



Increasing understanding of autism across the lifespan through dialogue with diverse stakeholders: A panel discussion with autistic self-advocates, family members, and professionals

Sponsored by the College of Staten Island's Advanced Certificate Program in Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Division of Humanities and Social Sciences

Please RSVP if possible: Kristen.gillespie@csi.cuny.edu

When/Where: Tuesday May 17th 2:30-4:25 PM in 1L-220A at the College of Staten Island

Who: Julie Russell Lisa Vega Robin Garber Steven Kapp Stuart Cutler



Julie Russell is currently serving as Educational Director at Brooklyn Autism Center. She holds an M.S in Behavior Analysis from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts and is a NYS licensed board certified behavior analyst. She has over 10 years experience working with children with autism and related developmental differences in centers, schools, school districts and home-based programs. Julie received her supervision hours (meeting requirements for board certification in behavior analysis) by Dr. Nathan Blenkush, Ph.D., BCBA from JRC in Boston, Massachusetts. She was a Clinical Supervisor at ACES (Autism Comprehensive Educational Services) in San Diego California and Clinical Supervisor at the ELIJA School in Levittown, NY.

Lisa Vega. Parent and caregiver of a 10 year old Autistic boy. My son was diagnosed when he was 18 months old and quickly enrolled in Ear Intervention. I was diagnosed with breast cancer when he was 3 yrs old and about to start PreK. His struggles made me stronger and gave me a will to fight my disease in order to help him with his diagnosis.

Robin Garber has been a District 75 special education teacher for the NYC Department of Education for 15 years. Currently a Unit Coordinator at a D75 elementary school in Bed Stuy, Brooklyn, she works closely with the DOE Office of Autism to assure the quality and depth of training her staff receives, as well as to provide a wide range of educational opportunities for their students. She completed the Advanced Certificate in Autism Spectrum Disorders at the College of Staten Island in 2015 and has used the insights she gained from the program to enhance and develop her own understanding of Autism, to advocate for students, and to provide training and support to staff on an ongoing basis.

Steven Kapp is an autistic PhD candidate in Human Development and Psychology at UCLA finishing his dissertation on autism. An advocate for people with atypical development and neurological differences, Steven currently serves as a Senate-nominated, Governor-appointed member of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities. He significantly contributed to the definition of the autism in the latest revision of the official diagnostic manual. His work in research, policy, and practice aims to improve the quality of life of autistic and disabled people through better understanding, acceptance, and support.

Stuart Cutler is a Diplomate in School Neuropsychology working as a school psychologist with the New York City Department of Education. He is a graduate of City University of New York - Brooklyn College School Psychology program and completed advanced training in school neuropsychology from Texas Women's University. He served on the NYC Department of Education's Chancellor's Task Force for Autism Spectrum Disorders and developed and supported the Transitional Autism Program; a middle school program specifically designed to provide educational supports for ASD students within the general education environment. Mr. Cutler was also a school psychologist and consultant for autism spectrum disorders for the Clark County School District in the State of Nevada and a clinical instructor for postgraduate study in school neuropsychology. Currently an adjunct faculty member in the ASD Certification program at the College of Staten Island and Touro College.