



NEW YORK

NYS Council for Exceptional Children Conference

October 2-3rd, 2026

Detailed Program

Le Moyne College

Meals provided: Friday Dinner, Saturday Breakfast & Lunch

CTLE Hours Available

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

Friday, October 2, 2026

Time	Event	Speaker	Location
4 pm	Registration Opens		Foyer
430pm-6 pm	Teaching Assistant Session: Seen, Heard, Valued - Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education Practices (CRSE) for Teaching Assistants and Aides	Cohosted by NYSCEC and The Greater Capital Region Teacher Center	Reilly Hall 339
430-530pm	Advocacy Pre-Session- Open to all	NYSCEC CAN coordinator, Rae Lynn Helman & NY Division for Early Childhood	Reilly Hall 338
6pm	Buffet Dinner		Grewen Auditorium
630pm	Welcome Remarks	President of NYSCEC, Stephanie Gross	Grewen Auditorium
7pm-8pm	Keynote Speaker	Chris Suriano, Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Special Education and ACCES	Grewen Auditorium

Saturday, October 3, 2026

Time	Event	Location
730am	Registration Opens	Foyer
8:00-850am	Breakfast	Grewen-Reilly 3 rd
9:00-9:20am	Welcome & Awards Ceremony	Grewen Auditorium
9:20-10:20 am	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lucky Mason-Williams	Grewen Auditorium
10:30- 11:20am	Concurrent & Multi-presenter Sessions	Reilly Hall 438, 439, 440, 447 Grewen Auditorium
11:30-12:20pm	Concurrent & Multi-presenter Sessions	Reilly Hall 438, 439, 440, 447 Grewen Auditorium
12:30pm-1:20pm	Lunch Poster Session	Grewen Auditorium Vestibule & Breezeway
1:20pm-2:30pm	Concurrent & Multi-presenter Sessions	Reilly Hall 438, 439, 440, 447 Grewen Auditorium
2:30pm-3:20pm	Concurrent & Multi-presenter Sessions	Reilly Hall 438, 439, 440, 447 Grewen Auditorium
3:30pm-4:20pm	NYSED Q&A (TBD)	Grewen Auditorium
4:30pm-5:00pm	Closing remarks & Raffle winners (present to win)	Grewen Auditorium

Check out the Vendors! More to come!

Vendor Name	Location
Rifton	RH-446
Echo Life LLC	RH-446
Community Playthings	RH-446
Parallel Learning	RH-446

PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

Detailed Schedule

Saturday October 3rd

Registration Begins at 730am

Registration & Breakfast 8am-8:50am

Time	Event	Location
730am	Registration Opens	Grewen Auditorium and Foyer
8am- 850am	Enjoy delicious breakfast and meet the NYSCEC Board	Grewen Auditorium

Welcome, Awards Ceremony, & Keynote

Time	Event	Location
9am-9:20am	Welcome & Awards Ceremony	Grewen Auditorium
9:20am-10:20am	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lucky Mason-Williams	Grewen Auditorium

Session # 1: 1030am – 11:20 am

Concurrent Sessions

10:30am – 11:20am			
Room	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 438	Jessica Elliott, Donna Spotton, & Jen Migliore <i>Cornell University</i>	Empowering Students for Life After High School: From Compliance to Ownership	Career Development/Transition

2 RH 447	Lindsay M. Griendling & Xinyu Li <i>University at Albany, SUNY</i>	Reframing Discipline: A QuantCrit Analysis of Suspension and Systemic Inequities	Policy and Advocacy, Exclusionary Discipline & Inclusive Alternatives
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Multi-presentation Sessions

Multi-presentation #1a: 10:30am – 11:20am - Neurodiversity			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 439	Dr. Christopher Closson, Dr. Lynn Lubecki, & Dr. Tracy Galusk <i>Empire State University</i>	Evaluating the Influence of the Autism Nature Trail on Neurodiversity Attitudes	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Policy and Advocacy, Special Education Teacher Preparation
2 RH 439	Katie Kirkman & Yalda Heshmat <i>NYU Nest Support Project</i>	Collaborative Culture- The Key to Neurodiversity Affirming Spaces	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 RH 439	Sarah Read <i>Capital Region BOCES</i>	Culture Shift: Collaboration towards a Neurodiversity-Affirming High School Classroom	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Paraprofessionals Support & Training, Family Collaboration & Partnership

Multi-presentation #1b: 10:30am – 11:20am – Interdisciplinary Special Education Teacher Preparation			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 440	Sara H Petit-McClure	Intersectionality in Preparing Teachers to Work with Diverse Learners	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education &

	<i>SUNY Cortland</i>		Pedagogy, Special Education Teacher Preparation
2 RH 440	Maria Paula Mello, Siglia Camargo, Adriana Borges, & Carlo Schmidt <i>St. John's University & Brazilian Partner Universities</i>	Cultivating Global Online Learning Partnerships to Prepare Educators of Students with Disabilities	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 RH 440	Christine Green & Jennifer Waddington <i>SUNY Geneseo</i>	From Coordination to Collaborative Expertise: Special Education–Literacy Partnership	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Special Education Teacher Preparation, Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction

Multi-presentation #1c: 10:30am – 11:20am – Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 Grewen	Bruce Howlett <i>The Language-Literacy Project</i>	Always Reading, Spelling & Writing Sentences: Uniting Morpheme, Phrase & Syntactic Instruction	Special Education Teacher Preparation, Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction
2 Grewen	Emily Meloon <i>Houghton University</i>	Reading-specific Cognitive Flexibility in Middle School Students and Their Classrooms	Executive Functioning, Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction
3 Grewen	Elena Behar Lazarova <i>NYCPS Committee on Special Education/ CSE 4</i>	Beyond Decoding: Emotional Barriers to Middle School Reading Intervention	Special Education Teacher Preparation, Executive Functioning,

			Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction
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Session #2: 11:30am – 12:20pm

Concurrent Sessions

11:30am – 12:20pm			
Room	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 Grewen	Sarah Heller <i>Meaningful Metrics LLC and Meaningful Metrics Applied Behavior Analysis PLLC</i>	Stronger Together in the FBA: A BCBA-Educator Collaboration Framework	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Family Collaboration & Partnership
2 RH 440	Stacey Buck <i>Le Moyne College</i>	Switching It Up: Expanding Access Through Switch Adaptation	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Early Childhood or Early Intervention

Multi-presentation Sessions

Multi-presentation #2a: 11:30am – 12:20pm – Early Childhood			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 447	Brigit Hurley <i>The Children's Agenda</i>	Changing systems to advance equity and access for young children	Policy and Advocacy, Early Childhood or Early Intervention
2 RH 447	Kari Horn Lehman <i>Fresh Air Kid & Fresh Focus Leadership</i>	What Is This Child Telling Me? Reading Behavior Before We Respond	Early Childhood or Early Intervention

3 RH 447	Diane Craft <i>SUNY Cortland</i>	Inclusive Physical Activities: Adapted Physical Educators Collaborate with Special Educators	Early Childhood or Early Intervention, Inclusive Physical Activity
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Multi-presentation #2b: 11:30am – 12:20pm – Innovating Educational Practices			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 438	Marisa Aiello Michalowski <i>Molloy University</i>	The Educational Disconnect: Deconstructing the Complex Reading Barrier in Special Education Policy	Policy and Advocacy, Family Collaboration & Partnership
2 RH 438	Jennifer Manning <i>Manning Inclusivity Consulting</i>	More than a Score: Re-thinking Assessment for Inclusive, Authentic Learning	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 RH 438	Ruth Auguste Cesar <i>New York City Public Schools</i>	Beyond General Confidence: Child-Specific Teacher Self-Efficacy	Special Education Teacher Preparation, Early Childhood or Early Intervention

Multi-presentation #2c: 11:30pm – 12:20pm - Transition to Adulthood			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 439	Colin Montgomery & Elizabeth Juaniza-Saso <i>Cornell University</i>	Strengthening Family Engagement in Transition Planning by Applying Practitioner Coaching Tools	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Career

			Development/Transition, Family Collaboration & Partnership
2 RH 439	Pattiann LaVeglia & Maria Paula Mello <i>SUNY New Paltz & St. John's University</i>	Where Life Happens: Innovation, Choice, and Belonging in Residential Supports for IDD	Policy and Advocacy, Innovation and Technology, Career Development/Transition
3 RH 439	Tammy Ellis-Robinson, Jennifer Mills, Jaina Rakoczy, Rocco Picard, Sophia Harris, Liam Bartholomew, & Elizabeth Slusarz <i>University at Albany, SUNY & Bethlehem Central Schools College Transition Program</i>	YPAR with a College Transition Program: A Study of Supported, Customized, and Competitive Employment	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Policy and Advocacy, Career Development/Transition

Lunch 12:30-1:20 pm

12:30pm-1:20pm	Pick up your Boxed Lunch & Enjoy our Poster Presentations	Grewen Auditorium and Breezeway
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Poster Presentations at Lunch Time 12:30pm-1:20pm– Grewen/Reilly Hall 3rd Floor Breezeway

	Presenter	Presentation Title	Topics
1	Huda Almumen <i>Kuwait University</i>	Multisensory Storytelling: Teaching Science to Students with Severe Intellectual Disability	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Special Education Teacher Preparation, Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction

2	Diana Baker <i>Hobart and William Smith Colleges</i>	Twice the Challenge, Double the Opportunity: Supporting ENL Students with Disabilities	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Family Collaboration & Partnership, ENL Students with disabilities
3	Megan Boyle & Ella Bender <i>SUNY Cortland</i>	School Staff Experiences with Elopement: An Examination of Stress, Strategies, and Preparedness	Special Education Teacher Preparation, Paraprofessionals Support & Training, Autism, challenging behavior
4	Danielle Fenner & Cassandra Natali <i>Marathon Central School District; Binghamton University</i>	Coffee Cart: Meaningful Participation in Social-Academic Learning	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Executive Functioning
5	Maria Haji-Georgi, Maria Paula Mello, & Tammy Ellis-Robinson <i>St. John's University & University at Albany, SUNY</i>	Embracing Learners with Disabilities in Post-Secondary Education: Faculty Professional Development	Career Development/Transition
6	Jacqueline Little, Sequita Lipscomb, Kimberly Landis, & Ramatu Issifu <i>University of North Carolina at Charlotte</i>	Bridging Perception and Performance in SMART IEP Goal Writing Development	Special Education Teacher Preparation
7	Greg Kamp <i>Mary Cariola Center</i>	From Educator to Advocate: How to Influence Systems, Not Just Classrooms	Policy and Advocacy, Communication (e.g., AAC), Family Collaboration & Partnership
8	Mavile Karaieva	Building Functional Communication in Young Children with Autism Through Structured Intervention	Early Childhood or Early Intervention

	<i>Psychologist, Independent Researcher</i>		
9	Haley L Muir Knox & Rebecca Andersen <i>University at Albany, SUNY</i>	Beyond Recreation: Outcomes of Participation in Community-Based Program for Youth with Autism	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Career Development/Transition, Family Collaboration & Partnership
10	Kari Horn Lehman <i>Fresh Air Kid & Fresh Focus Leadership</i>	Before the Response: Preparing Candidates to See Exceptional Learners Accurately	Special Education Teacher Preparation
11	Cathy Leogrande <i>Le Moyne College</i>	Win-Win: Role Playing Games with Students with Disabilities	Innovation and Technology
12	Xinyu Li & Lindsay M. Griendling <i>University at Albany, SUNY</i>	IDEA Student Representation in Gifted Programs: CRDC Evidence, 2015–2022	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Policy and Advocacy
13	Elizabeth Slusarz <i>University at Albany, SUNY</i>	Disrupting or Reproducing Exclusion? Examining Delaware Discipline Reform and Suspension Patterns	Policy and Advocacy
14	Thayane Azevedo Souza, Dr. Maria P. Mello, & Dr. Rosana Glatt <i>State University of Rio de Janeiro & St. John's University</i>	What Do Autistic Students Have to Tell Us? Educational Experiences of Students Who Use AAC	Communication (e.g., AAC)
15	Sonya Abbye Taylor & Micah Modell <i>Mount Saint Mary College</i>	What Do We Mean by Collaboration? Who Are the Collaborators?	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration

16	Dr. Tisha Shipley <i>University of Arizona Global Campus (UAGC)</i>	Every Child Matters: Cultivating Belonging, Gratitude, and Emotional Resilience in Early Childhood	Early Childhood or Early Intervention, Family Collaboration & Partnership
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Session #3: 1:30pm – 2:20pm

Concurrent Sessions

1:30pm – 2:20pm			
Room	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 438	Gretchen Hanser & Lindsey Garland <i>International Academy of Hope</i>	Getting Writing on the Radar for Students with Significant Disabilities	Innovation and Technology, Communication (e.g., AAC), Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction
2 Grewen	Alyssa SooHoo & Lauren Miller <i>Adelphi University & St. Joseph's University- NY</i>	From Preparation to Practice: Advancing Special Education Through Collaborative Partnerships	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Special Education Teacher Preparation

Multi-presentation Sessions

Multi-presentation #3a: 1:30pm – 2:20pm – Building Inclusive Systems			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 Grewen	Stacey Buck <i>Le Moyne College</i>	Essential Connections: Introduction and Organization of Alternate Standards	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education &

			Pedagogy, Pedagogy and Practice
2 Grewen	Fritzy Sannon-Brown <i>Brooklyn College, CUNY</i>	Adapting student learning environments to support students with emotional Disability	Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 Grewen	Ethan Goldberg <i>Therapy Binder</i>	From Documentation to Coordination: A Systems Perspective on Multidisciplinary Care	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Innovation and Technology

Multi-presentation #3b: 1:30pm – 2:20pm – Special Education Teacher Preparation			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 440	Colleen Wilkinson <i>Daemen University</i>	Teacher First Classroom Management	Special Education Teacher Preparation
2 RH 440	Donna Bradbury & Emma Snizek <i>Mental Health Association in New York State</i>	Supporting the Well-Being of Students, Teachers, and School Staff	Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 RH 440	Wynta K. Nivens <i>NYC Public Schools, Division of Inclusive Accessible Learning (DIAL), Special Education Office and Brooklyn College (CUNY)</i>	Developing Instructional Decision-Makers: A Cognitive Apprenticeship Model for Special Educators	Special Education Teacher Preparation, Instructional Decision Making

Multi-presentation #3c: 1:30pm – 2:20pm - Math

	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 447	LauraMarie Coleman <i>Partnership for Equitable Mathematics Acceleration</i>	Data Driven Differentiation for Equitable Access to Grade-Level Mathematics	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy
2 RH 447	Dawn Pagliaro-Newman <i>NYCDOE Math For America NYS Master Teacher</i>	When Math Behaviors Are Messages: Interpreting Dyscalculia in Real Classrooms	Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 RH 447	LauraMarie Coleman <i>Partnership for Equitable Mathematics Acceleration</i>	PK-1 Number Core: Building a Foundation for Future Mathematics Success	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Early Childhood or Early Intervention

Session #4: 2:30pm – 3:20pm

Concurrent Sessions

2:30pm- 3:20pm			
Room	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 Grewen	Jen Migliore & Jessica Elliott <i>Cornell University</i>	Combating Learned Helplessness through Explicit Instruction in Self-Determination	Career Development/Transition
2 RH 438	Ruth Auguste Cesar <i>New York City Public Schools</i>	Building Teacher Self-Efficacy in Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms	Interdisciplinary and Interprofessional Collaboration, Special Education Teacher

			Preparation, Early Childhood or Early Intervention
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Multi-presentation Sessions

Multi-presentation #4a: 2:30pm – 3:20pm - AI			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 440	Susan Courey & Roslyn Haber <i>Touro University</i>	Gen-AI to Share and Expand Innovative Educative Curricular Materials	Innovation and Technology, Special Education Teacher Preparation
2 RH 440	Julienne Cuccio Slichko, Riza Ozdemir, Emily Petramale, & Cara Clouthier <i>SUNY Oneonta</i>	Portrait of Special Educators' Analysis of AI Tools for Teachers	Innovation and Technology, Special Education Teacher Preparation
3 RH 440	Julienne Cuccio Slichko & Gina Solano <i>SUNY Oneonta</i>	Teacher Preparation: Online Course Design & AI	Special Education Teacher Preparation

Multi-presentation #4b: 2:30pm – 3:20pm - Building Inclusive Systems			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 447	Lindsay M. Griendling <i>University at Albany, SUNY</i>	Identifying Culturally Sustaining Practices with Black Students with Dis/Abilities & Families	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy

2 RH 447	Kerry Leo <i>DaVinci Collaborative</i>	Navigating Challenges in Education: A Scientific Approach to School Improvement	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction, Navigating Challenges Pathway
3 RH 447	Michelle Patterson & Aaron Hampton <i>New York City Public Schools</i>	Building System Coherence Through Black Studies Implementation	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Innovation and Technology

Multi-presentation #4c: 2:30pm – 3:20pm - Advocacy			
	Presenters	Presentation Title	Topics
1 RH 439	Rae Lynn Helman <i>LeRoy Central School, NYCEC, NYCASE</i>	Using Our Collective Voice to Advocate for Students with Disabilities	Policy and Advocacy
2 RH 439	Katie Kirkman & Yalda Heshmat <i>NYU Nest Support Project</i>	Advocacy as a Collective Practice	Culturally Responsive - Sustaining Education & Pedagogy, Policy and Advocacy, Special Education Teacher Preparation, Paraprofessionals Support & Training

Concurrent Session 3:30-4:20pm

Event	Presentation	Location
NYSED Q&A Session	TBD	Grewen Auditorium

Closing Session 4:30pm-5:00pm

Event	Presentation	Location
Closing Session & Raffle *Must be present to win Raffle	President & President-Elect of NYSCEC	Grewen Auditorium

Schedule by Room

Friday October 2nd

	Grewen Auditorium	Reilly 338	Reilly 339
4 pm	Registration Opens (Foyer)		
430pm-6 pm		Teaching Assistant Session: Seen, Heard, Valued - Culturally Responsive and Sustaining Education Practices (CRSE) for Teaching Assistants and Aides	Advocacy Pre-Session- All are welcome!
6pm	Buffet Dinner		
630pm	Welcome Remarks		
7pm-8pm	Keynote Speaker		

Saturday October 3rd

	Grewen Auditorium	RH 438	RH 439	RH 440	RH 446	RH 447
730am	Registration Opens (Foyer)				Vendor Set-up	
8:00- 850am	Breakfast				Vendor Show-case	
9:00- 9:20am	Welcome & Awards Ceremony					
9:20- 10:20 am	Keynote Speaker: Dr. Lucky Mason- Williams					
10:30- 11:20am	Multi-presentation 1c – Science of Reading & Literacy Instruction	Empowering Students for Life After High School: From Compliance to Ownership	Multi-presentation 1A -- Neurodiversity	Multi-presentation 1B -- Interdisciplinary Special Education Teacher Preparation		Reframing Discipline: A QuantCrit Analysis of Suspension and Systemic Inequities

11:30-12:20pm	Stronger Together in the FBA: A BCBA-Educator Collaboration Framework	Multi-presentation 2b - Innovating Educational Practices	Multi-presentation 2c – Transition to Adulthood	Switching It Up: Expanding Access Through Switch Adaptation		Multi-presentation 2a – Early Childhood
12:30pm-1:20pm	Lunch Poster Session					
1:20pm-2:30pm	From Preparation to Practice: Advancing Special Education Through Collaborative Partnerships	Getting Writing on the Radar for Students with Significant Disabilities	Multi-presentation 3a – Building Inclusive Systems	Multi-presentation 3b – Special Education Teacher Preparation		Multi-presentation 3c -- Math
2:30pm-3:20pm	Combating Learned Helplessness through Explicit Instruction in Self-Determination	Building Teacher Self-Efficacy in Inclusive Early Childhood Classrooms	Multi-presentation 4c -- Advocacy	Multi-presentation 4a -- AI		Multi-presentation 4b - Building Inclusive Systems
3:30pm-4:20pm	NYSED Q&A (TBD)					
4:30pm-5:00pm	Closing remarks & Raffle winners (present to win)					