

## Life *After* High School TRANSITION CONFERENCE

*For families and professionals dealing with children who learn differently.*

**October 28, 2006**

Claremont Preparatory School, 41 Broad St., NYC

Keynote Speaker

**Dr. Mel Levine**

*Professor of Pediatrics at UNC School of Medicine,  
Author, Co-Founder of All Kinds of Minds Institute*

Co-sponsored by

The American Academy of Pediatrics New York State  
Task Force on Pediatrics and Childhood Learning Differences

### **Program Description**

Navigating the world of special education and learning differences is not easy, but by the time most students with learning difficulties are in high school it has, at least, become familiar. As graduation looms, however, students and families are faced with many questions about how a student with learning differences can make the transition to higher education, the workplace and life as an independent adult.

Our program hopes to help provide answers to those questions for students, parents, physicians and other professionals who seek a better understanding of the issues and options available for students with learning differences after they graduate from high school.

### **Who Should Attend?**

High School Students with learning differences who are expecting to graduate from high school, their families, and the teachers, physicians, psychologists and other professionals who work with them.



Now  
what?

## SCHEDULE

**8:30 – 9:15am** Registration & continental breakfast

**9:20am** Welcome and Introduction

**9:30 – 11am** Keynote Speaker, Dr. Mel Levine

**11:15 – 12:30pm** Breakout Session #1

**12:30 – 1:45pm** Lunch on Your Own

**1:45 – 3pm** Breakout Session #2

**3:15 – 4:30pm** Breakout Session #3

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Mel Levine, MD, FAAP** is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of North Carolina Medical School and Director of its Clinical Center for the Study of Development and Learning. He is the founder and Co-Chairman of All Kinds of Minds, a nonprofit institute for the understanding of differences in learning, and the author of numerous books, several of which have been national best sellers, including *Ready or Not, Here Life Comes*.

### BREAKOUT SESSION #1

#### 1. The Organized Student

**Donna Goldberg**

The author of *The Organized Student: Teaching Children the Skills for Success in School and Beyond* will discuss life skills, including time and paper management, which must be mastered to achieve success in college or the workplace. Ms. Goldberg is a former librarian at the Dalton School in New York and has appeared in numerous national forums as a writer and speaker.

#### 2. Getting a Job is a Full Time Job

**Judy Saunders**

This session will explore steps to take in high school and beyond to obtain meaningful employment and be successful in the workplace. Ms. Saunders is the Vocational Coordinator of the Vocational Independence Program at the New York Institute of Technology, the goal of which is to place students with learning differences in appropriate workplace settings.

### 3. Testing Accommodations

**Jo Anne Simon, Esq.**

The nationally renowned disabilities rights attorney will discuss how to deal with high stakes testing and how to obtain accommodations on the SATs and other standardized tests. Ms. Simon is an adjunct Assistant Professor at Fordham University School of Law, was a founding member and director of the Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD), and writes and speaks in leading publications and venues about higher education and disabilities.

### 4. Self-Advocacy in College

**Christina Cacioppo Bertsch, MA**

This session will focus on understanding how a disability impacts learning, and how to deal with admissions officers, professors and disability service offices to obtain needed accommodations. Ms. Bertsch is the former Director of Disability Services at Fordham University and is a consultant for families of students with disabilities who are transitioning to post-secondary education.

### 5. Adolescent Sexuality and Psychosocial Growth and Development

**Warren M. Seigel, MD, FAAP, FSAM**

This session will address the physiological and psychological issues that influence adolescent behavior and how to deal with their impact on students with underlying learning issues. Dr. Seigel is the Chairman of Pediatrics and Director of Adolescent Medicine at Coney Island Hospital. He has served as President of NY Chapter 2 of the American Academy of Pediatrics and as President of the NY Regional Chapter of the Society of Adolescent Medicine.

### BREAKOUT SESSION #2

#### 6. The College Selection Process

**Alan Tinkler, MSED**

This presentation will give information on selection of colleges, types of accommodations available, documentation requirements and application strategies for students with learning differences. Mr. Tinkler is a former special education teacher and is a consultant on college selection and transition issues for students with special needs. He has personally visited over 340 colleges in 34 states.

## **7. Family Financial Planning**

*Lisa Klee Friedman, Esq.*

This session will discuss how families can plan for the financial future of their child with learning and related issues and discuss steps families can take now to prepare their adolescents to become financially knowledgeable and responsible adults. Ms. Friedman is an attorney specializing in educational and other rights of individuals with disabilities and in disability estate and financial planning.

## **8. The Nuts and Bolts of Living on Your Own**

*Nancy Rocker*

Day to day life skills can loom large without help from mom and dad, and proper preparation is important. This session will focus on what a young person needs to know to manage living away from home in a dorm or apartment. Participants will receive a copy of *The Ultimate College Checklist* from the "How Am I Supposed to Know That?" series. Ms. Rocker spent 34 years in public education in the field of family and consumer science. She is the former Coordinator of the Independent Living Program at the New York Institute of Technology and has a private practice as an independent living counselor.

## **9. Options and Strategies for Success**

*Jim Rein*

This presentation will focus on the range of options available to students with learning issues, how parents and students can decide which option is best for a particular student, and how to foster success and self-sufficiency. Mr. Rein was the co-founder of the Vocational Independence Program at the New York Institute of Technology and served as its Dean for 20 years. He has founded numerous other programs for students with learning disabilities, including Northwood Camps, and presently serves as a consultant to schools, camps and colleges.

## **10. Fostering Social and Emotional Independence**

*Sean Grover, MSW, CSW*

This session will be an interactive parent workshop focusing on the steps parents can take to encourage social competencies and emotional independence. Mr. Grover is a psychotherapist who has one of the

largest child and group therapy practices in New York City, leading over a dozen weekly groups for children, adolescents and parents. He has won two New York Times awards for youth programs and his essays on Buddhism and psychotherapy appear regularly in national publications.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION #3**

### **11. Governmental Resources and Agencies**

*Barbara McKeon, MS, CCC-SP & Mary Munsch, MS, LCSW*

Many families are unaware of the wide range of services offered by agencies such as VESID (Vocational and Educational Services for Individuals with Disabilities). This session will discuss VESID and other programs available for post-secondary opportunities. Ms. McKeon is the Head of School and Ms. Munsch is the Community Transition Coordinator at the Cooke Center Academy/ Cooke Center for Learning and Development in New York City.

### **12. College Panel**

*College Admissions Officers*

Led by Linda De Motta, Former Director of Hofstra University's Program for Academic Learning Skills, a panel of representatives from both "mainstream" college settings and colleges especially known for their programs for students with learning differences will discuss their schools' programs and admissions procedures.

### **13. Helping High Risk Children to Become Highly Resilient Adults**

*Paul B. Yellin, MD, FAAP*

Recent studies demonstrate that children have a remarkable ability to thrive in spite of, perhaps because of, significant challenges. This session will discuss how we can help struggling students overcome early challenges and find long term success. Dr. Yellin is the National Director of Clinical Programs at the All Kinds of Minds Institute, an Associate Professor at the New York University School of Medicine and the Chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics New York State Task Force on Pediatrics and Childhood Learning Differences.

## 14. Transition Done Right

### L James Stowell

This session will focus on how schools can work effectively to make the transition from high school meaningful and helpful to students and their families. Mr. Stowell is the Director of Special Education and Student Services of the Putnam Valley Central School District in New York. He has worked in the field of special education for over 30 years, and has directed Special Education Services for several school systems. He has done extensive consulting on program development and strategic planning for special education programs.

### Our Mission

The Center for Learning Differences is dedicated to providing information and creating connections among families and professionals who deal with students who learn differently, to help them access existing resources in their communities, and ensure that all children receive a quality education to build on their strengths and to address their individual learning needs.

#### Directions:

Claremont Preparatory School can be easily reached by subway or car. For more information visit:

[www.centerforlearningdifferences.org/conference\\_directions.php](http://www.centerforlearningdifferences.org/conference_directions.php)

#### Disability Accommodations:

Claremont Preparatory School is wheelchair accessible. Should you require other accommodations please email: [info@centerforlearningdifferences.org](mailto:info@centerforlearningdifferences.org).

We appreciate the generosity of Claremont Preparatory School and Downtown Auditorium.

## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

I am a professional in the field (\$110 fee)

I am a parent or relative (\$90 fee)

I am a student attending with a parent (\$45 fee)

I am in the \_\_\_\_\_ grade (as of September, 2006)

At (School) \_\_\_\_\_

Breakout Sessions:

Every effort will be made to accommodate your first choices. However, seating is limited and will be determined on a first come, first served basis.

Please indicate a first and second choice (by number) for each breakout session.

**BREAKOUT SESSION #1:** first choice \_\_\_\_\_ second choice \_\_\_\_\_

**BREAKOUT SESSION #2:** first choice \_\_\_\_\_ second choice \_\_\_\_\_

**BREAKOUT SESSION #3:** first choice \_\_\_\_\_ Second choice \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to:

"The Center for Learning Differences"

mail to: The Center for Learning Differences  
6 Highland Avenue Great Neck, NY 11021

Registration will be available on the day of the Conference only if space permits and only with prior approval.

Late registrants will be charged an additional \$20 fee.

**(516)773-4737**

Receipts available at the Conference.

Confirmation of Registration by request only.

Email questions to:

**[info@centerforlearningdifferences.org](mailto:info@centerforlearningdifferences.org)**