapist since 1987, counseling the most troubled individuals as well as the most gifted and talented. He specializes in clients who are struggling with clinical disorders, including pervasive development, attention deficit and disruptive behavior, learning and communication, reactive attachment and mood and anxiety.

Mr. Butcher is a certified sports counselor and high performance coach, working with athletes, scholars, professors, doctors and corporate executives on enhancing performance and functioning at optimal emotional, cognitive and physical levels.

He developed and implemented programs to bring out-of-district students back to their home districts and has been a resource to schools in southeastern Connecticut in planning and programming for their most challenging students since 1994.

Mr. Butcher received his M.A. from the University of Connecticut in counseling psychology and his Special Education Certification from Southern Connecticut State University. He is licensed by the State of Connecticut as a professional counselor and is a board certified professional counselor by the American Psychotherapy Association. He is a certified sports counselor from the National Institute of Sports, as well as a certified hypnotist from the National Guild of Hypnotists with a specialty in clinical hypnosis and a certification in sports hypnosis. He was a certified trainer for Cornell University in therapeutic crisis intervention from 1993 to 2008.

While sought after for his skill at helping high achievers perfect the "mental" aspect of their performance, Mr. Butcher is best known for his ability to succeed with the most unreachable clientele.



1A Looking through the Eyes of the Adult Learner: Understanding How the Brain Engages in Learning

This break-out session will extend practical application from the keynote speaker's presentation on *Looking through the Eyes of the Adult Learner: How the Brain Engages in Learning*. Using the research on the development of the brain, the cognitive processing model, and the primacy-recency effect, this session will focus specifically on chunking and memory and the power of feedback in designing a brain compatible learning environment. The design of the protocol, *Building Blocks of Student (Learner) Engagement*, will be further demonstrated as a diagnostic tool in the teaching-learning environment

Suzanne D'Annolfo, Ed.D. Please refer to page 3 for Dr. D'Annolfo's biographical information.

1B Learning to Achieve: The Strategy of Explicit Instruction

This training session is based on the most recent rigorous research on learning disabilities in adult learners. It will address the basic strategy of "explicit instruction" and how it can be utilized across learning environments, e.g., classroom and job site. Participants will come away with an understanding of how to use this strategy to increase task completion in school and on the job. Research indicates that this strategy increases the adult's confidence as an independent learner.

Laura DiGalbo is disability specialist for CREC's ATDN. In She provides training and consultation to adult education and adult training providers on disability issues.

Jamie Ruiz is the GED instructor/college transition coordinator for the Urban League of Greater Hartford

1C Adults With Autism Spectrum Disorder

People with Autism Spectrum Disorders and Asperger's Syndrome have been seen in increasing numbers in education and employment, which presents unique challenges for faculty and staff members, other students, employers, service providers and community care givers. People on the spectrum have pervasive difficulties through their employment and educational experiences. This session will address how individuals are affected on campus, in class and in the workplace, and appropriate accommodations will be discussed.

Jane Thierfeld Brown, Ed.D., is director of student services at the University of Connecticut School of Law and Director of College Autism Spectrum. Her book, "A Professional Guide to Students with Asperger's Syndrome in Higher Education," was published in 2009. "A Parent's Guide to College for Students on the Autism Spectrum," was published in January 2012.



1D Dislecksia: The Movie and the Movement

Dislecksia: The Movie is a 90-minute comic documentary crafted in the non-linear thinking style of director/producer Harvey Hubbell V. Mr. Hubbell will narrate several clips, intertwining stories of his growing up with dyslexia.

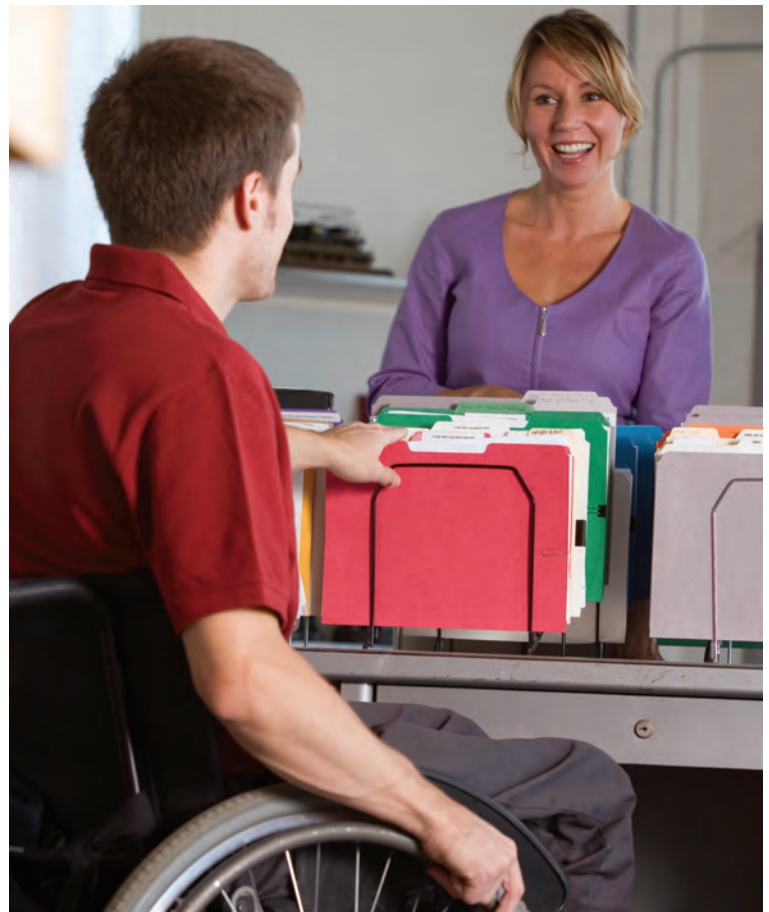
Harvey Hubbell V is an “itinerant filmmaker” who has filmed from the highrise roofs of Warsaw to the banana boats of Peru. His documentaries have won more than 50 film and video festival awards, including four Emmys (one for his comic documentary *Electronic Road Film*, which received an Emmy for Outstanding Entertainment Program).

1E Getting and Keeping a Job: Resources for Supporting People with Barriers to Employment

This workshop introduces providers to state-of-the-art employability resources for people with hidden and visible disabilities, new to community living, inside and outside of correctional facilities and with other barriers to employment. Presenters Ann Levie and Jill Larmett will review a variety of resources, including the EPIC series of free, online employability training courses designed for people facing a variety of barriers to employment. They will review the theory behind evidence-based supported employment, and the methodology used to develop them. Participants will have an opportunity to experience the software independently at the conference and to ask questions.

Ann Levie is systems liaison for Career Resources Inc’s Employability Practices Collaborative Project (Epic). She has worked as an independent consultant in public health and human services since 2005, performing program evaluations, quality assurance activities, administrative and management consultation of public health and human service programs.

Jill Larmett serves as a guide to One-Stop staff, helping people with disabilities access and navigate the complex provisions of various programs that provide the services and supports needed to obtain and maintain employment. A disability program navigator since 2009, Ms. Larnett is also an experienced as a job developer and an independent living skills trainer for persons with acquired brain injuries.



1F Using the Latest Assistive Technologies for Increased Independence

This workshop will feature information on new and updated assistive technologies for individuals with varied disabilities and how these tools can be used to make educational and work environments more accessible. Participants will learn about text-to-speech reading and writing programs, accessible electronic books, voice input options, exciting new iPad apps, accessibility features and free online resources.

Amy Rubin Mindell, M. Ed., an assistive technology specialist at the NEAT Center at Oak Hill, provides professional development, training, technical assistance, and consultation on the continuum of assistive technology devices and services to families, educators, therapists, clinicians, and healthcare professionals. She also provides AT consultations and evaluations to people with disabilities of all ages and offers AT demonstrations to promote community awareness. Ms. Mindell has over twenty years experience in the field of assistive technology and is the co-founder of the Center for Adaptive Technology at Southern Connecticut State University.

2A Secrets of Teaching the Hard to Reach

T.J. Butcher will share information based on his 30 years of accumulated knowledge of the most effective skills for succeeding with hard to reach students. Participants will have a chance to share and trouble-shoot former and current experiences in teaching students. Most techniques are applicable to all, but specific strategies for specific learners will be discussed. Mr. Butcher uses the Socratic method combined with adult learning theory, humor and storytelling to enhance the participants' experience.

T.J. Butcher. Please refer to page 3 for T.J. Butcher's biographical information

2B Vocabulary – It's Not Just definitions.

A substantial body of research supports the use of explicit instruction for students who struggle with reading in any content area. Explicit vocabulary instruction is necessary to enable struggling adult learners to read material related to their educational, vocational, and family goals. Participants will take a more in-depth look at vocabulary and its importance in the reading process. This session will focus on the depth and breadth (quality and quantity) of words a student can read and their connection to reading.

Aileen Halloran and *Kristin Berenson* are certified Student Achievement in Reading (STAR) Trainers for CREC's Adult Training & Development Network. STAR, a national initiative through the Office of Vocational and Adult Education, is professional development and training that teaches Adult Basic Education (ABE) instructors to use evidence-based reading instruction in the classroom. Both presenters have prior classroom experience with adult learners.



2C Serving Adults with Disabilities: Through the Lens of A Neuropsychologist

This session will provide a unique insider's view into the world of clinical neuropsychology, as it relates to adults with disabilities. Participants will explore the entire evaluation process - from the moment symptoms arise, through the daily challenge of living with a disability, through the referral process and actual neuropsychological assessment and ultimately, to the thoughtful crafting of focused recommendations. Real case examples and anecdotes will help bring to life the information being conveyed by Dr. Goldfischer, so as to better illustrate this complex process. A specific discussion of useful strategies and therapeutic recommendations, including outside therapies, such as those available through Easter Seals Capital Region and Eastern Connecticut, Inc., a local medical rehabilitation facility, will be presented.

Howard M. Goldfischer Psy.D., is the senior neuropsychologist and clinical manager of the Medical Rehabilitation Program at Easter Seals Capital Region and Eastern Connecticut, Inc. He also serves as the director of pediatric neuropsychology services of Greater Hartford, LLC. As an expert in autism, cognitive late effects due to treatment for cancer and differential diagnosis, Dr. Goldfischer lectures frequently on neuropsychologically-related topics.



2D Self Disclosure: How I Overcame To Become An Achiever

Tahisha Porter will explore the issues facing students as they attempt to earn their high school diplomas, including the rewards and fulfillment of achieving goals. She will also provide information and strategies on getting students to believe in themselves and others.

Tahisha Porter understands struggle as she was homeless at age 13 and became a mother and a high school dropout at age 15. She also understands the power of education to overcome obstacles. She earned her G.E.D. and is now pursuing a master's degree. Ms. Porter has worked at New Haven Adult Education Center for 16 years, directly affecting thousands of students who face the same challenges she was able to conquer. She received the Cornelius P. Turner Award presented by the American Council on Education and the GED Testing Service. The national award recognizes a GED graduate who has made a significant contribution to society in the following areas: education, justice, medicine, public service or social welfare.

2E Emerging Technology in the Classroom

Chuck Martucci will facilitate a discussion and provide a demonstration on the use of mobile devices in the classroom. His presentation will feature some of the most popular apps, as well as methods to integrate them into various curriculums. Mr. Martucci will discuss the challenges and rewards of using this emerging technology in the classroom and how to create a digital culture that will engage students and empower parents.

Chuck Martucci has previously worked in the field of Finance and is now the Department Head for the Business and Computer Science Department for the town of Vernon. Mr. Martucci has instructed technology and business courses at CCSU and developed and coordinated continuing education courses in software application for the Vernon Regional Adult Basic Education. In addition, he has facilitated numerous courses for CREC.

2F Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act Regulations: Implications for Adult Education

This session provides an overview of the ADA Amendments Act and the additional March 2011 regulations. Participants will engage in a discussion about the ADA's definition of disability and how it applies to adult education. Practical advice for complying with the regulations, including changes regarding effective communication and the universal design concept of print accessibility will be provided.

Patricia Anderson, Ph.D., serves as the State secondary transition coordinator and as coordinator for the Bureau of Special Education's Program Improvement Unit. In addition to co-facilitating the revision of the Guidelines for Identification of Children with Learning Disabilities, she represents the Bureau on the Connect-Ability Steering Committee and various workgroups, and the SDE Secondary School Reform initiative, the Student Success Plan Workgroup.

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10:15 - 10:30 a.m. – Break

10:30 - 11:45 a.m. – Keynote Presentation: Thomas J. Butcher

11:45 - Noon – Break

Noon - 1:00 p.m. – Lunch, Networking and Exhibits

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Register Online: www.crec.org