

CESA 4'S EIGHTH ANNUAL

# PARAPROFESSIONAL SUMMIT

*Timely training targeting Paraprofessionals  
serving CESA 4 schools*

**AUGUST 13 & 14, 2024**

**Welcome Paraprofessionals!**

## DAY 1



Opening Keynote  
Breakout Session 1  
Lunch  
Breakout Session 2  
Breakout Session 3

## DAY 2

Breakout Session 4  
Breakout Session 5  
Lunch  
Closing Keynote

**This choice matters!**  
**We have three options for each breakout session.**

**Registration opens on March 12, 2024!**

Register early, space is limited!

Early bird pricing of \$225.00 available until June 10, 2024.

After June 10, price is \$250.00.



**[Register Here!](#)**

### **Need More Information?**

**Content:**

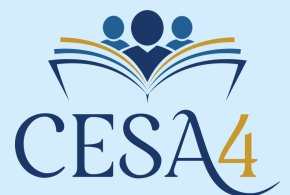
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## Tuesday, August 13, 2024 8:30am-9:45am



### **“Dwelling in Possibility: The Values, Beliefs, & Habits of Inclusive Schools”**

**Dr. Paula Kluth**

This session is inspired by the words of celebrated poet, Emily Dickinson, who wrote, “I dwell in possibility.” In this session, Dickinson’s reflection will be applied to our work in inclusive schools. In this session, Dr. Kluth will discuss the beliefs, values, and practices associated with inclusion and will provide concrete strategies that any paraprofessional or educator can use to teach, support, and inspire students with and without disabilities.

Dr. Paula Kluth is a consultant, author, advocate, and independent scholar who works with teachers and families to provide inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities and to create more responsive and engaging schooling experiences for all learners. She is a former K-12 special educator who has served as a classroom teacher, co-teacher, and inclusion facilitator. Paula has also been a university professor and has taught courses on both inclusion and disability studies. Most recently, Paula’s work has centered on helping teachers and administrators educate all students in their schools and classrooms. She also frequently works with families and advocacy groups to support goals related to inclusion. In addition to inclusive education, her professional interests include Universal Design for Learning, co-teaching, and educating students with complex support needs.

All In: 18 Ways to Include All Students in Virtual Classrooms is Paula’s newest book. She is also the author or co-author of 15 other titles including Universal Design Daily, 30 Days to the Co-Taught Classroom, Don’t We Already Do Inclusion?, and “You’re Going to Love This Kid!”: Teaching Students with Autism in Inclusive Classrooms. She is also the author of a few books for children including Coaster, a story of a puppy with wonderful wheels.

Paula has won several awards in her field. She is the recipient of the PEAK Parent Center’s Ally for Inclusion Award; The PEAL [Parent Education & Advocacy Leadership] Center’s Inclusive Education Champion Award; The National Down Syndrome Congress’s Educator of the Year; The Belle Center of Chicago’s Inclusion Advocate of the Year; and the University of Wisconsin’s “Forward Under 40” Award.

## Wednesday, August 14, 2024 12:15pm-1:15pm



### **“Relationships = HOPE”**

**Chris Peterson**

Following your calling brings you here. Let us discover how some very tangibles ways of building authentic relationships with people can help move the needle from hopelessness to HOPE!

# Session Schedule & Descriptions



## Breakout Session 1: August 13 10:00am - 11:15 am

### Autism 101: Understanding the Strengths and Barriers to Accessing Education

**Katie Berg**

Are you newer to working with students with autism? Come join us on a walk through of common strengths and barriers that might arise for a student identified with autism in accessing, engaging and progressing in their education. Learn a process of asking “why” and how to stay curious when we are challenged by behavior or social actions we don’t understand.

### Strategies to Support LGBTQ+ Students in Schools

**Abby Fernan**

Mental health data in Wisconsin and across the nation shows us the urgency of supporting the wellness of our LGBTQ+ youth. Join this session to:

- Develop awareness of the terminology and language related to LGBTQ+ experiences
- Understand the impact of societal stigma, discrimination, and lack of acceptance on mental well-being.
- Learn strategies to foster an inclusive and affirming environment for LGBTQ+ adolescents.

### Keeping Your Cool in Challenging Situations

**Michelle Powell**

When was the last time you were in a challenging situation with a student where you needed to keep your cool? Bring that memory with you to our session where we will identify your own signs of dysregulation and brainstorm ways to mitigate. You will use this information to collaborate with other participants, so at the end of the session, you will have more strategies to expand your toolbox for keeping your cool.

## Breakout Session 2: August 13 12:15pm - 1:30pm

### Untangling: Supporting Students with Higher Impact Needs

**Katie Berg**

Students who do not use verbal language as their main communication mode are often misunderstood, or viewed as wrong or bad. Behavior that is challenging to us is only challenging until we know strategies to meet learners where they are. Come increase your understanding of how to show up for students who may have significant support needs.

### Changes in Early Literacy Instruction

**Alyssa Harlan**

Supporting the development of reading is perhaps the most important role of educators in the early grades. But how is early literacy best supported? Recent research and new Wisconsin legislation have changed the methods for teaching early reading to look different than just a few years ago. Come learn how you can best work with beginning readers to practice their budding literacy skills individually or in small groups. Learn strategies that will support young learners in the current classroom.

### Fostering Student Independence

**Kate Jessie**

This workshop will be filled with a wealth of ideas and tactics aimed at fostering greater independence among students in the classroom. Whether you’re just starting out in your role or have some experience under your belt, this session will offer straightforward suggestions to assist you in supporting your students. The emphasis will be on encouraging students to tap into their capabilities and potential while also ensuring support for the entire class. Attendees will gain insight into inclusive practices that facilitate connections and promote growth and autonomy within the classroom environment.

## Breakout Session 3: August 13 1:45pm - 3:00pm

### Supporting Neurodiverse Friendships

**Chelsea Budde**

Because peer acceptance is a contributing factor to positive outcomes in adulthood, it’s important to foster that in school. Paraprofessionals are “boots on the ground” not only in academics, but in social emotional contexts as well. You have the ability to serve as a bridge or an unintentional barrier to healthy “neurodiverse” peer interaction in 5K-8th grade. And since so many students with autism are victims of bullying, everyone surrounding them should be both equipped with practicable tools to prevent those negative peer behaviors and recognize their unique manifestations toward learners on the spectrum.

### Compassion Resilience

**Katie Belitz**

This session focuses on maintaining a compassionate presence as we work with students who present with unique and complex challenges. Attendees will be better able to identify the signs of compassion fatigue, understand compassion resilience, and set up compassionate boundaries. Attendees will also leave with wellness strategies and create their own plan for resilience.

### Leveraging AI for Paraprofessionals in Education Support

**Britni Walz**

This session focuses on the transformative potential of leveraging AI alongside educational paraprofessionals. Attendees will explore real-world examples and case studies demonstrating how AI tools and technologies can augment the capabilities of paraprofessionals, enhancing their support for students and educators. Participants will discover innovative ways to leverage AI for more efficient classroom management, targeted student interventions, and data-driven decision-making. Through interactive discussions and practical insights, this session aims to equip paraprofessionals with the knowledge and skills needed to harness the power of AI in their daily educational practices, ultimately leading to improved student outcomes and enhanced professional development opportunities. Join us to unlock the full potential of AI in educational support roles.

# Session Schedule & Descriptions (cont.)



## Breakout Session 4: August 14 8:30am - 9:45am

### **D.I.S.C.O.V.E.R.** **Angie Weigel**

Come “D.I.S.C.O.V.E.R.” or re-discover the passion and purpose of working with students who don’t always ask for your support in the best ways. This session is just what you need to help feel confident in your work with students that have built walls to block you from connecting with them. You will walk away empowered to do whatever it takes to break down the barriers holding them back from reaching their true potential.

### **Supporting Multilingual Learners** **Aurora Gonzalez**

This session provides strategies and support to help students thrive academically while simultaneously developing English language proficiency.

Knowledge participants will gain:

- Identify the language and academic needs of multilingual students.
- Develop strategies to enhance English language proficiency.
- Provide Differentiation and Individualized Instruction to ensure that each student can progress at their own pace.
- Encourage Collaboration and Peer Interaction that allow multilingual learners to practice their language skills in a supportive and non-threatening environment.
- Foster an inclusive and culturally responsive classroom environment.

### **Youth Drug Trends** **Nate Ganrude**

School Resource Officer in the West Salem School District, Nate Ganrude, will build upon his previous session about Youth Drug Trends given experience and changes in youth drug trends. This session which includes hands-on experience and lots of opportunity for questions will educate you about the reality of the relationship between adolescents and drugs. This presentation will focus on the indicators of youth drug misuse and drug-endangered children. Officer Ganrude will apply a local perspective noting community resources to turn to and local scenarios to guide your learning.

## Breakout Session 5: August 14 10:00am - 11:15 am

### **The State of Youth Mental Health and the School’s Role in Cultivating Wellbeing** **Abby Fernan**

This presentation will present data on the current status of youth mental health within our region. Attendees will gain insights on proactive strategies for enhancing the mental wellness and resilience of young individuals, as well as the essential role that all members of the school community can play in working towards mental wellness for all students.

### **Love & Logic 101** **Chris Peterson**

Who should be tired at the end of the day? The kids! How can we alter our interactions with kids in a way that limits the stress for educators? Let’s start with the basics: Relationships, Empathy, and Enforceable Language.

### **Clear is Kind: Roles & Responsibilities for Paraprofessionals** **Erin Hansen & Laura Veglahn**

Let’s dig into what makes the work of paraprofessionals meaningful and connected to teaching and learning by getting clear about roles and responsibilities. Having a defined role in your position matters. Gaining clarity about roles and responsibilities takes time, courage, and conversations. In this session we will explore guidance for paraprofessional roles and responsibilities and how that differs from a teacher. Further, we will discuss predictable challenges and how to approach those in your partnership with courage through conversations.