



COLORADO

Department of Education

2023 Transition Leadership Institute

Speaker: Lauren Jones, CTE Program Director for Special Populations, Counseling & Middle School

Co-Presenters: Shelley Brunjak-Goerd, Marta Osuna, Darren Knowles and Suzanne Styduhar

Session Title: Participation of Students with Disabilities in Career Pathways for a thriving Colorado Economy



Lauren Jones (Austin), is a licensed school counselor, nationally certified counselor, candidate for NCDA: School Career Development Specialist Credential, past expeditionary learning instructor, teen adventure guide and Adjunct Lecturer for School Counseling Graduate Programs. She is in her 12th year as the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program Director for Special Populations, Counseling and Middle School (sometimes Equity too) serving statewide school districts and postsecondary institutions by providing trainings & resources that help support the programming for implementation and collaborative efforts that parallel Colorado's education initiatives that support Career Literacy and Meaningful Career Conversations, important acronyms such as: ICAP, PWR, ACE, Graduation Guidelines, Career Pathways, WBL and more. Her passion for students and their authentic, meaningful learning can sometimes be contagious. Her advocacy for School Counselors within the CTE family is prominent in the work she does. Lauren also began and coordinates the implementation of Middle School CTE programs, serves and wears many other hats including: Board member for BIONIC: Believe It Or Not I Care, Advisory Member for the Coalition for Career Development, co-supervisor of Colorado's statewide PWR/ICAP Facilitators, CTE Champion Trainer with Advance CTE, Region V representative for ACTE Counseling & Career Development Division, one of the founding members for the CCCS Equity and Inclusivity Council & constant advocate for Special Populations and everything CTE in Colorado! She's a mama to three chickens, a sweet pup named Journey and oodles of garden vegetation. When not working, you can find her on the river, on a cruiser bike, hiking the Colorado Trail, camping in her 1959 camper named Xanadu, doing horticultural therapy in her backyard or living it up at the Jersey Shore.



Shelley Brunjack-Goedt is a Colorado Native who is passionate about Career and Technical Education. She received her BS in Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) from Colorado State University and a M.Ed in Curriculum and Instruction from University of Northern Colorado. She taught FCS at Lakewood High School for 8 years and is currently enjoying her career as a CTE Coordinator for Jefferson County Schools.



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Marta Osuna retired from Denver Public Schools (DPS) after 36 years of service. She spent 21 years as a classroom teacher in the Special Populations Alternative Cooperative Education (ACE) Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. She also served as the district's Transition Team Leader the last 15 years of her career with DPS. Marta has served as President and is currently a Regional Representative on the Colorado ACE CTE Board. She currently is working as a consultant for the Colorado Department of Education on a pilot project called the Program Improvement Process for Equity (PIPE) – the PIPEline to Career Success for Students with Disabilities. This project will look at participating schools' data to analyze root causes and see how to increase access to career programming for SWD.



Darren Knowles has been a Special Education teacher for 8 years. The last 2 years he has been at Cherry Creek Innovation Campus (CCIC). He job has recently shifted to co-coordinating a new After-Hours Program at CCIC. Uniquely Abled Academy (UAA) will be the pilot class for the After-Hours Program. In his free time, you can probably find him cooking or playing pickleball.



Suzanne Styduhar has been a Special Education teacher for 24 years. She is currently employed at the Cherry Creek Innovation Campus as an Instructional Support Teacher and Coordinator of Evening Programming. Her colleagues and she are excited to launch the first cohort of the Uniquely Abled Academy (UAA) which primarily serves individuals with level 1 Autism. In her spare time, she enjoys watching her daughter participate in extracurricular activities, partake in various workout classes and travel.