



PARTNERING
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**ISBE & SELA's
STATEWIDE SPECIAL EDUCATION
DIRECTORS CONFERENCE**

**June 9th Noon - 4:00 p.m.
&**

June 10th 8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

**BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL MARRIOTT
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER
201 BROADWAY, NORMAL, IL**

Keynote

Monday, June 9th 12:15 - 1:45 pm

Trust Matters: More Than Ever David Horsager



David Horsager

Best-Selling Author and CEO
of Trust Edge Leadership
Institute

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Monday, June 9th

Ballroom

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Registration

12:00 - 12:15 pm

Welcome / Keynote Introduction

Dr. Judy Hackett & Julie Jilek

12:15 - 1:45 pm

Keynote: David Horsager, CEO of Trust Edge
Leadership and Best-Selling Author of Trust Matters:
More Than Ever

2:00 - 3:00 pm

A Year in the Life of The Cyclical Monitoring
Process

Kristina Holloway, Special Education Monitoring Lead, ISBE

Enjoli Cummings, Principal Consultant, ISBE

Lesley Paramo, Principal Consultant, ISBE

3:00 -4:00 pm

Cyclical Monitoring Panel

Moderator - Molly Dunne, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching
& Learning, Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization

Panelists:

Kimberly Hopkins, Director of Special Education, East St Louis
Area Joint Agreement

Tiffany Schneider, Director Of Special Services, O'Fallon Township
High School

Alexis Hanson, Executive Director of Special Education,
Community Unit School District 200

Kevin Wolf, Executive Director, Leyden Area Special Education
Cooperative



Tuesday, June 10th

7:45 - 8:15 am

Registration / Breakfast Buffet

8:15 - 8:45 am

Ballroom

Welcome

Dr. Nakia Douglas, Director of Special Education, ISBE

9:00 - 9:50 am

Breakout Sessions

10:00 - 10:50 am

Breakout Sessions

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

Ballroom

Lunch & Vendors

12:30 - 1:20 pm

Breakout Sessions

1:30 - 2:20 pm

Breakout Sessions



Breakout Session Overview

Breakout Sessions 9:00 - 9:50 am					
Breakout Sessions 9:00 - 9:50 am	Session 1 IDEA Part B Grant Overview & Guidance (Double Session) Dr. Sherry Bochenek, Katanja Cowsen, Kristy Deckard, Raul Lemus, Elroy Reed	Session 2 Legal Hot Topics (repeat) William Hrabe	Session 3 Partnering for Positive Change: How the SLD Support Project and SCISC are Collaborating to Support Students with SLDs Robin Thoma, Dr. Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel, Aubrey Durkin, Jill Uher	Session 4 The EJC: Educational Equity - A Path to Improved Access and Outcomes for All Students Paula Powers, Dr. William Truesdale, Sergio Hernandez	Session 5 Alternate Assessment Participation – 1% Threshold Rhonda Marks, Laura Avery-Glover, Dana Jamerson
	Session 6 It Takes a Village: Revitalizing a TPC in a Rural Community Nicole Birri, Abby Clark	Session 7 IDEA Part B Grant Overview & Guidance (Double Session) Dr. Sherry Bochenek, Katanja Cowsen, Kristy Deckard, Raul Lemus, Elroy Reed	Session 8 Room and Board Guidance - The Secrets to Form 34-37/ Form 34-43 Amanda Clay, Laura Fowler, Len Childers	Session 9 Indicator 13: Strengthening Postsecondary Transition to Employment for All Students with Disabilities Jane Collins	Session 10 All In: District Administrators Partnering for Inclusive Schools Tracy Roehrick, Jaclyn Tivador
Breakout Sessions 10:00 - 10:50 am					
Breakout Sessions 10:00 - 10:50 am	Session 11 Effective Leaders Take Time to Team: A Session to Share Tips and Tools to Build Yours Dr. Judy Hackett, Jera Pieper	Session 12 Timely and Meaningful Consultation Rocio Casillas, Steve Parrott	Session 13 Supporting Illinois Families Through the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative. Meaghan Jorgensen	Session 14 Be Like Ted: Coaching Special Educators Stephanie Woodley	Session 15 Early Childhood Special Education Boot Camp: An Overview of What you Need to Know Kristy Doan
	Session 16 A Unique Service Provider Solution, the University Model Jennifer Dahman, Rabel Lohana, Suzanne Meislahn	Session 17 Training Qualified Interpreters for IEP Meetings (TQII) Kiel Christianson	Session 18 Educational Surrogate Parents 101 Laura Fowler, Rocio Casillas, Abbi Mars	Session 19 Yours, Mine, and Ours: Collaborative Responsibility to Students Marlee Goldsworthy, Monika Miller, Juliana Amoroso, Dr. Rhonda Howard	Session 20 Legal Hot Topics William Hrabe
Breakout Sessions 1:30 - 2:20 pm					
Breakout Sessions 1:30 - 2:20 pm	Session 21 Public Facility Rate Setting Process and Claims for Children Educated at Separate Public Day Schools Andy Krupin, Mary Lanoue	Session 22 Tips and Trends in Special Education Dispute Resolution Mark Conyer, Emily Postelmans, Andy Eulass	Session 23 Navigating Updated Regulations on Physical Restraint, Time Out and Isolated Time Out Lisa Armonda, Joshua Peters, Jeffrey Judge	Session 24 I Star Plus Sarah Noelle	Session 25 Early Childhood Special Education Boot Camp: An Overview of What you Need to Know Kristy Doan
	Session 26 Supporting Illinois Families Through the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative. Meaghan Jorgensen	Session 27 Be Like Ted: Coaching Special Educators Stephanie Woodley	Session 28 A Unique Service Provider Solution, the University Model Jennifer Dahman, Rabel Lohana, Suzanne Meislahn	Session 29 Training Qualified Interpreters for IEP Meetings (TQII) Kiel Christianson	Session 30 Educational Surrogate Parents 101 Laura Fowler, Rocio Casillas, Abbi Mars

Lunch 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Lunch 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

Breakout Sessions 9:00 - 9:50 am

Redbird A - Session 1 IDEA Part B Grant Overview & Guidance (Double Session Part 1)

Description:

This session will provide participants with an overview of how to access and complete an IDEA Part B grant consolidated application. Topics discussed will include maintenance of effort (MOE), nonpublic proportionate share (NPPS), and coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). Additionally, participants will be provided a general understanding of grant periodic reports (GPRs), and single audits.

Speaker:

Dr. Sherry Bochenek - Ed.D., Supervisor, ISBE,
Katanja Cowsen - Grant Coordinator, ISBE,
Kristy Deckard - Grant Coordinator, ISBE,
Raúl Lemus - Grant Coordinator, ISBE,
Elroy Reed - Grant Coordinator, ISBE

Redbird B - Session 2 Legal Hot Topics (repeat)

Description:

ISBE Attorney William Hrabe will review special education issues that are faced by school districts across the state. The presentation will identify how/when problems arise, review relevant legal standards, and provide tips for addressing these concerns.

Speaker:

William Hrabe - Assistant Legal Counsel, ISBE

Redbird E - Session 3 Partnering for Positive Change: How the SLD Support Project and SCISC are Collaborating to Support Students with SLDs

Description:

The SLD Support Project has partnered with the South Cook Intermediate Service Center to provide professional learning

opportunities that equip educators with the knowledge and tools to support students with specific learning disabilities (SLDs). In this session, we'll highlight how SCISC has utilized training and resources from the SLD Support Project to strengthen instructional practices and meet the academic needs of students with SLDs. Learn about available professional development opportunities, real-world applications of these trainings, and how this partnership is driving positive change. Join us to explore ways your district can benefit from this collaboration and bring impactful learning to your educators.

Speaker:

Robin Thoma - Project Manager, IL SLD Support Project
Dr. Melissa Jones-Bromenshenkel - Professor & Graduate Coordinator, Eastern Illinois University, Grant Partner, IL SLD Support Project
Aubrey Durkin - Math Content Specialist, IL SLD Support Project
Jill Uher - Director of Professional Development Learning at SCISC

Redbird F - Session 4 The EJC: Educational Equity - A Path to Improved Access and Outcomes for All Students

Description:

ISBE is committed to promoting and supporting educational equity in school districts across Illinois through the Equity Journey Continuum (EJC) by utilizing information, data, and resources to improve educational outcomes for the students in Illinois. Presenters of this session will share the development, implementation, data and resources for informed decision-making. District representatives will share their district's journey, provide experiences, insights, and challenges towards the improvement of student success before and after high school. Join us on this journey!

Speaker:

Paula Powers - ISBE Principal Consultant
Dr. William Truesdale - Ed.D., ISBE Principal Consultant
Sergio Hernandez - ISBE Equity Lead
Jamar Scott - Equity & School Improvement Officer Springfield Public Schools District 186
Dr. Laurie Heinz - Superintendent Community Consolidated School District 15 Palatine

Redbird G - Session 5
Alternate Assessment Participation – 1% Threshold

Description:

This informative and interactive session will focus on appropriately identifying students who are eligible to participate in the Alternate Assessment. The participation guidelines and ISBE decision-making tool will be reviewed using student evaluation data and information.

Speaker:

Rhonda Marks - Principal Consultant, ISBE
Laura Avery-Glover - Principal Consultant, ISBE
Dana Jamerson - Principal Consultant, ISBE

Beaufort - Session 6
It Takes a Village: Revitalizing a TPC in a Rural Community

Description:

In this session, we will discuss a recent effort to revitalize a deactivated TPC in a rural area. Steps taken to initiate the process, suggestions for identifying key members and their roles, and action plans for the committee will be discussed. Additionally, natural barriers related to the rural areas and high poverty climates will also be addressed along with solutions for overcoming them.

Speaker:

Nicole Birri - Training Specialist- Illinois Center for Transition and Work
Abby Clark - Special Education Coordinator, Kaskaskia Special Education District 801

Breakout Sessions **10:00 - 10:50 am**

Redbird A - Session 7
IDEA Part B Grant Overview & Guidance Continued (Double Session - Part 2)

Description:

This session will provide participants with an overview of how to access and complete an IDEA Part B grant consolidated application. Topics discussed will include maintenance of effort (MOE), nonpublic proportionate share (NPPS), and coordinated early intervening services (CEIS). Additionally, participants will be provided a general understanding of grant periodic reports (GPRs), and single audits.

Speakers:

Dr. Sherry Bochenek - Ed.D., Supervisor, ISBE,
Katanja Cowsen - Grant Coordinator, ISBE,
Kristy Deckard - Grant Coordinator, ISBE,
Raúl Lemus - Grant Coordinator, ISBE,
Elroy Reed - Grant Coordinator, ISBE

Redbird B - Session 8
Room and Board Guidance - The Secrets to Form 34-37/Form 34-43

Description:

The secret is there is no secret! Personnel from the ISBE Special Education department will walk participants through the most common mistakes made when applying for room & board reimbursements. This presentation will highlight the recent changes to ISBE Form 34-37 and ISBE Form 34-43 as well as provide a much-requested example version of each form as a takeaway.

Speakers:

Amanda Clay - Residential Placement Specialist, ISBE
Laura Fowler - Principal Consultant, Educational Surrogate Parent Program Coordinator, ISBE
Len Childers - Social Work Dept Chair, McLean County USD 5

Redbird E - Session 9

Indicator 13: Strengthening Postsecondary Transition to Employment for All Students with Disabilities

Description:

Indicator 13 is a key compliance measure under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It ensures that students with disabilities receive comprehensive transition planning to prepare for life beyond high school. A critical component of this process is employment readiness for all students, regardless of the level of support they require.

This session will focus on how educators can develop measurable postsecondary employment goals, provide individualized transition services, and implement evidence-based strategies that support employment for students, including those with significant disabilities.

By fostering self-determination, dignity of risk, and collaboration with vocational partners, schools can help all students, including those with significant disabilities, achieve successful employment outcomes and greater independence in adulthood.

Speakers:

Jane Collins - ICTW- Training Specialist Illinois Center for Transition and Work, University of Illinois

Redbird F - Session 10

All In: District Administrators Partnering for Inclusive Schools

Description:

This session explores how intentional collaboration across student services and curriculum/instruction teams can drive systemic change to create truly inclusive schools. Participants will learn to develop professional development plans, align general and special education through the PLC model, and design Tier 1 curriculum that connects to Tier 2 and 3 supports. The session also introduces a tool for assessing inclusive practices, equipping leaders with actionable strategies to strengthen collaboration and build a school culture where all learners thrive.

Speakers:

Tracy Roehrick - Director of Student Services, Lake Bluff Elementary School District 65

Jaclyn Tivador - District Curriculum Coordinator, Lake Bluff Elementary School District 65

Redbird G - Session 11

Timely and Meaningful Consultation

Description:

This presentation will provide guidance regarding Nonpublic Proportionate Share Funds and Timely and Meaningful Consultation requirements to ensure that students attending private/parochial receive appropriate services. Learn about the private/parochial voluntary registration process and best practices for identifying students in your district's boundary attending a private/parochial school.

Speakers:

Rocio Casillas - Principal Consultant, ISBE

Steve Parrott - Principal Consultant, ISBE

Beaufort - Session 12

Effective Leaders Take Time to Team: A Session to Share Tips and Tools to Build Yours

Description:

This session will focus on how to create a more supportive environment, increase positive communication skills, boost school pride and sense of belonging, and prevent burn-out for education staff. Judy and Jera will share tips and tricks from the trenches as well as fun activities and events to foster a more supportive work environment and strengthen collaboration within admin teams. We will include practical strategies to enhance teamwork and build relationships, encouraging a shared vision for student success.

Speakers:

Dr. Judy Hackett - Co-Interim Superintendent, SEDOL

Jera Pieper - Director of Special Education Franklin and Jefferson Counties Special Education District #801

Breakout Sessions 12:30 - 1:20 pm

Redbird A - Session 13 Public Facility Rate Setting Process and Claims for Children Educated at Separate Public Day Schools

Description:

This session will provide participants with an updated timeline and overview of the public facility rate setting process and claims for children educated at separate public special education day schools.

Speakers:

Andy Krupin - Director, Funding and Disbursements, ISBE
Mary Lanoue - Supervisor, Special Education Department, ISBE

Redbird B - Session 14 Tips and Trends in Special Education Dispute Resolution

Description:

This session will provide participants with information about how to best approach dispute resolution events when they occur in your school districts. In addition, participants will be provided information on current data and trends regarding Illinois Special Education Dispute Resolution for the 2024-25 school year.

Speakers:

Mark Conyer - ISBE Special Education Complaint Investigator
Emily Postelmans - ISBE Special Education Mediation & IEP Facilitation Coordinator
Andy Eulass - ISBE Special Education Due Process Coordinator

Redbird E - Session 15 Navigating Updated Regulations on Physical Restraint, Time Out and Isolated Time Out

Description:

This presentation will provide attendees with critical updates on recent changes to state laws and administrative rules governing

physical restraint, time out, and isolated time out in schools. We will review key regulatory updates, including new requirements, limitations, and reporting obligations, ensuring districts understand their responsibilities under Illinois law. Additionally, we will introduce the newly established mediation process, offering guidance on when districts should consider requesting mediation to address disputes related to the use of these interventions. The session will also highlight updated timelines for compliance and provide practical resources for schools and districts to support students experiencing behavioral challenges while adhering to the latest regulations. Attendees will gain a clear understanding of these changes and best practices for implementation within their districts.

Speakers:

Lisa Armonda - Assistant Legal Counsel,
Joshua Peters - Wellness & Student Care Lead,
Jeffrey Judge - Director of the Wellness & Student Care Department

Redbird F - Session 16 I Star Plus

Description:

I-Star Plus is coming soon. I-Star Plus is an enhanced version of the current IEP-Student Tracking and Reporting (I-Star) System application. The agency tentatively plans to go live with the upgraded software on June 23. Join us for a preview of the system!

Speakers:

Sarah Noelle - Lead Trainer/Systems Analyst, Harrisburg Project

Redbird G - Session 17 Early Childhood Special Education Boot Camp: An Overview of What you Need to Know

Description:

This session will provide an overview of the three early childhood special education indicators, including Indicator 6 (Preschool Environment), Indicator 7 (Early Childhood Outcomes), and Indicator 12 (Transition). Need to know information for each indicator will be provided as well as requirements and resources for you to take back

to your districts. If you are a new director, or new to early childhood, this session is for you!

Speaker:

Kristy Doan - Illinois State Board of Education Early Childhood Development Acting Supervisor and Principal Consultant

Beaufort - Session 18
Supporting Illinois Families Through the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative.

Description:

This session will provide an update on the Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative work, with a primary focus on BEACON. BEACON is resource tool for families in Illinois seeking community based or residential services for youth with mental or behavioral health concerns.

Speakers:

Meaghan Jorgensen - Director of Operations for Children's Behavioral Health Transformation

Breakout Sessions

1:30 - 2:20 pm

Redbird A - Session 19
Legal Hot Topics (Repeat)

Description:

ISBE Attorney William Hrabe will review special education issues that are faced by school districts across the state. The presentation will identify how/when problems arise, review relevant legal standards, and provide tips for addressing these concerns.

Speakers:

William Hrabe - Assistant Legal Counsel, ISBE

Redbird B - Session 20
Yours, Mine, and Ours: Collaborative Responsibility to Students

Description:

Join ISBE Nonpublic Principal Consultants, Hammitt School Administration, and Partnering Public School District Administration to learn about best practices for collaboration between Nonpublic Special Education Programs and Partnering Public School Districts. Topics discussed will include FBAs and BIPs for outplaced students, termination of student placement at a nonpublic program, provision of related services, transportation, and implementation of student IEPs. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and engage in collaborative discussions with administrators from both parties as well as ISBE Nonpublic Principal Consultants.

Speakers:

Marlee Goldsworthy - Principal Consultants, ISBE

Monika Miller - Principal Consultants, ISBE

Juliana Amoruso - Principal Consultants, ISBE

Dr. Rhonda Howard - Vice President of Program Operations, The Baby Fold

Redbird E - Session 21

Educational Surrogate Parents 101

Description:

This session, presented by ISBE and Family Matters Parent Training and Information Center, will provide you with resources to help better understand the importance of ESPs and how to work effectively with them. You will learn about what an Educational Surrogate is, who requires one and how to request one as well as tips for working with an Educational Surrogate Parent as a part of the educational team. The presenters will also be available to answer any of your Educational Surrogate Parent questions.

Speaker:

Laura Fowler - Principal Consultant, Educational Surrogate Parent Program Coordinator, ISBE
Rocio Casillas - Principal Consultant, ISBE
Abbi Mars - Family Matters

Redbird F - Session 22

Training Qualified Interpreters for IEP Meetings (TQII)

Description:

By state law, interpreters are required for IEP meetings. Faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are working with ISBE to develop a program that is training interpreters in a limited number of languages now, and that will be able to be scaled up in the future. Kiel Christianson will provide background and an update on their ongoing project to develop an interpreter training program.

Speakers:

Kiel Christianson - Ph.D., Professor & Chair, Department of Educational Psychology, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Redbird G - Session 23

A Unique Service Provider Solution, the University Model

Description:

Representatives from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Speech and Hearing Science department, along with the Special

Education Director of the Champaign Unit 4 school district, will discuss the development of a collaborative partnership that provides speech-language services to students at four local private schools.

The presentation will outline the partnership's timeline, challenges encountered, solutions implemented, and key strategies for advocating and establishing successful collaborations with university programs. While this particular initiative utilizes proportionate funding, university partnerships can also help address special education staffing shortages in rural areas and support specialized services beyond speech-language pathology.

Speakers:

Jennifer Dahman - M.S., CCC-SLP- Coordinator of SLP Clinical Experiences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Rabel Lohana - Practice Manager for Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Clinic at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Suzanne Meislahn - Executive Director of Special Education, Champaign Unit 4 School District

Beaufort - Session 24

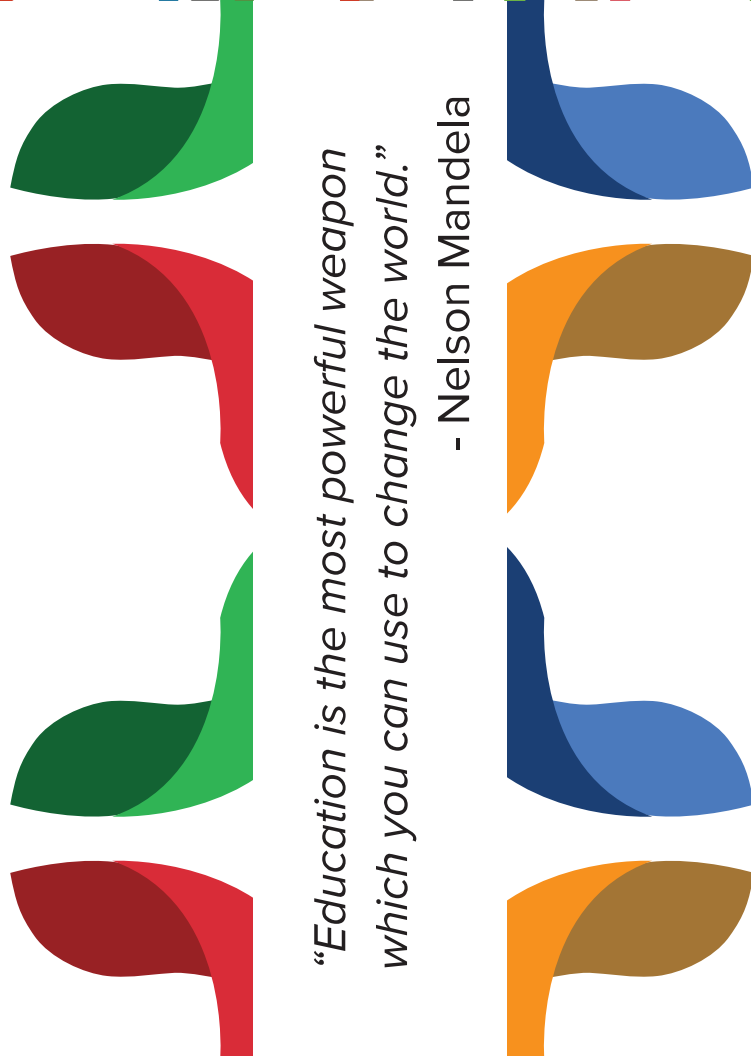
Be Like Ted: Coaching Special Educators

Description:

This session relates Ted Lasso's leadership lessons to coaching special educators. While many instructional coaching practices cross content and expertise areas, special educators need some specialized support, tailored conversations, and constructive feedback. High-Leverage Practices (HLPs) for students with disabilities can provide guidance in evidence-based practices and high-quality instruction to increase outcomes for a range of learners. Resources provided will work alongside a current coaching system, district teacher mentor programs, and your role as an instructional leader.

Speakers:

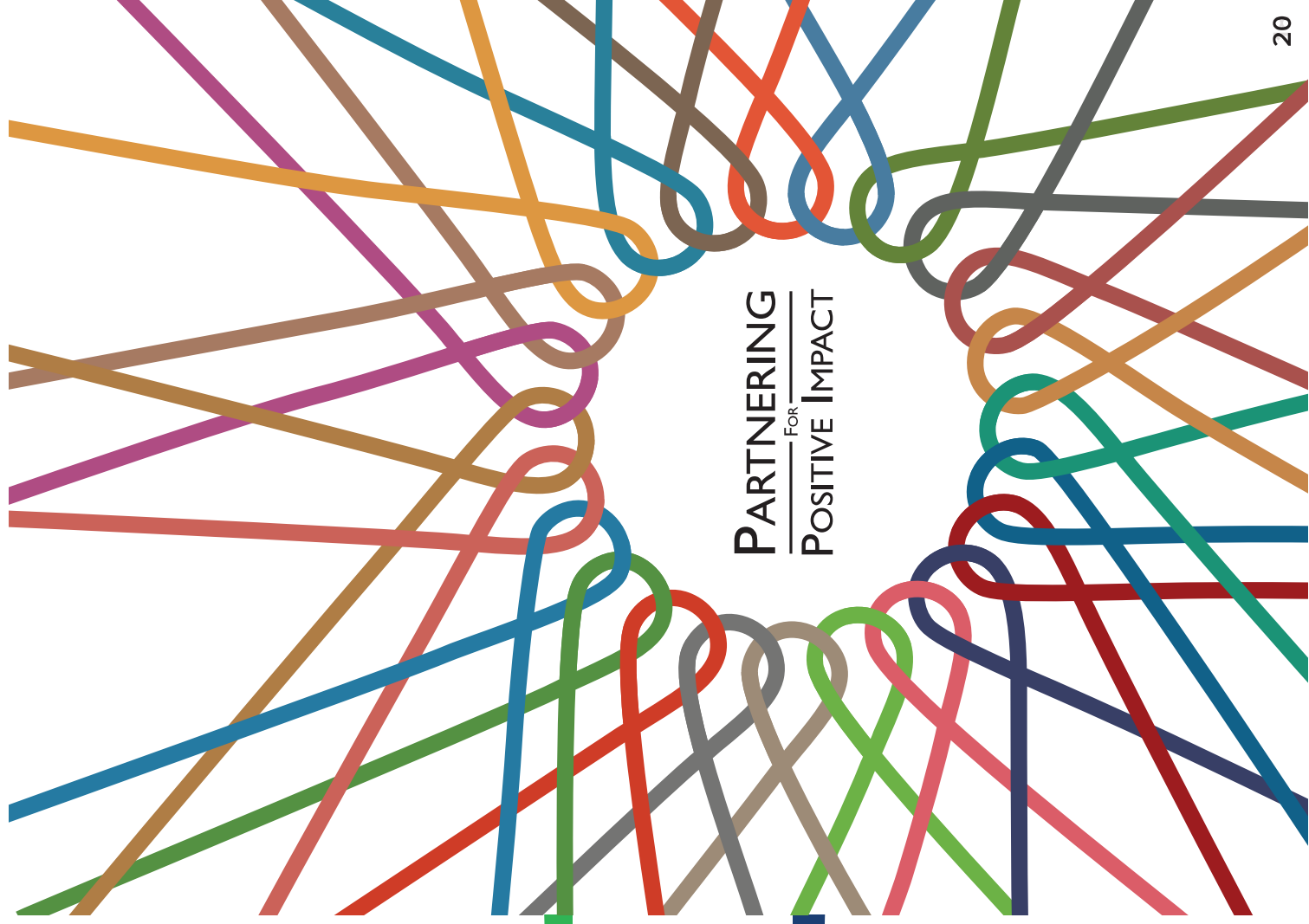
Stephanie Woodley - IESE Network Grant Coordinator



*“Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world.”*

- Nelson Mandela

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Please Visit our Exhibitors

Infinitec Coalitions

AT Exchange Network (ATEN)

Infinitec/ISBE Assistive Technology Technical Assistance Services

Illinois Assistive Technology Program (IATP)

Autism Training and Technical Assistance (ATTA)

Autism Professional Learning and Universal Supports (APLUS)

Center for Intensive Behavioral Support (CIBS)

Early CHOICES

Equip for Equality (EFE)

Family Matters

Family Resource Center on Disabilities (FRCD)

Harrisburg Project - iStar

IEP Quality Project (IEPQ)

Illinois Alliance of Administrators of Special Education (IAASE)

Illinois Center for Transition and Work (ICTW)

Illinois Instructional Materials Center (IIMC) - Chicago Lighthouse

Phillip J Rock Center

Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission

Illinois Service Resource Center (ISRC)

Specific Learning Disability Support Project

State Treasurer's Office - IL-ABLE

Training Qualified IEP Interpreters (TQII) at the University of

Illinois

StarNet

Department of Special Education, Illinois State University

Cascade Lodge Treatment Center



Thank you!

For all who were involved in the creation of this conference and for all who attended, we thank you. We hope everyone was able to take something valuable away from this conference and will be able to incorporate it into the ongoing success of your careers. See you all next year!



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