**SPECIAL EDUCATION: Upcoming Professional Development and Other Opportunities**

**LASARD-Louisiana Autism and Related Disorders Project**

* **January Webinars**
  + Utilizing Para and Peer Supports- January 19, 2:30-3:30. Click [**here**](https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1278269447/en/events/event/shared/default_template_simple/event_registration.html?sco-id=1619394025&_charset_=utf-8) to register
  + Universal Design for Learning- January 26, 2:30-3:30. Click [**here**](https://events-na12.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1278269447/en/events/event/shared/default_template_simple/event_registration.html?sco-id=1628883661&_charset_=utf-8) to register

## *Beyond Expectations!  Planning High School Experiences for Students with ASD and Related Disabilities*

## Join the LASARD Project to learn how to prepare students with ASD and related disabilities for employment, independence, and for living happy, fulfilling lives after high school.  For more information and to register for one of the workshops, click on one of the following:

## [Natchitoches on February 7, 2017](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScanWVvpz1CvMLMULLiNrHawxFuSa24IlZiNlNALXL-7-pFgg/viewform?c=0&w=1)

## [New Orleans on February 8, 2017](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf-RY_9Mm93wSpQz_Sb2eYdw6es8vqQN9OPNFEXfFc77gWSeg/viewform?c=0&w=1)

## SPDG-State Personnel Development Grant

* **Improving School Climate and Discipline Conference**

Through our State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) and in cooperation with Caddo School District and the regional network on positive behavior intervention supports, we are hosting a conference on January 26-27 at LSU-S in Shreveport focusing on **“**Rethinking Discipline Practices, Engaging Families, and Changing Climate for Student Success.”

You can access the agenda and registration information by clicking [**here**](http://www.laspdg.org/)**.** For more information, please contact Dr. Barzanna White at [bwhite@caddoschools.org](mailto:bwhite@caddoschools.org) or by calling 318-603-6484.

**LA Tech Blind and Visual Impairment Project**

* **Workshop For Teachers and Parents of Blind And Visually Impaired Children**

## The Professional Development and Research Institute on Blindness at Louisiana Tech University and the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana (NFBL) are hosting a workshop on March 24 from 3 to 5 p.m., immediately prior to the NFBL state convention in Shreveport. For more information and to register, click [here](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/links-for-newsletters/workshop-for-teachers-and-parents-of-blind-and-vi-children.docx?sfvrsn=2).

* **Scholarship Opportunities for Legally Blind Students**

Each year at its State Convention, the National Federation of the Blind of Louisiana (NFBL) awards scholarships to recognize the achievement of blind scholars. This year we will be awarding four scholarships ranging from $750 to $1,500. Applicants for these scholarships must be: (1) legally blind, (2) residents of Louisiana, (3) pursuing or planning to pursue a full time, post-secondary course of study at an accredited college, university, or trade/technical school in the fall of 2017.For more information, click [here](https://www.louisianabelieves.com/docs/default-source/links-for-newsletters/scholarship-opportunities-for-legally-blind-students.docx?sfvrsn=2).

## Collaborative for Students with Unique Communication Needs

## This professional development program, funded by the LDOE, is focused on best practices management of students with unique communication needs. The program will train school district personnel and parents regarding preschoolers with cochlear implants and students who do not have formal communication systems. For further information about this opportunity, visit the project’s [web-based information](http://us14.campaign-archive1.com/?u=9def23be380efed26042c4692&id=76b82b94d0) or contact Dr. Michael Norman at [mnorm2@lsuhsc.edu](mailto:mnorm2@lsuhsc.edu) or 504-556-3455.

## CourseWhere

## There are a number of professional development opportunities in January and in later months related to positive behavioral support and assistive technology (sponsored by Louisiana Assistive Technology Initiative). Information and registration is available on [CourseWhere](http://www.solutionwhere.com/ldoe/cw/showcoursesbymonth.asp).