



AUTISM TRAINING AND TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT

Supporting Neurodivergent Students at the Post- Secondary Level

Presented by
Linsay DeMartino, Ph.D. (she/her)
ATTA Board Member
Assistant Professor
Illinois State University

Moderator Information



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The Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project

The Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (ATTA) develops and presents resources that assist individuals with autism in their transition from secondary education to postsecondary education or employment.

ATTA provides training and support to important stakeholders as they work to provide an equitable experience for individuals on the spectrum.

The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support

The Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support (ICSPPS) creates, supports, and delivers professional development for education professionals across Illinois. ICSPPS provides technical assistance, develops publications, and facilitates program improvement strategies for our partners as they relate to college transition, recruitment, retention, and completion—encouraging achievement of special populations learners. ICSPPS was founded in 1977 at Illinois State University and is housed in the Educational Administration and Foundations department in the College of Education.





Autism Training and Technical Assistance Project (ATTA)

<https://autismcollegeandcareer.com>



Illinois State Board of Education

icsps impacting
educational
equity

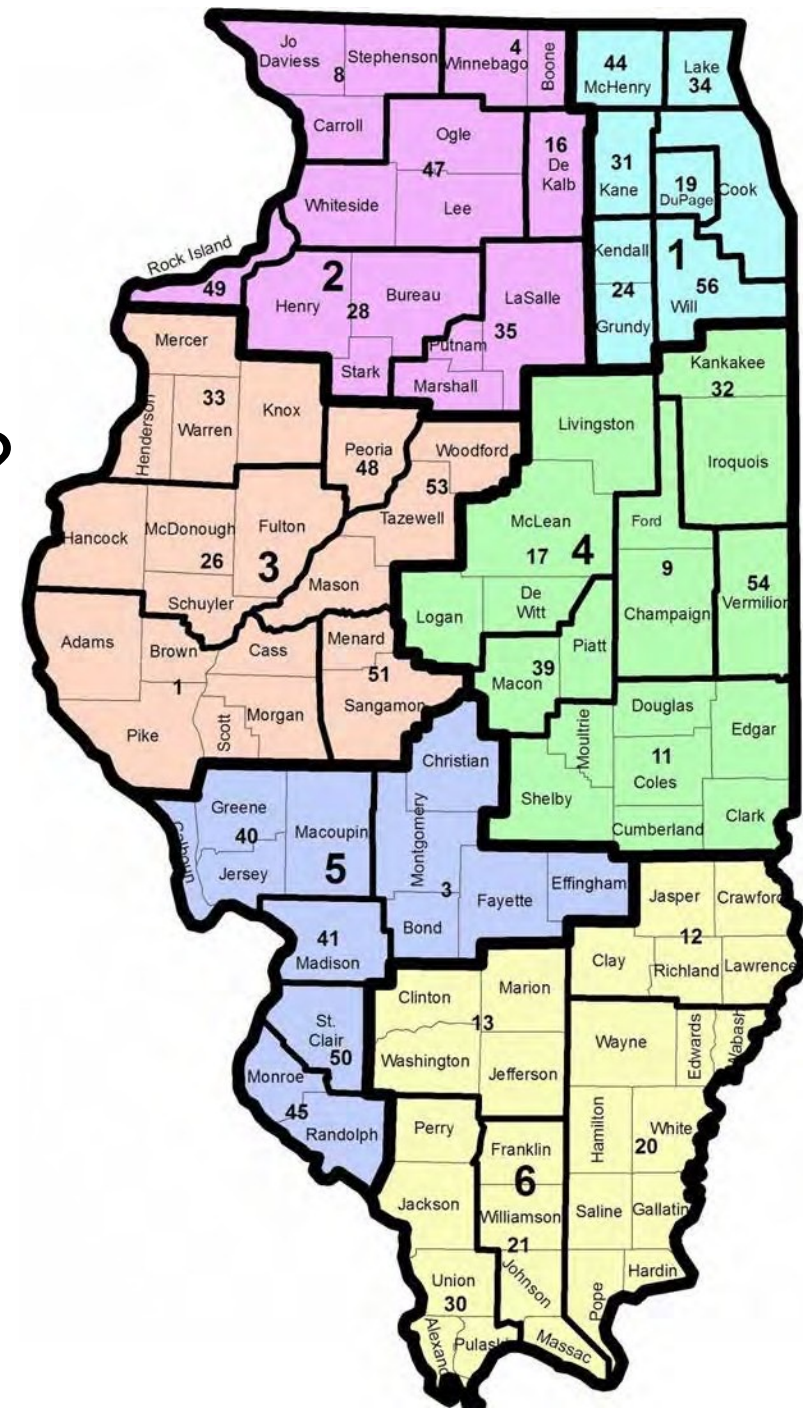


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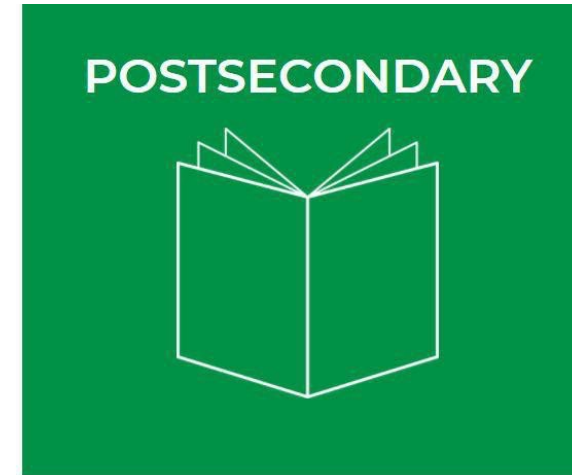
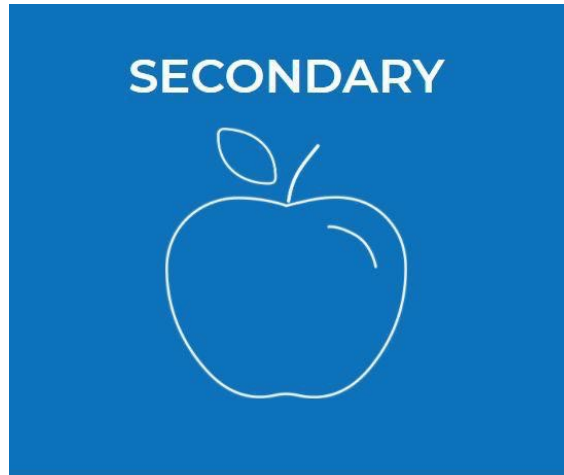


Which Region are you Located in?

1. Chicago
2. Northeast
3. Northwest
4. East Central
5. Southwest
6. Southeast



Which ATTA Stakeholder do you Represent?



Panelist Introductions

Brianne Jonathan, MA, LBSI

Director of Autism Initiative and Pathways
Program
Aurora University

Candy Barrientos Jiménez

Senior Freshman Admission Counselor
Aurora University

Jill Fahy, M.A.+30, CCC-SLP

Associate Professor
Director, STEP Program
Co-Director, Autism Center
Department of Communication Disorders &
Sciences
Eastern Illinois University



Webinar Agenda

- Panel Q/A facilitated by Linsay DeMartino
- Audience Q/A - Please type your questions in the chat. Be sure to indicate who you would like to answer your question in parenthesis. For example, What is your expertise? (Linsay) or What are your recommendations for families just getting started with this process? (All).
- Conclusion and Sharing of Panelist Contact Information

Students' Transitional Education Program



EASTERN
ILLINOIS
UNIVERSITY™





Students' Transitional Education Program



EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY™

Who are we?

- Support program for transition-ready university students with autism
- Small, focused program created in 2015
- Consistently ranked in Top 20 programs
- Navigate academic & interpersonal
- For success in college and beyond
- 7,500 students, 1:14 professor-student ratio
- 51 undergraduate degrees, 32 graduate programs





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What do we do?

- Advocate, educate, facilitate, and direct
- Social network, peer mentors, monthly events
- Early Move-in, orientation, campus navigation
- Structured daily schedules
- Build self-awareness & insight
- Develop effective strategy-use
- Plan, prioritize, initiate, monitor tasks
- Track & manage time
- Improve social insight & flexibility
- Explore self, interests, academics, goals



STEP at EIU: Supports for Transition Ready College Students w
ASD step@eiu.edu 2022-2023



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What's a typical week like?

- 1:1 Planning & Prioritizing
- Study Tables
- College 101 / Academic Engineering
- Procedural Executive Functions
- EF & Social Coaching
- Social Navigation
- Work-Life Group
- Peer Mentor Interactions
- Rec & Leisure Interests





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Helpful tips for current students

- **Pace yourself!** *Take each week as a new opportunity to regroup and refocus*
- **Sleep is critical!** *So are adequate nutrition, exercise, and mental health practices*
- **Get out of your room!** *Take advantage of social or leisure opportunities on campus*
- **Go to class!** *Missing class means missing instructions, explanations, updates*
- **Take advantage of supports!** *Go to office hours. Go to tutors. Go to study support offices.*
- **Start work early!** *Work takes longer than you anticipate. Start now and work in stages.*
- **Communicate often!** *If you don't explain, no one will know. If you don't ask, no one will answer*
- **Expand your study habits!** *Reading over notes is not enough. Memorizing is insufficient.*
- **Critical thinking is essential!** *Learn it well enough to explain, differentiate, analyze, & apply*



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➤ Thinking about college?

- Develop consistent sleep routines
- Start managing your own medication regimes
- Become reliable setting and responding to alarms
- Practice reading *and* answering email, daily
- Start monitoring! Double check work, dates, times, places...
- Visit campus! Walk around, look at things, imagine yourself there
- Learn and talk about the types and amounts of support you get at home, and school
- Anticipate reading, writing, learning, thinking, and applying content at University level
- **Prepare to apply:** Neuropsych eval, IEP/504, Application forms <https://www.eiu.edu/step/>





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Questions and Discussion

Panelist Contact Information

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