



CHECK OUT
OUR NEW WEBSITE!



DR. GERRY'S
TOP 10 REASONS...

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ANNUAL MEETING
SATURDAY MAY 20TH

READ BELOW



INCLUSION CONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 10TH & 11TH

KEYNOTE: ERIK CARTER,
PH.D., FAIDD, VANDERBILT

THE LIGHTHOUSE

A message from PEAC...

Pennsylvania's Education for All Coalition, Inc. has been very fortunate over the past several years to have been a recipient of grant funding from the Developmental Disabilities Council (DDC). Funding for Changing the Cultural Context in Schools grant, which we named Inclusive Education Empowerment Project (IEEP), will be coming to a close at the end of June 2017.

At this time, PEAC does not have a new source of funding. Although we are moving forward with the 6th Annual Inclusion Conference on November 10-11, 2017, the individual work of the Parent Consultants and Self Advocates will be suspended indefinitely until a new funding stream is established.

While we are actively pursuing other funding opportunities, we will be restructuring how we support families and we will keep our website updated as well as inform our supporters through emails and Facebook. We would like to thank our supporters, our Parent Consultants, and Self Advocates for their tireless work and are asking for assistance in finding new opportunities to fund our mission of inclusive education for all students.

Let's **CELEBRATE** the great work we have accomplished! With our current grant and the previous Educational Rights grant from the DDC, we have:

- Trained and supported 40 current Parent Consultants, 4 SAN Leaders and 2 SAN members
- 394 families were served with direct support; 13 IEP Clinics serving 279 families
- Forged solid relationships with colleges and universities by providing 135 presentations through our Family Connections Program
- Held several community forums, workshops, Saturday luncheons, and roundtable discussions
- Held 5 multi-day inclusion conferences with another planned for this fall at the Community College of Philadelphia, Fox Rothschild Center for Law and Society on November 10-11, 2017

If you have ideas for funding resources or would like to get involved in grant writing for PEAC, please contact us at 267-232-0570 or info@paedforall.com

Highlights from the Lighthouse...

- ❖ Hosted our 5th Annual Eastern PA Inclusion Conference last November. The theme was *Together Towards Tomorrow*, and the Keynote speaker was Dr. Thomas Neville.
- ❖ Held a workshop where we presented the *Navigating the IEP* module in February.
- ❖ Coordinated 2 IEP clinics since our last newsletter. Our February IEP clinic was co-hosted with LEND (Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental Disabilities) program of CHOP.

A different perspective...

Top 10 Reasons to Invite a PEAC Parent Consultant and/or Self-Advocate to Speak to Your Class

By GERALYN ANDERSON ARANGO, Ed.D.

As a professor of education at Holy Family University in Philadelphia, I am a big fan of PEAC's Parent Consultants and Self-Advocates as a way to enhance my classes. Here are some of my favorite reasons:

#10 Parent Consultants and Self-Advocates come prepared. Each PEAC Parent Consultant and Self-Advocate has created a presentation that tells their story in words, pictures, perhaps videos. They are ready to tell their story; just point them to the podium.

#9 Their presentations generate questions from your students. Let me expand; presentations generate questions, comments, even emotional responses at times. Parent stories bring the words in a textbook to life, and help students see the impact teachers have on families. Good stuff.

#8 Your story can't say it all. I'm the parent of a young adult with a disability, as well as a former special education teacher. I do think that adds a valuable perspective to my teaching, but I have just one story. My students need more - younger, older, various exceptionalities. The voices of Parent Consultants and Self-Advocates add to the diversity. Their stories have power.

#7 You get to sit and listen and learn too. As the instructor, I may plan the lesson and include the presentation, but I become the student myself as I listen to each presentation. I learn as parents of children of all ages, disabilities and family situations tell their stories. I think it helps me to be a better teacher.

#6 You can request more than one Parent Consultant or Self-Advocate. I use Parent Consultants in large group presentations, small group informal talks, and panels. Parent Consultants and Self-Advocates can be used in large group presentations, small informal group talks, and panels. Tell PEAC what you need and they will work with you.

#5 Sometimes they bring their children. This was a new experience for me. Last semester a parent and their child presented together. Meeting the person who is the subject/star of it all can be quite profound to the students.

#4 You can use their stories in creative ways in your teaching. This one is up to you. I continue to try new ways to connect parent stories to my courses.

#3 Variety! You can request a parent new to the system all the way to the parent of an adult. I taught a class of secondary education majors this semester. They sometimes don't see themselves as ever needing to be involved with special education. But when the presenter I requested told the story of her 17 year old son with autism, they saw that young man as a student they might teach someday. And they had questions no one could answer better than family.

#2 You don't have to pay them for their priceless contribution to your class (but only for a while longer). If the speakers stop getting a stipend, I'll find a way to pay them myself, but it just tells me that PEAC needs our help and support now more than ever. The Family Connections program has been grant funded, but the funding is running out. Using Parent Consultants and Self-Advocates shows the need for their presence in your course, so contact PEAC to make your request and keep this service alive with your support. In the meantime, get ready to ask your Dean for some stipend money for the families because PEAC Parent Consultants and Self-Advocates are worth it even with a fee for service.

And the number one reason to invite a PEAC Parent Consultant and/or Self-Advocate to speak to your University Classes: **They made an indelible impression – and better teachers of all who hear them.**

*For more information, please visit our website or contact us
at 267-232-0570, email info@paedforall.com*