



EMPOWER ALL ABILITIES CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 26, 2022

Virtual Conference

9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Empower All Abilities Conference 2022

Presented by:

Springfield Public Schools

Springfield Parents for Students with Disabilities (SPSD)

KEYNOTE MESSAGE PRESENTED BY:



MARVIN MERRIWEATHER, MSW, LCSW is the owner of Be Strong Mental Health and Therapeutic Services located in Springfield, Illinois where he utilizes a modern approach to therapy. He is an eclectic therapist interested in having tough conversations with clients to help facilitate sustainable lifestyle changes that improve their overall quality of life. Marvin utilizes traditional and non-traditional therapeutic interventions to help clients re-establish control. Marvin will discuss how our emotional responses to stress and trauma impact us, and how emotional wounds can impact our relationships.

❖ **Free Virtual Conference**

- ❖ Topics include mental health, transition to adulthood, special education, advocacy, inclusion and financial planning
- ❖ Featured speakers include a physician, psychologists, attorneys, advocates, and other professionals
- ❖ Practical information about your child's education
- ❖ Community resource fair with numerous exhibitors
- ❖ Connect with other parents
- ❖ Professional Development Hours (PDH) available
- ❖ Sesión de español: La Nueva Alternativa a la Tutela: Toma de Decisiones Con Apoyo

Register online at www.sps186.org/studentssupport or by calling 217-525-3060



EMPOWER ALL ABILITIES CONFERENCE

Saturday, February 26, 2022
9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Free Virtual Conference

Presented by:
Springfield Public Schools
Springfield Parents for Students with Disabilities (SPSD)

9:00 – 9:20 Welcome/Opening Remarks
9:20 – 10:00 Keynote Speaker

10:10 – 12:30 Breakout Sessions (see schedule below)
12:40 – 1:30 Exhibitors

= Family = Educators = Students

Breakout Session 1 10:10 a.m. – 10:50 a.m.	Breakout Session 2 11:00 a.m. – 11:40 a.m.	Breakout Session 3 11:50 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
<i>Taking Care of Our Children, Our Families, and Ourselves</i> Marvin Merriweather, MSW, LCSW Nicole Florence, MD Gail Neely Gail Capps 	<i>Using the BLT Approach to Tackle Mental Health Issues</i> Tamilore Odimayo, PsyD, LCPC, CADC 	<i>COVID-19 and Its Deleterious Effects on Students' Mental Health</i> Melissa Fisher Paoni, PhD Bethany Bilyeu, PsyD
<i>Neurodivergence: Promoting Growth and Celebrating Differences</i> Anna Hickey, PhD 	<i>Recognizing Mood Disorders in Children and the Medications Used to Manage</i> Nicole Florence, MD 	<i>Reading Between the Lines: Behavior Is Information</i> Barbara Sherman, MSW, LCSW, PEL
<i>What Makes Inclusion Work</i> Tammy Wrobbel, MS, CIMI 	<i>Advocating for Your Child's Right to Special Education</i> Jessica Range, Esquire 	<i>A Survey of Wearable Technology for the Home and Classroom</i> Samuel F. Whitley, NCSP Garett Hawkinson
<i>The New Alternative to Guardianship: Supported Decision Making</i> Consuelo Puente, Esquire 	<i>La Nueva Alternativa a la Tutela: Toma de Decisiones Con Apoyo</i> Consuelo Puente, Esquire 	<i>The Programs and Services of The Arc of Illinois</i> Rocio Perez
<i>Fostering an Appropriate Transition</i> Garett Hawkinson 	<i>Two Components of Transition Often Missed</i> Susy Woods 	<i>Sex Education and Its Role in Transition</i> Susy Woods
<i>What About the Siblings?</i> Mary Wyman Sabrina Wyman 	<i>Learn about IL ABLE</i> Rosemary Laudani 	<i>Financial Wellness: Housing Options and Supports</i> National Disability Institute Michael Roush, MA, AFC® Kish Pisani

Register online at www.sps186.org/studentsupport or by calling 217-525-3060