

35th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The High Stakes Game: Improving Student Outcomes In Rural and Urban Schools



March 9-12, 2016
Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino
Las Vegas, Nevada

Welcome! ACRES 35th ANNUAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE

The High Stakes Game: Improving Student Outcomes In Rural and Urban Schools

Welcome! Thank you for joining us at the Annual National Conference of the American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES). Did you know ACRES holds the only national conference devoted to rural special education issues? Our goal is to gather and share the most current knowledge, research, and practices for rural special education for inservice and pre-service educators, administrators, related service providers, parents, and policy makers. We hope your conference experience is enjoyable and productive.



Conference Program Chair(s)

Cathy Galyon Keramidas, East Tennessee State University Robert Pennington, University of Louisville

Conference Proceedings Editor(s)

Carla Brigandi, West Virginia University

Conference Host

West Virginia University

Conference Arrangements Committee

Ann Richards, ACRES Events Manager
Barbara Ludlow, ACRES Headquarters Coordinator
Michael Mayton, ACRES Operations Director
Kim Floyd, ACRES Board of Directors
West Virginia University

Special thanks to all the individuals who participated in the proposal review process.

ACRES Headquarters staff would like to recognize **Donna Staggs** and **Mary Higgins** of West Virginia University, for their assistance with the conference registration process.

ACRES OFFICERS 2015-2016		
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ACRES COMMITTEES 2015-2016

- Awards/Scholarships: Tina Hudson (Chair), Kim Floyd, Cathy Galyon Keramidas
- ♣ Conference Planning: Barbara Ludlow, Ann Richards, Cathy Galyon Keramidas, Rob Pennington
- **& Editorial Board Liaison:** Cathy Galyon Keramidas
- ♣ Financial Oversight: Kevin Miller, Barbara Ludlow
- ♣ Governmental Relations: Harvey Rude (Chair), Matt Jameson
- ♣ Membership: Ann Berry (Chair), Matt Jameson, Tina Hudson< Kathleen Magiera, Sue Schultz
- ♣ Nominations and Elections: Matt Jameson (Chair)
- ♣ Partnerships/Marketing: Trey Vasquez (Chair), Kevin Miller, Cathy Galyon Keramidas, Karen Hager Martinez, Vicki Knight
- ♣ Silent Auction: Kim Floyd (Chair), Cathy Galyon Keramidas

About ACRES

The American Council on Rural Special Education (ACRES) is a non-profit organization comprised of special educators, general educators, related service providers, administrators, teacher trainers, researchers, and parents who are committed to the enhancement of services to students and individuals living in rural America. ACRES was founded in 1981 by a group of individuals interested in the unique challenges of rural students and individuals needing special services. ACRES is the only national organization devoted entirely to special education issues that affect rural America. The membership of ACRES is geographically diverse, and is representative of all regions of the country. This fact is especially important since rural issues are not only different from urban issues, but also may vary among specific rural areas.

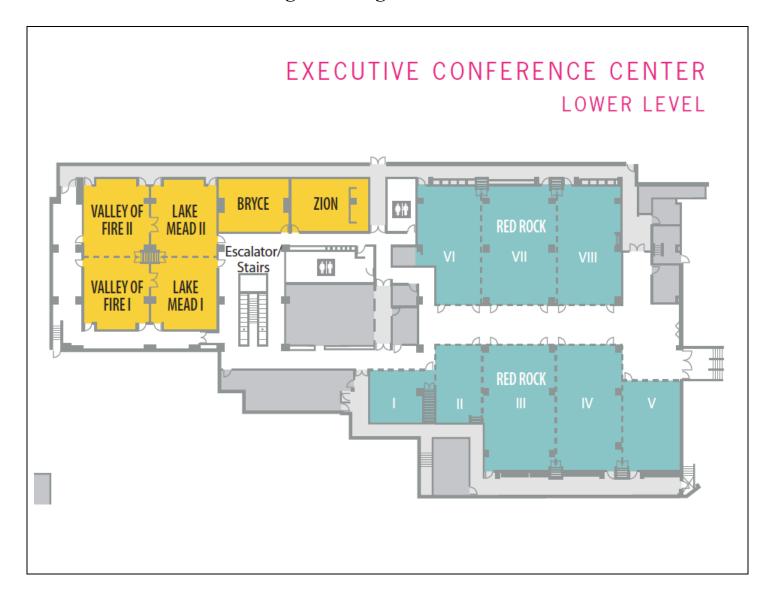
Our Mission

The members of ACRES strive to provide leadership and support that will enhance services for individuals with exceptional needs, their families, the professionals who work with them, and for the rural communities in which they live and work.

To accomplish this mission, ACRES has set the following goals:

- to promote the growth and development of each member of the organization;
- to foster quality education and services for individuals with exceptional needs living in rural communities;
- * to promote cultural diversity and the empowerment of minorities and members of traditionally under-represented groups in providing services to individuals with exceptional needs, their families, and service providers;
- ♣ to promote national recognition for rural special education, health, and human services;
- * to promote collaborative partnerships with organizations interested in special education, health, and human services;
- ♣ to disseminate information concerning promising practices and research for improving education and services for individuals with disabilities living in rural communities.

2016 ACRES Conference Hotel Conference Area Flamingo Las Vegas Hotel and Casino



2016 ACRES Conference Schedule At A Glance

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 2016	
1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Registration Open	Red Rock Registration Desk
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	Red Rock 5
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016	
7:00 am - 5:00 pm Registration Open	Red Rock Registration Desk
7:00 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast	Garden View Terrace
8:30 am – 4:30 pm Exhibitors	Foyer outside Red Rock 3
10:00 am – 5:00 pm Silent Auction	Red Rock 5
Opening Session and Keynote Address	
8:15am - 9:45 am	
Concurrent Session One	
10:00 am -10:50 am	
Concurrent Session Two	
11:00 am - 11:50 am	
Lunch and Keynote Address 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	
Concurrent Session Three	
1:45 pm - 2:35 pm	
Concurrent Session Four	
2:45 pm – 3:35 pm	
Concurrent Session Five 3:45 pm – 4:45 pm	
Town Hall Meeting	
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	
New Comers / Old Timers Reception	
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	
FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016	
7:00 am – 4:00 pm Registration Open	RR Registration Desk
7:00 am – 8:00 am Continental Breakfast	Garden View Terrace
7:15 am - 8:15 am Editorial Board Meeting	Red Rock 4
9.00 4.00 E-L:L:4	
8:00 am – 4:00 pm Exhibitors	Foyer outside Red Rock 3
8:30 am – 4:00 pm Exhibitors 8:30 am – 11:45 am Silent Auction	Foyer outside Red Rock 3 Red Rock 5
8:30 am - 11:45 am Silent Auction	·
8:30 am – 11:45 am Silent Auction Concurrent Session Six	·
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2016 ACRES Conference Special Events

Silent Auction

Thursday, 9:30 am - 5:00 pm Friday, 8:30 am - 11:45 am Red Rock 5

Check out the Silent Auction for interesting finds from all over the country!

Bid on your favorites and have fun trying to out-bid others!

All proceeds support the ACRES Teacher Scholarship Award.

Exhibitors

Thursday, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm Friday, 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Foyer outside of Red Rock 3

Take some time out in between conference sessions to stop by the exhibit area to learn more about the interesting products and services available from vendors.

Town Hall Meeting

Thursday, 5:00 - 5:30 pm

ACRES members and all conference participants are invited to attend this meeting to hear an update on ACRES activities and .share their ideas for the future of the organization.

New Comers / Old Timers Reception

Thursday, 5:30 - 7:00 pm

New Comers to ACRES are invited to join the ACRES Old Timers to mingle and socialize. Hors d'ouevres provided; cash bar available.

2016 ACRES Conference Full Schedule

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016	
7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration / Information	Red Rock Registration Desk
7:00 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast	Garden View Terrace
10:00 am - 5:00 pm Silent Auction	Red Rock 5

Opening Session and Keynote Address

8:15 am – 9:45am Red Rock 3

Welcome- Ginevra Courtade, ACRES Board Chair Overview of Conference -Cathy Galyon Keramidas & Rob Pennington, ACRES Conference Co-Chairs Introduction of Keynote Speaker; Harvey Rude, ACRES Board Member

Keynote Speaker – Larry Wexler, U.S. Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services
Forty Years of IDEA

CONCURRENT SESSION ONE		
10:00 am - 10:50 am		
Valley of Fire 1	Valley of Fire 2	
Employing Google Docs to Increase Collaboration For	Preparing Students with Autism for College: The Next	
Behavior Interventions in Rural Areas	Frontier	
The development of technology has allowed for greater collaboration for students with disabilities, particularly those with emotional and behavioral disorders (EBD). Partnership and teamwork are integral in implementing positive behavior support (PBS) plans. Google Docs is one method that can be used to increase collaboration between stakeholders in rural areas.	As the population of students with autism increases, more students enter the college environment and encounter unexpected obstacles, many of which are not addressed by traditional accommodations. Teachers will need to rethink transition services for these students. This session will address these obstacles and potential solutions to improve successful transitions.	
Samantha Riggleman & Jennifer Buchter	Ginger Kelso	
University of Nevada, Las Vegas	Stephen F. Austin State University	
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2	
Sustainable Coaching of Rural Special Education	The Connection between Long Term ELL Status and	
Teachers	Special Education Status	
As the research in the effective coaching of teachers becomes more prolific, special attention should be paid to the unique needs of special education teachers in rural settings. In this panel discussion, a model of sustainable coaching for rural special education teachers will be shared.	This presentation will discuss key issues related to dual status English Language Learners and SPED students, a study of ELLs for third, fifth, and ninth grades, and the predictability of exit from ELL status based on selected variable including SPED status.	
Stacy Shipman, Ginevra Courtade, & Rob Pennington University of Louisville Kim Weber Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services	Bill Thornton & Diana Walker University of Nevada, Reno	

DON'T FORGET!!! STOP BY THE SILENT AUCTION AND BID ON YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 10 AM-5 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

2016 ACRES Conference Featured Speaker



THURSDAY, MARCH 9

Opening General Session Red Rock 3

Keynote Address: Forty Years of IDEA

Larry Wexler, Ed.D. Director of Research to Practice Division Office of Special Education Programs U. S. Department of Education

Larry Wexler: Biographical Sketch

Dr. Larry Wexler is the Director of the Research to Practice Division in the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) within the U.S. Department of Education. This Division provides leadership and oversees the implementation of the IDEA discretionary grant programs to support seven grant programs: state personnel development; personnel preparation; technical assistance and dissemination; technology, media services and educational materials, parent-training and information centers; IDEA data; and the Promoting Readiness for Minors In Special Education. Dr. Wexler has been a special educator for 45 years, serving as a teacher of students with severe disabilities, program director, principal, state intellectual disabilities specialist, chief of staff to the State Director of Special Education, director of state monitoring, OSEP state contact, OSEP project officer, Deputy Director of the Monitoring and State Improvement Planning Division, and Associate Division Director responsible for OSEP's National Initiatives Team. He holds a Bachelor's degree in International Relations from the School of International Service at American University, a Master's degree in teaching with concentration in intellectual disabilities from Howard University, and a Doctorate with concentration in severe disabilities from the Johns Hopkins University.

Celebrate the 40th Anniversary of IDEA!

On November 29, 2015, policymakers, professionals, families and advocates celebrated the 40th anniversary of the passage of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a landmark in national legislation protecting the civil rights of individuals with disabilities to a free, public education. To learn more about this milestone, you can view the information available at

http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/osers/idea40/index.html.

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016	
CONCURRENT SESSION TWO	
11:00 am – 11:50 am Valley of Fire 1 Valley of Fire 2	
Valley of Fire 1 Preliminary Results of The Teacher Support Project: Increasing Self-Efficacy and Reducing Attrition of Special Educators	Building a Sustainable Professional Development Model in Maine: Observational Strategies and Reflective Coaching In Action
Presenters describe the content, procedures, and outcomes of a university-based project providing various supports via different delivery methods to early career special educators in rural northeast Tennessee. Participants will learn about the supports teachers selected, how teachers' self-efficacy improved, and how this teacher-driven approach compared to district provided professional development. Pam Mims Fort Tennessee State Heisensites	Using principles of implementation science, a statewide evidence-based practice model of professional development to support Maine's general educators and special educators was developed and implemented, including coaching. Participants will understand the importance of sustainability factors in statewide initiatives and develop an action plan for examining statewide systems change. Deborah Rooks-Ellis
East Tennessee State University Lake Mead 1	University of Maine, Special Education Lake Mead 2
Making Connections: Building Strong Relationships with Families of Young, Rural Students	Moving Toward Collaboration: Special Educators and General Education Teachers in Rural Areas
Transitioning to school can be challenging for any family, but for rural families, where opportunities for in-person, school to family connections can be limited, building strong school-home relationships may be particularly difficult. Specific strategies for working with rural families with young, exceptional students are discussed, highlighting innovative ideas for relationship-building.	This session will discuss preliminary outcomes for research in rural districts investigating (a) what training both special and general educators desire when a shared delivery model for students with disabilities is the goal and (b) what school-wide components are central to a shared sense of responsibility between teachers.
Michelle Novelli & Sherry Markel Northern Arizona University	Ann Berry Plymouth State University

Awards and Scholarship Lunch

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Red Rock 3

Overview and Introduction - Ginevra Courtade, ACRES Board Chair

ACRES Eagle Award for Leadership – Harvey Rude & Belva Collins, Board Members ACRES Program and Research Awards – Tina Hudson, Awards Committee Chair RSEQ Article and Reviewer Awards – Belva Collins, Executive Editor

DON'T FORGET!!! STOP BY THE SILENT AUCTION AND BID ON YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 10 AM-5 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

THURSDAY MADON 10 2016	
THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 CONCURRENT SESSION THREE	
1:45 pm – 2:35 pm	
Valley of Fire 1	Valley of Fire 2
The FAR Model: Increasing Rural Access to Special	Establishing a Center for Rural Education: A Rural
Education Teacher Preparation	Recruitment Model
With rural communities facing substantial special education	A unique model for identifying, recruiting, and supporting
teacher shortages, new systems for special education	new special educators for placement in rural settings will be
teacher preparation must be developed to better serve these	shared with participants. Based on a new Center on Rural
communities. The FAR (Formative, Adaptable, Relevant)	Education, recruitment priorities include a focus on high
Model, through its local school/community and online	school students, pre service teacher candidates, and rural
learning strategies, can be used to support special education	career changers. The fourth priority includes development
teacher preparation within rural communities.	of a coordinated professional development network.
Gillian Lie	Todd Sundeen & Harvey Rude
Western State Colorado University	University of Northern Colorado
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2
Looping? Parent Perceptions of Looping Environments	Engaging Inclusive Educators: Teaching Culturally and
for Students with Disabilities	Linguistically Diverse Exceptional (CLDE) Students in
	Middle School Classrooms
Presenters will provide information on the concept of	
restructuring classrooms from traditional to looping	This demonstration proposal examines effective
environments, including how parents perceive looping and	instructional strategies used by educators to teach both
whether or not it is practical for students with mild to	typical and atypical learners in middle school inclusive
moderate disabilities. Participants will leave with a better	settings. Strategies are explained and demonstrated to
understanding of how the looping process should work and	accommodate for disability and cultural and linguistic
what to expect in the event their child is introduced to a	diversity. The audience will have an opportunity to practice
looping classroom environment.	learned strategies in small group settings.
Holly Rice	Suzanne O'Keefe & Catherine Medina
Cameron University	Northern Arizona University

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EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 10 AM-5 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

Congratulations to ACRES Award Recipients!

ACRES is pleased to recognize the following individuals and programs who are recipients of this year's awards:

ACRES Eagle Award: Jane West

ACRES Exemplary Program Award: Monongalia County Schools Preschool Program ACRES Exemplary Program Award: Nevada Dual Sensory ImpairMENT Project

ACRES John W. Schuster Research Proposal of the Year Award: Andrew Baxter

RSEQ Research Article of the Year Award: John Hoover and Jennifer Erickson

RSEQ Reviewer of the Year Award: Todd Sundeen

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 CONCURRENT SESSION FOUR 2:45 pm – 3:35 pm	
Valley of Fire 1	Valley of Fire 2
Gambling on Technology: Setting up Technology for Supervision at a Distance	Four Uniquely Different Approaches to Prepare Special Education Doctoral Level Leadership Personnel
This presentation will review technology used in programs that have successfully supervised students at a distance. Additionally, one university will outline their path to provide distant supervision. Participants will learn of technologies available along with struggles and successes of supervising students in rural placements.	Leadership faculty from four different institutions of higher education will describe unique details of their doctoral programs for preparing special education personnel. Attendees will be encouraged to 1) engage in discussion as they learn about, compare and contrast these four programs and 2) contribute suggestions for improvement, innovation and recruitment
Cathy Galyon Keramidas, Cindy Chambers, Tina Hudson, & Lori Marks East Tennessee State University	Wilfred Wienke, University of Central Florida Barbara L. Ludlow, West Virginia University Harvey Rude, University of Northern Colorado Kevin Miller, SUNY Buffalo State Eleazar Vasquez, University of Central Florida
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2
Data Collection – Do Teachers Implement What They Were Taught?	Two for One: Blending Rural On-Site Courses in Special Education and Cultural Diversity
This presentation will share results of a study focusing on graduates of a teacher preparation program in severe disabilities from about a 15 year period. Reasons why they did or did not implement a data-based decisions guidelines system that was taught throughout their preparation program will be discussed.	This case study focused on the collaboration between two university professors teaching two site-based courses linked by a common field experience. Set in rural, diverse elementary school, one undergraduate course focused on assessing and instructing students with disabilities and the other focused on cultural diversity.
Maryann Demchak & Chevonne Sutter University of Nevada, Reno	Kathleen Magiera & Ana Maria Klein State University of New York at Fredonia

DON'T FORGET!!! STOP BY THE SILENT AUCTION AND BID ON YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 10 AM-5 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

Thank You to ACRES Conference Exhibitors!

The ACRES Board of Directors and the Partnerships/Marketing Committee wish to acknowledge and thank the following agencies who participated as exhibitors at this year's conference:

Reading is Fundamental Julie Rodriguez and Jody Shell Washington, DC free books and literacy resources http://www.rif.org E-Therapy
Diana Parafiniuk
Flagstaff, Arizona
live online therapy services
http://www.electronic-therapy.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016 CONCURRENT SESSION FIVE		
3:45 pm – 4:45 pm		
Valley of Fire 1	Valley of Fire 2	
Strategies for Successful Technology Adoption in Rural School Districts	Teacher Professional Development, Instructional Program, and Intervention Implementation to Improve Special Education Student Outcomes	
To aid student achievement, many rural school districts are turning towards online technology solutions. This presentation will review three challenges associated with technology adoption, and will demonstrate how districts nationwide have successfully adopted a special education technology platform to improve student outcomes.	Presentation will share the results of an empirical study of impacts of Reading First on achievement for students with IEPs using an integrated approach to professional development, instruction, and program intervention. This presentation will discuss results, related research, potential problems, best practices, and recommendations.	
Jennifer Bessette	Bill Thornton	
Rethink	University of Nevada, Reno	
	Sandra Aird	
	Washoe County School District	
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2	
Exploring Academic and Personal Profiles of Undergraduate Students at One University in the Rural Midwest	An Examination of Brain-Based and Evidence-Based Methods for Teaching Writing to Rural Students with Disabilities	
Presenters will communicate findings from surveys collected from undergraduate students enrolled in an introductory special education course during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 academic years. Participants will acquire a better understanding of characteristics (e.g., demographics, factors of academic success, etc.) of secondary/K-12, elementary, and special education teacher candidates.	Neuro-science indicates cognitive micro-networks responsible for variability in students' learning. The presenter will describe these networks and their impact on teaching and learning. Participants will understand how to apply neuro-science research to instructional methods for teaching writing to students with disabilities, struggle with writing, and come from a rural background.	
Keri DeSutter	David Rago	

Town Hall Meeting

Minnesota State University Moorhead

National University

5:00 pm – 5:30 pm Red Rock 3

Open to Everyone. Come and hear all that is happening in ACRES.

New Comers / Old Timers Reception

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm Red Rock 3

Join us for friendship, food and fun! Catch up with old friends and make a few new ones. Hors d'oeuvres provided; cash bar available.

FRIDAY, MA	ARCH 11, 2016
7:00 am – 5:00 pm Registration / Information	Red Rock Registration Desk
7:00 am - 8:00 am Continental Breakfast	Garden View Terrace
7:15 am – 8:15 am RSEQ Board Meeting	Red Rock 4
8:00 am – 4:00 pm Exhibits	Foyer Outside Red Rock 3
8:30 am – 12 pm Silent Auction (bidding closes)	Red Rock 5
2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Silent Auction (donation and item pickup)	Red Rock 5
	Γ SESSION SIX
	– 9:05 am
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2
Grow your own: STEP UP - A Unique Teacher	The Importance of the Prewriting Stage: How Students
Recruitment Program, Ten Years Later	from Rural and Urban Schools Plan
For 10 years, four Southern Nevada, K-16 institutions	Researchers will share the results of a study analyzing how
collaborated to develop, implement, and sustain the STEP	students from both rural and urban schools plan during the
UP Program in an effort to create a pipeline of highly	prewriting stage of the writing process. The relation
qualified teachers of color for hard-to-staff urban schools.	between how students plan and their attitudes towards
This session is a review of the program, lessons learned, and implications for rural schools.	writing and writing achievement will also be examined.
and implications for futur schools.	
Lori Navarrete	Melissa Martin, Kelly Smyth, & Baileigh Kirkpatrick
Nevada State College	University of Tennessee-Knoxville
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2
Policy and Advocacy for Rural Special Education	Cultural Relevancy in STEM
This session describes are singularly of the ACDES	This washahan highlights Native American again sultanal
This session describes ongoing work of the ACRES governmental relations committee that engages in activities	This workshop highlights Native American socio-cultural structures, world-views, and contributions to instruct STEM
to promote policies to improve services for children with	
disabilities and their families in rural America.	in cultural relevant ways to bring about critical thinking and
disabilities and their families in fural America.	social capital for all students. The audience will engage in
	activities that emphasize cultural relevancy and be given
H D L H : ' CN 4 C1 1	access to all materials to replicate in their classrooms.
Harvey Rude, University of Northern Colorado	Alma Candina Danial Dania Danial Danial Dani
Bill Wienke, University of Central Florida	Alma Sandigo, Daniel Barraza & James Ingram
Matt Jameson, University of Utah	Northern Arizona University
Red Rock 2	
Getting Off to a Good Start: Positive Interactions with Families	WHAT IS ACRES?
	, , and a second
Positive interactions between professionals and families are	ACRES is a professional association
essential for families to feel welcome and a partner in their	established by Doris Helge in 1981to focus on
child's education. The Parent Engagement Demonstration	supporting special educators in rural communities
will identify the demands on families. Led by a parent and	and advocating for policies and practice
professional, participants will discuss strategies for positive	to address the needs of rural students and teachers.
interactions and how professionals can provide information	You can learn more about ACRES and its history
through handouts that are helpful and supportive.	on the ACRES website at:
unough handouts that are helpful and supportive.	http://acres-sped.org
Dahin Kinasid Nayada DED	mup.//acres-sped.org
Robin Kincaid, Nevada PEP Sharmy Halloy, Nevada Department of Education	
Sherry Halley, Nevada Department of Education	

DON'T FORGET!!! STOP BY THE SILENT AUCTION AND BID ON YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS
Bidding Closes at Noon Today!!!

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 8 AM-4 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 2016	
CONCURRENT SESSION SEVEN	
9:15 am – 10:05 am	
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2
Increasing the Odds for Success of Potential and	What Does Current Literature Say About Classroom
Current Department Chairs	Writing Instruction? A Synthesis of Four National Surveys
The department chair position is the most critical role in a university. It is complex and filled with ambiguity. Presenters share their journeys and strategies to address concerns/challenges/barriers for transitioning to, or continuing in, leadership positions. Session offers potential/current academic leaders a forum to discuss challenges, strategies and potential solutions.	This presentation will synthesize four national surveys on secondary writing instruction. Although more written expression will be required in inclusive classrooms within the context of Common Core State Standards, actual time spent composing in classrooms is currently inadequate. These startling results have the potential for affecting instruction in rural settings.
Kevin Miller, Buffalo State	Todd Sundeen
Margaret Bausch, University of Kentucky	University of Southern Colorado
Belva Collins, University of North Carolina-Charlotte	
Channon Horn, Asbury University	
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2
Common Research Methodologies in Special Education	Designing Writing Instruction to Meet the Needs of Diverse Learners with Moderate Disabilities
This session will describe the results of a study conducted to determine the types of research that are conducted in the field of special education. Results will be discussed in general as well as by disability category.	This session covers challenges and triumphs of teaching writing to diverse learners with moderate disabilities. Demonstrations of evidence-based writing strategies along with tips on how to support students of varying skill levels with differing backgrounds and interests will be covered. Templates and sample materials will be distributed.
Maryann Demchak, Andrea Forsyth, Chevonne Sutter,	Susan Keesey
Jill Grattan, & Brianna Grumstrup	Meaghan Ritchie
University of Nevada, Reno	Western Kentucky University
Red Rock 2	
Vocabulary Instruction across Content Areas: Vocabulary Enhancement Strategies	WHERE IS ACRES HEADQUARTERS?
This session will cover vocabulary strategies to improve	The ACRES National Headquarters has been housed at
comprehension of text across content areas including	different universities over the years:
reading, mathematics, etc. Attendees will participate in	Murray State University
exercises using research-based strategies to improve their	Western Washington University
vocabulary instruction across content areas. Examples of	University of Utah
strategies for use in classrooms across content areas and	Kansas State University
grade levels will be provided.	Montana State University, Billings West Virginia University (current)
Karen Fries	west viiginia oniversity (current)
Francis Marion University	

DON'T FORGET!!! STOP BY THE SILENT AUCTION AND BID ON YOUR FAVORITE ITEMS
Bidding Closes at Noon Today!!!

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 8 AM-4 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

CONCURRENT SESSION EIGHT	
10:15 am – 11:05 am	
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2
Outcomes of a Personnel Preparation Program for Rural Early Childhood Special Education	Preparing Special Education Teachers to Be Leaders in their Profession
North Dakota's rural nature impacts special educator preparation, recruitment, and retention. This session discusses how a Personnel Preparation to Improve Services and Results for Children with Disabilities, US DOE funded project, has addressed the critical shortage of early childhood special education professionals in rural areas within the state.	Special education teachers have a unique set of skills and opportunities to become leaders in the field of education. Some, however, may not consider themselves to be leaders. This will provide examples of activities in which special education teachers can serve as leaders at the school, community, and national levels. Belva Collins
Holly Pedersen & Evan Borisinkoff Minot State University	University of North Carolina at Charlotte Melinda Ault University of Kentucky
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2
Board Certified Behavior Analysts and the Related Ethical and Professional Practice Considerations	Positive Connections: Building Relationships Between Teachers and High School Students at Risk for Failure
The presentation will cover ethical and professional considerations associated with procuring the services of a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) including the Declaration of Professional Services as well as the Guidelines for Professional Practice. Attendees will learn about BCBA responsibilities as mandated by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board.	Presenters will share Positive Connections, a school-wide intervention that addresses educational outcomes of secondary students at risk for school failure by (a) providing a list of at-risk students, (b) prompting staff and student interaction, (c)helping to create support teams, and (d) providing opportunities for early intervention and dropout prevention.
Anthony Menendez Cleveland State University Michael Mayton West Virginia University Red Rock 2	Sara Beth Hitt East Tennessee State University Charles Wood & Angela Preston University of North Carolina-Charlotte
Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and a Mental Health Disorder: What Can They Tell us About Improving the School Experience for Students with this Dual Diagnosis? This session will discuss what several young adults with a diagnosis of ASD and mental health disorder shared about their perceptions of their life experiences. The presenter will discuss what can be done to help these students encounter more academic and social success, and have more positive school outcomes. Karen Hurlbutt-Eastman Minnesota State University	WHAT IS RSEQ? The Rural Special Education Quarterly (RSEQ) is the ONLY professional journal dedicated to rural special education and disability services. This peer-reviewed quarterly journal has been published continuously for 35 years. You can see a sample issue of RSEQ at the ACRES web site at: http://acres-sped.org/journal

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CONCURRENT SESSION NINE	
11:15 am – 12:05 pm	
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2
A Collaborative Approach to Teaching Collaboration and Co-Teaching in Higher Education	What is Results Driven Accountability for Students with Disabilities?
Modeling a collaborative approach of instruction for inclusive practice is an effective means of preparing preservice teachers for collaboration and co-teaching. This session will describe one university's collaborative approach to instruction. Presenters will discuss barriers or challenges faculty face and teacher candidate perspectives.	Results Driven Accountability is the NEW method for ensuring IDEA Compliance and reflects a focus on Outcomes and Results for SWDs. Every State has now submitted a Plan to implement RDA to the US Dept of Education. This presentation will describe RDA and help prepare participants for its successful implementation.
Crystal Smith & Julie Reneau	Robert Pasternack
Fairmont State University	Accelify
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2
Poverty and Children with Special Needs: Implications and Strategies for the Classroom	Trials & Tribulations of Implementing Evidence-based Writing Practices in Rural Elementary Classrooms
The rate of poverty has steadily increased across the nation. Living in poverty affects health, academic growth, social-emotional development and classroom engagement. The participants will increase their understanding of these difficulties, and learn strategies for addressing the effects of poverty in the classroom. Resources will be provided.	Teachers in rural regions need access to professional development in pedagogical skills and curriculum to improve writing of students at-risk. Presenters describe research that examined effects of professional development in two evidence-based practices. Sample teaching materials for students with diverse learning needs will be shared.
Susan Schultz St. John Fisher College	Tina Hudson, Lori Marks, & Kimberly Hale East Tennessee State University
Red Rock 2	
Lessons Learned from a Statewide Technical Assistance Project	WHO ARE THE ACRES EAGLES?
This presentation will describe a statewide, federally funded technical assistance project and the lessons learned that can assist similar projects in effective implementation of recommendations by families and service providers.	In some years, he ACRES Board recognizes an individual who has provided outstanding leadership to rural special education through their advocacy efforts. You can see a list of Eagle Award Recipients at http://acres-sped.org/advocacy .
Maryann Demchak & Jill Grattan University of Nevada, Reno	

Officer and Board Member Appreciation Lunch

12:30 pm – 1:45 pm Red Rock 4

Recognition of Outgoing/Incoming Board Members- Ginevra Courtade, ACRES Board Chair Plans for Coming Year - Matt Jameson, ACRES Chair-elect Silent Auction Report - Kim Floyd, ACRES Board Member

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Auction items available in Red Rock 5 until 5 pm

CONCURRENT SESSION TEN		
2:00 pm – 2:50 pm		
Valley of the Fire 1 Valley of the Fire 2		
High Leverage Practices: Emerging Policies and Implications for Teacher Education	Designing a Support System for College Students with ADD/ADHD/Executive Functioning Disorders	
This session describes High Leverage Practices, a core set of teaching practices around which clinically rich teacher education programs can be developed, highlights organization and pedagogical implications associated with their implementation, and provides two school and university partnership programs as exemplars for addressing such challenges.	Using quasi-experimental group research design, two college faculty members at a small private college in New York State developed an online skills and strategies support group for college students with attention deficit disorder and/or executive function disorder. A researched-based strategy was introduced, practiced, and debriefed by the group.	
Larry Maheady SUNY Buffalo State	Susan Schultz & Pamina Abkowitz St. John Fisher College	
Lake Mead 1	Lake Mead 2	
Preparing Research-based Inclusive Multidisciplinary Educators	Something Better than Nothing? Investigating Rural Service Delivery Models for Deaf/Hard of Hearing	
PRIME is an innovative, alternative program specifically designed to accommodate non-traditional participants working as paraprofessionals or on emergency credentials. The purpose of this study was to determine the perceptions of program completers regarding their abilities to use research-based teaching skills rural and urban classrooms.	Recruitment and retention of qualified professionals to serve deaf and hard of hearing students is a challenge nationwide; this challenge is augmented in rural areas. This presentation discusses a case study that implemented a collaborative consultation model in a rural school to maximize available personnel.	
Jack Mayhew	Holly Pedersen	
Weber State University	Minot State University	
Patrick Leytham	·	
Touro University		
Red Rock 2		
Special Education Transition Perspectives in Minority		
Groups	WHAT ADE THE ACDES MONOCDADUS?	
There is little information about the needs of Native American families facing transition from K-12 settings to young adulthood except in the context of conversations of minority groups. After an overview of current literature on minority groups and transitional practices. Participants will be given an opportunity to express their own experiences with transition in the Native American community. Julie Lane	ACRES sometimes commissions a monograph that reflects the work of experts on current issues and trends with implications for rural special education and disability services. Information about how to obtain a copy of recent monographs is available at http://acres-sped.org/monographs .	
Fresno Pacific University		

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Auction items available in Red Rock 5 until 5 pm

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 8 AM-4 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

Interactive Sessions Red Rock 6-8 3:00 pm – 4:30pm

- Breaking Boundaries: Collaborating to make the Arts Accessible for Students with Complex Instructional Needs
 Jen Suppo Seton Hill University
- Certified teachers rate 27 evidenced-based practices for students with ASD identified by the NPDC
 - o Eleazar Vasquez & Bill Wienke University of Central Florida
- Recruiting, Training, and Retaining Special Education Teachers in Rural Areas
 - o Amy Jacobson University of North Dakota
- What's Hot and What's Not in Literacy: Rural Classroom Teachers Examine the International Literacy Association's "Hot Topics" List
 - o Carolyn Carlson Washburn University
- North Dakota General Education Teachers' Knowledge of American Sign Language Interpreters in the classroom
 - o Holly Pederson & Nichole DeSautel Minot State University
- Providing Digital Access in Rural Areas: Students with Disabilities and Computer Based Testing
 - o Wendy Gelbart University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- Collaboration Simplified: Using Checklists to Increase Communication with Paraprofessionals
 - o Holly Luganob, Kathy Abou-Rjaily, & Michelle Novelli Northern Arizona University
- Preparing Teachers and Faculty for Rural Culturally Linguistically Diverse Exceptional Students: Online Plus Face-to-Face Designs
 - o Patricia Peterson Northern Arizona University
- Improving the Reading Skills of Children in Poverty Using Evidenced-Based Reading Strategies
 - o Kelly Smyth, Melissa Martin & Baileigh Kirkpatrick University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- Addressing the Issue of Bullying Improving Student Outcomes in Rural and Urban Schools
 - o Colleen Klein-Ezell Southeastern Louisiana University & Dan Ezell University of Central Florida
- Using Your Heart As A Compass: Reflective Preparation And Practice In Teaching
 - o Peter Kopriva Fresno Pacific University & Sijmontje Renema-Kopriva Fresno Unified School District
- Using Technology to Meet the Needs of Children 0-3 with Disabilities in Rural Areas.
 - o Jennifer Buchter & Samantha Riggleman University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- The High Stakes Literacy Game: Improving Literacy of Children with Disabilities Through Squishy Books
 - Cathy Galyon-Keramidas, Angela Dugan, Kimberly Hale, & Jordan King East Tennessee State University
- Little Free Libraries: Increasing Access to Books in Rural Communities
 - o Carolyn Carlson Washburn University

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Round Table Discussions

(25 minute session, repeated 3 times, with participants rotating among tables)

Red Rock 4

3:00 pm - 4:30 pm

- The Autism & Low Incidence Classroom Observation Tool: Improving the Quality of Low Incidence Programming
 - o Robert Pennington University of Louisville
- Use of a Flipped Classroom Approach in Teacher Preparation: Reflections from Faculty and Students
 - Kim Floyd and Michael Mayton
- Efficacy of Rural High School Teachers in Indiana
 - o Tori Shoulders University of Southern Indiana
- Banned and Challenged Books in Rural School Libraries and Classrooms
 - o Carolyn Carlson Washburn University
- Collaboration Between Pre-service Special Educators and School Psychologists to Improve At-Risk Student Outcomes
 - o Kelly Smyth, Melissa Martin, & Baileigh Kirkpatrick University of Tennessee-Knoxville
- A 3D Virtual World for Educational Simulations with Preservice Teachers in Rural Special Education
 - o Barbara Ludlow and Melissa Hartley West Virginia University

Afternoon Break

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm Red Rock 7

DON'T FORGET!!! STOP BY THE SILENT AUCTION AND PICK UP YOUR WINNING BID!!!!

Auction items available in Red Rock 5 until 5 pm

EXHIBITS OPEN FROM 8 AM-4 PM TODAY - TAKE SOME TIME TO VISIT WITH VENDORS

ENJOY A FREE EVENING TO EXPLORE LAS VEGAS!!!

Join Us! Become a Member of ACRES

If you have enjoyed learning from and networking with us at the conference but are not already a member of ACRES, we invite you to join our unique professional organization focused on topics and issues in rural special education and disability services. You can learn more about our organizational structure, conference, publications program, and advocacy efforts at http://acres-sped.org/membership so you can join up now.

Recognize Someone! Nominate a Program or Person for an ACRES Award

At each year's conference, ACRES presents a series of awards recognizing contributions to the field of rural special education and disability services. Awards may be presented in the following categories:

ACRES Eagle Award

In some years, ACRES provides a special award as a plaque to one or more special educators who have demonstrated significant accomplishments in leadership on behalf of rural special education.

ACRES Exemplary Rural Special Education Program Award

Each year, ACRES presents one annual award as a plaque to a program in any of **eight (8) different categories** that provides service to rural schools or communities and demonstrates an impact on rural special education.

ACRES John W. Schuster Research Proposal of the Year Award

Each year, ACRES provides one annual award of \$500 to a graduate student who proposes completion of a thesis or dissertation related to service delivery to persons with disabilities in rural areas of the United States.

ACRES Teacher Scholarship Award

At each year's conference, using Silent Auction proceeds, ACRES offers one annual award of up to \$1000 to a teacher who is or was recently employed in a rural school district who is pursuing additional education.

More information about these ACRES awards and nomination/application forms are available on the ACRES web site at: http://acres-sped.org/awards or http://acres-sped.org/awards or http://acres-sped.org/awards or http://acres-sped.org/scholarships.

Share Your Work! Publish in Rural Special Education Quarterly

Rural Special Education Quarterly invites conference participants to submit a manuscript sharing their work with others in the field. RSEQ is a well-respected national peer-reviewed professional journal that has been published quarterly for over 30 years. An overview of the journal, the submission guidelines are posted on the ACRES web site at http://acres-sped.org/journal.

Be an Advocate! Contribute to ACRES

ACRES engages in advocacy efforts related to rural special education, individually as well as with national consortia of professional organizations. Information about how to make a tax-deductible contribution of ACRES to support these advocacy efforts can be found at http://acres-sped.org/advocacy.

SATURDAY, MARCH 12, 2016		
Registration/Information	Pre-Function Area 7:00 am – 10:00 am	
Continental Breakfast	Garden Terrace, 7:00 am – 8:00 am	

ACRES Post-Conference Open Board Meeting Bryce Board Room

7:00 am - 8:00 am

Everyone is welcome to attend. This meeting is not mandatory but the Board would love to hear your ideas for ACRES.

CONCURRENT SESSION ELEVEN 8:00 am – 8:50 am		
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2	Lake Mead 1
Developing Partnerships across	Breaking Down Geographical	Investigating Rural Teachers'
Rural, Cultural, and Intellectual	Barriers Using Twitter to Bridge	Experiences with the
Contexts to Improve Literacy and	Understanding for D/deaf Culture	Implementation of Response to
Student Achievement		Intervention
The presenters will share insights gained through focus group data from families living in rural Central Texas that participated in a community based literacy program, Read to the Top! Participants will learn about the collective value added through community and school partnerships.	Twitter continues to grow as one of the most used social-networking platforms. As of 2015, it is the world's largest microblogging platform, allowing for concise interaction among users, no matter the geographical location or social status. What does this mean for rural special education networking and service provision?	The authors will present findings from research into teachers' experiences with implementation of RTI across grades 1–6 in rural Tennessee. Participants will learn findings from a survey and teacher focus groups specifically targeting teacher experiences with and views of benefits and challenges of RTI.
Alexis McCoy & Audrey Sorrells	Rikki Lowe	Kim Hale & Tina Hudson
University of Texas at Austin	Lincoln County Schools	East Tennessee State University
	John Milliman	
	WV School for the Deaf and Blind	

Congratulations to ACRES New Board Members and Officers!

ACRES is pleased to welcome the new members of the Board of Directors and the new Officers who were selected by the membership during the recent election. They take office at the end of the conference and who will help to lead our organization during the coming year and support our efforts to sustain the organization and its members as well as to promote the interests of rural special education and disability services.

Get Involved in ACRES!

The ACRES Board of Directors welcomes greater involvement by all members. If you are a member and you are interested in serving on an ACRES committee or being nominated for the ACRES Board of Directors, please contact the ACRES Board Chair for assistance.

CONCURRENT SESSION TWELVE 9:00 am – 9:50 am			
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2	Lake Mead 1	
Understanding the Process of	Tips and Lessons Learned:	The Long Term Implications of	
Collaboration in the Wake-of	Developing a College Support	Lead Poisoning	
Standard-based Curriculum and	Program for Students with Autism		
To implement a standards-based curriculum for all students, educators must seek out ways to enhance their collaboration skills for planning and instruction. Educator interviews found that, although many educators were familiar with the concept of collaboration, however, the practice of collaboration was not clear-cut.	Beginning college is difficult for typical students; imagine the complexity a student with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) experiences during this transition. This session will describe how faculty from a small university developed a pilot college support program for students with ASD.	The Center for Disease Control (2015) reports 535,000 US children between the ages of one and five have elevated blood lead levels. Lead poisoning can have long-term negative effects on academic achievement, health and behavior. Lead poisoning is a preventable worldwide environmental health threat. Strategies for prevention are discussed.	
Tracy McLeod	Crystal Smith & Julie Reneau	Susan Schultz	
The Sage Colleges	Fairmont State University	St. John Fisher College	
	CONCURRENT SESSION THIRTEEN		
	10:00 am – 10:50 am		
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2	Lake Mead 1	
Read for Success: Stopping the Summer Reading Proficiency Slide	Recruitment, Development, and Retention of Highly Effective SPED Teachers to Improve Student Outcomes	Post-secondary Access for Students with Intellectual Disability in Rural Nevada	
Presenter will disseminate Read for Success study findings and data demonstrating the increase in achievement among students below the 10 th percentile who participated in the study and providing a description of the study components. Attendees will participate in activities from the program to understand the process districts used for implementation.	Highly effective SPED teachers can be linked to student achievement and other related outcomes. Recruitment, development, and retention of such teachers are critical and necessary functions that provide noteworthy challenges for the system and principals. This presentation will discuss research, potential problems, best practices, and recommendations.	Nevada is home to three urban counties while the rest of the state is vastly rural or "frontier." The geography has limited the amount of post-school options for individuals with intellectual disability. This presentation will discuss the current options as well as discuss the current post-secondary coalition across the state.	
Julie Rodriguez Reading is Fundamental	Bill Thornton University of Nevada, Reno	Kari Wennerlind University of Nevada, Las Vegas	

Learn Even More – Read the ACRES Conference Proceedings!

If you missed a session because you were present your own paper or attending a different session, you can check out the papers in the conference document. The ACRES Conference Proceedings contains all papers that were submitted by presenters before the proceedings deadline. These papers provide more detail about the projects with references and contact information. The proceedings document is available now at the ACRES web site at http://acres-sped.org/conference.

CONCURRENT SESSION FOURTEEN 11:00 am – 11:50 am		
Valley of the Fire 1	Valley of the Fire 2	Lake Mead 1
Designing Appropriate Transition Plans to Address College Preparation	Determining the Impact of an RtI Mandate on Student Academic Performance in Rural Elementary	Targeting Grade Aligned ELA Skills via an iPad App
Preparing students with disabilities for college entrance requires the design of appropriate transition plans as an instructional framework for the Office of Disability Services at any college. A study was conducted of college disability services to determine how plans should be designed, leading to recommendations for revision of transition plans.	This session will describe a survey study of rural elementary school educators' perceptions of Response to Intervention (RtI) implementation within their school, describing relevant correlations of survey responses with student achievement data. Plans for a future causal impact study of statemandated use of RtI will be discussed.	Students with moderate/severe intellectual disabilities/autism have been underexposed to grade aligned ELA content. This session highlights research to guide participants practice in implementing meaningful grade aligned ELA content such as opinion writing, comprehension of fiction and nonfiction text, and student led research via technology for students with low incidence disabilities.
Margaret Cramer North Central University Dorea Bonneau UNC Pembroke	Corey Pierce University of Northern Colorado	Pam Mims East Tennessee State University

Get Ready for Next Year's Conference!

The Call for Proposals submission process will open soon, with notifications by email to at=all attendees as well as postings to the ACRES email lists. More information about next year's conference will be posted as soon as it is available at http://acres-sped.org/conference.

Help Us Improve Future Conferences!

ACRES values feedback from each year's conference participants – your ideas assist us in planning speakers, sessions, and events for next year's conference. After the conference is over, all participants will be sent an email with a link to complete the ACRES Conference Evaluation Form. We hope you will take a few minutes to offer your suggestions for making next year's conference even better.

Can YOU Host a Future ACRES Conference?

The ACRES Board is always looking for support from local groups to plan and conduct each annual conference, alternating between venues in the east and west in alternate years. The conference needs to be held in locations that have reasonable hotel costs, easy travel arrangements, and interesting local sights to attract presenters and participants. If you are interested in hosting an future ACRES conference, please request information from acres-sped@mail.wvu.edu.

2016 ACRES Conference List of Presenters

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