

**2023 MRA Conference Agenda**

**Monday-Wednesday, June 5-7, 2023**

**The Power of Partnerships: Creating Success in New Opportunities**

**Monday, June 5, 2023**

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| Noon-1:30pm | Service Provider Exhibits Setup – Paradise B/C |
| 1:30-4:30pm | Registration Opens |
| 3-5pm-Paradise  3-3:15pm  3:15-3:45pm  3:45-5pm | **MRA President’s Welcome & Service Provider Exhibits Open & Recognition Paradise B/C**  MRA Welcome: Erica King MRA President, MO Vocational Rehabilitation & Michael Kiener MRA President Elect, Maryville University  Service Provider Recognition: Elizabeth Perkins Coordinator, Programs MO Vocational Rehabilitation  POWER Conference Welcome: Networking Event, group activity, Michael Kiener |
| 5-5:15pm | Kick Off Pep Talk: Chris Clause, Assistant Commissioner |
| 5:30-7:30pm | Pizza & Fun at Frank & Lola’s Pizzeria: Sponsored by **Missouri Welding & United Access** |

**Tuesday, June 6, 2023**

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| 7:30-8:25am | Registration Opens & Breakfast – Paradise B/C |
| 8:25-8:30am | MRA President Welcome Erica King - Paradise B/C |
| 8:30-9:15am | POWER Conference: Networking Event II: Quick Fire Networking group activity – Paradise B/C  Lesa Barber, MO Vocational Rehabilitation, Beth Dauber, MO Vocational Rehabilitation, Kim Gee, Director, MU Pre-ETS |
| 9:15-10:15am  Paradise | Opening Keynote – Wired For Bias – Paradise B/C  Robert Franklin II, MPA, Practitioner, Trainer, Consultant |
|  | Break |
| 10:30-11:30am | Breakout Session 1: All breakout sessions listed below. |
| 11:35-1:05pm | Business Meeting & Awards Luncheon: Kimberly Gee, Director, MU Pre-ETS  Lunch Buffett - Paradise B/C |
| 1:15-4:45pm | Breakout Sessions 2-4, All breakout sessions listed below |
| 7:00-10:00pm | Ethan Carl (Country Music Performer) Paradise B/C |

**Wednesday, June 7, 2023**

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| 7:00-8:00am | Breakfast - Paradise |
| 8:15-10:30am | Breakout session 5 & 6, All breakout sessions listed below |
| 10:40am | Silent Auction Closes / Conference Announcements Michael Kiener |
| 10:45-12:00pm | Closing Keynote: “More Than Meets The Eye…An Unlikely Story Of Success”  Andrew Simmons |
| 12:00-12:15pm | Close of Conference: Cash Prizes for Crowd Compass App Winners, ‘Name Tag’ Basket Drawing, Vendor Bingo Drawing, Silent Auction Winners |

**Breakout Sessions**

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| **June 6 10:30-**  **11:30am** | **Breakouts # 1** |
| 1A  Wingate 64 | **Professional Development**: Supporting Equity and Inclusion of Deaf & Hard of Hearing Individuals in Employment  Michelle Willenbrock, Counselor IV |
| 1B  Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Embracing Assistive Technology as Part of Your Craft  David Baker Director Missouri Assistive Technology |
| 1C  Wingate 62 | **Mental Health**: The Potential of Internal and External Partnerships for Improved Mental Health Outcomes  Estevan Limon Lopez, Ph.D.; Director of Research - Burrell Behavioral Health;  Rachel Morgan, MA. Regional Director: Employment Services - Preferred Family Healthcare |
| 1D  Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: Tools for Charting the LifeCourse to Employment  Sarah Adams, Training Director and Education Impact Lead, LifeCourse Nexus;  Angelina Alpert, Research Assistant, No Wrong Door Initiative, UMKC-IHD, UCEDD |
| 1E  Wingate 60 | **Workplace Supports**: Strategies for Working with Anxiety: Increase Predictability, Lower Anxiety  John Bruno, Ph.D., Autism Specialist and Supervisor of Pre Employment, Disability Inclusion Operations |
| **June 6**  **1:15-2:15pm** | **Breakouts #2** |
| 2A  Wingate 62 | **Leadership**: Early, Mid, and Experienced Professionals: A Panel Discussion of Career Development  Michael Kiener Ph.D., CRC Maryville University,  Brayton Wooters MA, PLPC, CRC Youth in Need, &  Casey Anderson MA District Supervisor, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation |
| 2B  Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: Benefit Planning  Robinne Morgan M.Ed., C-WIP |
| 2C  Wingate 64 | **Professional Development**: Partnerships Practice: First, Second Thought  Robert Franklin II, MPA, Practitioner, Trainer, Consultant |
| 2D  Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Local Initiatives and Partnerships to Improve the Lives of People with Developmental Disabilities  Nancy Pennington, Executive Director/CEO, Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services |
| 2E  Wingate 60 | **Leadership**: Real-World Learning Opportunities and Experiences: Creating Meaningful Partnerships with Schools for Increased Student Success  Lindsay Hartzler EdS., PreETS Specialist and Regional Training Coordinator  Paul D’Amico EdS., PreETS Specialist and Regional Coordinator |
| **June 6**  **2:30-3:30pm** | **Breakouts #3** |
| 3A  Wingate 64 | **Professional Development**: Helping Others Achieve their Dreams was the Secret to Achieving my Own  Katie Selby, Paraprofessional |
| 3B  Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: Facilitating Opportunities for Special Needs Student in Career and Technical Education (CTE)  Amy Herrman Ed.D Career Education Special Needs Planner |
| 3C  Wingate 60 | **Job Development**: Return to Work: For those with a newly acquired disability, returning to their previous employer.  Sarah Davis, Director of Client Services; The Brain Injury Foundation of St. Louis |
| 3D  Wingate 62 | **Mental Health**: Complementary Therapy Techniques for the Rehabilitation Counselor  Crystal Weaver MHA, LPC, CRC, MT-BC Director Music Therapy Maryville University |
| 3E  Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: You’ve Got This: An Interactive Examination of Assistive Technology Solutions  Scout Merry Program Coordinator Missouri Assistive Technology |
| **June 6**  **3:45-4:45pm** | **Breakouts #4** |
| 4A  Wingate 64 | **Professional Development**: Bringing Employees and Employers Together with Vocational Rehabilitation  Lorretta Sparks Counselor II,  Emma Sweet Counselor II,  Michelle Young Counselor III Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation |
| 4B  Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: Thinking Forward  David Baker, Director Missouri Assistive Technology |
| 4C  Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Have More Success at Work with Assistive Technology: The Smart Steps Mobile App  Dr. Cindy Fisher; Smart Steps LLC |
| 4D  Wingate 62 | **Mental Health**: Mental Health in the Modern Workplace: A Personal Journey with Disability DEI Implications  Jana Burke, PhD, ADAC |
| 4E  Wingate 60 | **Job Development**: Customized Employment: Building Strong Partnerships for Success  Daniel Mayes Regional Director Preferred Family Healthcare;  Kareena Cloe Missouri vocational Rehabilitation |
| **June 7**  **8:15- 9:15 AM** | **Breakout #5** |
| 5A  Wingate 64 | **Leadership**: Transformational Leadership: What is it? How can it move the Rehabilitation field forward?  Dr. Chris Clause, Assistant Commissioner, DESE Office of Adult Learning and Rehabilitation Services |
| 5B  Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: BRAIDING: An Opportunity for Collaboration and Creativity  Amy Siekerman, Assistant Director Transition and 511 Services;  Leslie Quarles, Training Associate II, Institute for Community Inclusion |
| 5C  Wingate 60 | **Job Development**: Creating Shared Value: A Case Study on Successful Employer Engagement  Katie Fields, College Outreach Coordinator and Disability Inclusion Consultant, Starkloff Disability Institute |
| 5D  Wingate 62 | **Professional Development**: Leveraging Partners at the Front Door of Supports  Sarah Adams, Training Director and Education Impact Lead, LifeCourse Nexus;  Angelina Alpert, Research Assistant, No Wrong Door Initiative, UMKC-IHD, UCEDD |
| 5E  Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Disability Discrimination at Work: How to Protect Yourself  Paige Sparks, Esq; Samantha Sparks, Esq., Sparks Law Firm |
| **June 7**  **9:30-10:30 AM** | **Breakout #6** |
| 6A  Wingate 60 | **Professional Development**: Ethical Considerations with Artificial Intelligence: Chat GPT  Michael Kiener Ph.D., CRC Maryville University |
| 6B  Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: School-based Counseling: Strengths, Barriers, and Necessity Today  Brayton Wooters, MA, PLPC, CRC Youth in Need |
| 6C  Wingate 64 | **Job Development**: Dispelling Common Myths About the Reasonable Accommodation Process  Jana Burke, PhD, ADAC |
| 6D  Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Helping Neurodiverse Adults increase Social Skills Using a Virtual Learning Format  John Bruno, Ph.D., Co Founder and VP of Programs, iSocial, iSocl.net |
| 6E  Wingate 62 | **Job Development**: Surviving “CovidShock”: How an Unprecedented Pandemic Resulted in Creative Thinking  Yvonne Wright; Deputy Director, Missouri Office of Workforce Development |