FOUNDATION: INCLUSIVE, EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR STUDENTS ON THE AUTISM SPECTRUM AND THEIR SCHOOLS  Topic Area

Our understanding of the Autism Spectrum is constantly changing and evolving. Because of this, it is necessary for educators, medical personnel, parents, and other service providers to stay up-to-date on best practices for interventions and strategies available to those on the Autism Spectrum. It is equally important to have schools offer opportunities to all students and ensure safe, learning environments, free from bullying and abuse.

As we support those on the Spectrum, we know we must provide effective interventions and use strategies that will result in optimal learning and skill development. To ensure the best possible outcomes for individuals on the Autism Spectrum, it is paramount that educators, parents, and service providers provide access to interventions deemed to be evidence-based.

Equally, we need school strategies and an educational system that support students who learn differently, thus fostering a climate of school and human diversity. As an example, does the one-size fits-all approach of the Common Core and adhering to the standards across the student spectrum, support positive achievement or encourage low achievement of students who learn differently. Where is there room for remediation or acceleration? Some would argue that learning differences are disabled by an intolerant world and that changing an intolerant world changes it for the better for all. We look forward to interesting cross-cutting discussions and a sharing of knowledge and expertise.

We will accept proposals in the following areas:

- Successful evidence-based research and application in:
  - Interventions including antecedent-based communicative, parent-implemented, naturalistic language;
  - Technology aided instruction;
  - Self-management;
  - Peer mediated instruction;
  - Structured play groups;
  - Modeling;
  - Social Narratives
  - Other evidence-based strategies;
- Best practices and strategies in school settings to stop bullying on the campus, specifically against autistic students and youth who are considered ‘different’;
- Professional development programs which can help improve and shift school wide and teacher attitudes toward inclusion;
- Self-advocacy and allies’ perspectives on alternatives to therapies that remove autistic behaviors;
- Strategies that support alleviating areas of difficulty for students while respecting and valuing difference.
If you have a proposal that may not fit in to the above targets, we will welcome them as part of our discussion. We welcome proposals in any presentation format.

Please see presentation formats on our webpage at http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/presenters/formats. Please check the criteria for each format and ensure that you have the appropriate number of presenters for your chosen format. You may submit proposals online at: http://www.pacrim.hawaii.edu/submissions or send your proposals via email to prcall@hawaii.edu.

For more information, please contact the Pacrim team at prinfo@hawaii.edu.

For general information on the conference, please contact Charmaine Crockett at cccrocke@hawaii.edu, (808) 956-7539.

For registration questions please contact the registration desk at (808) 956-8816, fax (808) 956-4437 or email prreg@hawaii.edu.