

**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-Paradise3-3:15pm3:15-3:45pm3:45-5pm  | **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 UniversityService Provider Recognition: Elizabeth Perkins Coordinator, Programs MO Vocational RehabilitationPOWER 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/CLesa Barber, MO Vocational Rehabilitation, Beth Dauber, MO Vocational Rehabilitation, Kim Gee, Director, MU Pre-ETS |
| 9:15-10:15amParadise | 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-ETSLunch 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 CraftDavid Baker Director Missouri Assistive Technology  |
| 1C Wingate 62 | **Mental Health**: The Potential of Internal and External Partnerships for Improved Mental Health OutcomesEstevan Limon Lopez, Ph.D.; Director of Research - Burrell Behavioral Health; Rachel Morgan, MA. Regional Director: Employment Services - Preferred Family Healthcare |
| 1DWingate 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 |
| 1EWingate 60 | **Workplace Supports**: Strategies for Working with Anxiety: Increase Predictability, Lower AnxietyJohn 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 DevelopmentMichael 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 PlanningRobinne Morgan M.Ed., C-WIP |
| 2C Wingate 64 | **Professional Development**: Partnerships Practice: First, Second ThoughtRobert Franklin II, MPA, Practitioner, Trainer, Consultant |
| 2D Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Local Initiatives and Partnerships to Improve the Lives of People with Developmental DisabilitiesNancy Pennington, Executive Director/CEO, Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services  |
| 2EWingate 60 | **Leadership**: Real-World Learning Opportunities and Experiences: Creating Meaningful Partnerships with Schools for Increased Student SuccessLindsay 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 |
| 3DWingate 62 | **Mental Health**: Complementary Therapy Techniques for the Rehabilitation CounselorCrystal 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 SolutionsScout 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 RehabilitationLorretta Sparks Counselor II, Emma Sweet Counselor II, Michelle Young Counselor III Missouri Vocational Rehabilitation |
| 4B Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: Thinking ForwardDavid Baker, Director Missouri Assistive Technology  |
| 4C Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Have More Success at Work with Assistive Technology: The Smart Steps Mobile AppDr. Cindy Fisher; Smart Steps LLC |
| 4D Wingate 62 | **Mental Health**: Mental Health in the Modern Workplace: A Personal Journey with Disability DEI ImplicationsJana Burke, PhD, ADAC |
| 4E Wingate 60 | **Job Development**: Customized Employment: Building Strong Partnerships for SuccessDaniel Mayes Regional Director Preferred Family Healthcare; Kareena Cloe Missouri vocational Rehabilitation |
| **June 7****8:15- 9:15 AM** | **Breakout #5** |
| 5AWingate 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 CreativityAmy 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 EngagementKatie Fields, College Outreach Coordinator and Disability Inclusion Consultant, Starkloff Disability Institute |
| 5DWingate 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 |
| 5EWingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Disability Discrimination at Work: How to Protect YourselfPaige 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 GPTMichael Kiener Ph.D., CRC Maryville University |
| 6B Wingate 61 | **Pre-Employment Transition**: School-based Counseling: Strengths, Barriers, and Necessity TodayBrayton Wooters, MA, PLPC, CRC Youth in Need |
| 6C Wingate 64 | **Job Development**: Dispelling Common Myths About the Reasonable Accommodation ProcessJana Burke, PhD, ADAC |
| 6D Wingate 63 | **Workplace Supports**: Helping Neurodiverse Adults increase Social Skills Using a Virtual Learning FormatJohn Bruno, Ph.D., Co Founder and VP of Programs, iSocial, iSocl.net |
| 6EWingate 62 | **Job Development**: Surviving “CovidShock”: How an Unprecedented Pandemic Resulted in Creative ThinkingYvonne Wright; Deputy Director, Missouri Office of Workforce Development |