

 *From Inclusion to Belonging*  
**CONFERENCE ON DISABILITY**

**PRESENTED BY:**



**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:**



CONFERENCE WEBSITE



**Register for Conference to Renew your Hope and Give You Strength**

Dear friends,

Bishop Michael Burbidge recently gave our upcoming conference a shout-out during his podcast!

He highlighted that this conference is a place for learning, fellowship and encouragement, that will help families gain information that is practical and be renewed by the opportunity for fellowship with others on the same path.

During his conversation with Tom Shakely, Chief Communications Officer for the Catholic Diocese of Arlington, Bishop Burbidge rightly said: *"As Catholics, we believe every person is made in image and likeness of God, with unique gifts. But inclusion is not enough. We must move toward -and Pope Francis tells us this all the time- true belonging. Where every person is valued and supported and empowered and embraced. And faith, family and caregivers navigating disability related transitions often feel isolated and certainly at times, no doubt, overwhelmed. So at this conference we want to make sure these beautiful families and individuals know they are not alone. The Church is loving them and walking with them and will accompany them in every way possible. So again, this is a faith-centered approach to planning for the future. So that in our diocese, in our Church, in our communities, every person has all the resources they need, not just to exist but to thrive."*

Don't miss out on this chance to be part of a community dedicated to creating a more inclusive and loving world. Join us **this Saturday, March 15 at Bishop Ireton High School from 8:30-3:00pm.**

Sincerely,

The From Inclusion to Belonging Conference

[Link to Podcast](#)

[Conference Tickets](#)

## Agenda

# 2025 AGENDA

**Vendor Resource Area:** 8:30 am - 9:00 am & 10:30 am - 3:00 pm  
 Location: Auxiliary Gym (2nd Floor)

**Childcare:** 8:30 am -3:00 pm  
 Location: Gym (2nd Floor)

<b>8:30 am - 9:00 am</b>		<b>Auxiliary Gym (2nd floor)</b>					
Refreshments and Vendor Resource.							
<b>9:00 am - 9:30 am</b>		<b>Auditorium (entrance on 1st &amp; 2nd floor)</b>					
Opening Prayers and Remarks by Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington.							
<b>9:30 am - 10:30 am</b>		<b>Auditorium (entrance on 1st &amp; 2nd floor)</b>					
Keynote Presentation by Dr. Anna Hall, Organize365.							
<b>10:30 am - 11:00 am</b>		<b>Auxiliary Gym (2nd floor)</b>					
Vendor Resource opportunity.							
<b>11:00 am - 11:45 am</b>		<b>Breakout Classrooms (2nd floor)</b>					
A. Hall 205	N. Chernoff 206	T. Fimian 207	M. Downs 208	D. Monnig 209	S. Schmitt 2011	M. Battle 213	M. Flores 215
<b>11:50 am - 12:35 pm</b>		<b>Breakout Classrooms (2nd floor)</b>					
K. Gibson 205	A. Africa 206	R. Rinearson 207	S. Kristiansen 208	C. Thomas 209	C. Katra 211	ArtStream 213	N. Herrera 215
<b>12:35 pm - 1:40 pm</b>		<b>Cafeteria (1st Floor) &amp; Auxiliary Gym (2nd floor)</b>					
Buffet Lunch provided by Ford's Fish Shack. Maximize this time by networking & visiting the Vendor Resource area.							
<b>1:40 am - 2:25 pm</b>		<b>Breakout Classrooms (2nd floor)</b>					
C. Thull 205	S. Zish 206		C. Heykoop 208	D. McCallum 209	J. Fitzgerald 211	Spirt Club 213	J. Amaya 215
<b>2:25 pm - 3:00 pm</b>		<b>Auxiliary Gym (2nd floor)</b>					
Vendor Resource. Raffle will take place at 2:45 pm. Must complete Vendor Passport to participate.							

## EDUCATION

ROOM 205

- 1 ANNA HALL** **Improving Educators' Executive Function with the Teacher Workbook**  
Educators, school administrators and support staff: Learn to use the Teacher Workbook system, which helps to manage administrative tasks, improve organization, and reduce task switching.
- 2 KATHLEEN GIBSON** **Anatomy of an IEP**  
A break down of an Individualized Education Program (IEP): Parts of the IEP, the why of each section, and how it all comes together.
- 3 CHARLES THULL** **Postsecondary Education and Training: Disability Services and Learning Supports**  
Education and training opportunities for students with disabilities, focusing on the supports and accommodations available in colleges, universities, and technical training programs.

## LIFE SKILLS

ROOM 206

- 1 NAINA CHERNOFF** **Tips to Use Now for your Child's Transition to Adulthood**  
For parents and teachers of children with disabilities (5-14) seeking tips and resources to prepare students at home and at school for future independence and become successful adults.
- 2 ASHLEY AFRICA** **Empowering Independence: A Journey with Arc2Independence**  
Learn about the free app designed to support managing daily routines offering a comprehensive library of lessons in areas including Transportation, Daily Living Skills, Employment, and Safety.
- 3 SHANNON ZISH** **Hobbies and Skills for Adulthood**  
To live a full and purposeful life, we all need hobbies. Shannon will lead parents through different ways to discover and cultivate their child's interests and hobbies regardless of their challenges.

## EMPLOYMENT

ROOM 207

- 1 THERESE FIMIAN** **Discovery: Let Their Strengths Be Their Guide!**  
Discovery focuses on the best of a person, which leads to employment that is well matched to interests and career goals. Learn about Visual Resumes and Customized Employment.
- 2 ROBIN RINEARSON** **Is There Work After School?**  
Owner of business employing adults with disabilities will discuss inclusion in the workplace and the role of job coaches, internships, training of staff and the role of communication.

## LEGAL & FINANCIAL PLANNING

ROOM 208

- 1 MARK DOWNS** **Creating Financial Security for a Loved One With Special Needs**  
Financial and estate planning for parents of children with disabilities. Navigating family dynamics, tax considerations, risk management, special needs trusts, and quality of life planning.
- 2 SHERIE KRISTIANSEN** **Guardianship and Estate Planning**  
Overview of the difference between powers of attorney and guardianship, estate planning and options available so that governmental aid to the child will not be interrupted by an inheritance.
- 3 CORTNEY HEYKOOP** **Special Needs Trusts: Who, What, When, How Much & Why**  
Learn the different types of trusts, who can establish, how they are administered, a variety of ways to fund a trust and how to determine how much is needed in the trust for your child.

**COMMUNITY RESOURCES**

ROOM 209

- 1 **DIANE MONNIG** **Future Planning: Navigating Resources and Supports for Your Child's Adult Life**  
Explore the comprehensive resources offered by The Arc of Northern Virginia, a trusted resource for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) and their families.
- 2 **CLAUDE THOMAS** **Beyond the Nest: Navigating Housing After High School**  
Designed to help navigate the path to independent living, this session will break down the complexities of housing options, rental assistance, and support networks.
- 3 **DOUG McCALLUM** **The Virtual Resource Fair and Innovation in our Special Needs Community**  
Learn about the NOVA Special Need community, a Virtual Resource Fair offering a one-stop on-line platform with community resources for people with disabilities and their families.

**FAITH & FAMILY**

ROOM 211

- 1 **SARAH SCHMITT** **Welcoming Adults with Disabilities into the Life of the Church**  
Strategies for Clergy, Staff, and Volunteers serving in Parishes to enhance opportunities for adults with various disabilities and access needs.
- 2 **CHARLEEN KATRA** **Sacraments for All**  
Learn how to make the preparations and celebrations of sacraments a joyful experience for everyone. The USCCB Sacramental Guidelines for Persons with Disabilities will also be discussed.
- 3 **JOSEPH FIZGERALD** **Transition of care from parents to siblings**  
The successful transition from parents to siblings of the caring for an adult with developmental disabilities includes numerous important considerations that will be discussed at this session.

**TEENS & ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES**

ROOM 213

- 1 **MEGAN BATTLE** **Designing My Future: Self-Advocacy Orientation**  
Interactive session will guide self-advocates through exercises so that teens and young adults with disabilities get to know themselves better, make friends, and practice self-advocacy skills.
- 2 **ARTSTREAM** **Self Advocacy Through Theater**  
Participants with disabilities ages 14 and older are welcomed to join this dynamic, fun, and supportive workshop building confidence through movement and drama games.
- 3 **SPIRIT CLUB** **Workout with Spirit Club**  
A workout for people with disabilities that is accessible, supportive, and fun. This session will put a focus on functional fitness and movements that are used in our daily lives.

**SPANISH / ESPANOL**

ROOM 215

- 1 **MAJO FLORES** **Los conceptos básicos del sistema de exenciones de Medicaid en Virginia**  
Sra. Flores nos explicara lo que es un exención de Medicaid, elegibilidad para las exenciones, el proceso de solicitud, los servicios disponibles, y mas información esencial.
- 2 **NELLY HERRERA** **Como compartir la fe con amor**  
Nelly impulsara la enseñanza, a través de las potencias del aprendizaje independiente, la capacidad, curiosidad y habilidad de cada niño.
- 3 **JOSUE AMAYA** **Alojamiento después de la escuela secundaria**  
Analizaremos las complejidades de las opciones de vivienda, asistencia para el alquiler y redes de apoyo, ofreciendo orientación práctica sobre la planificación para el futuro.