

## EMPLOYMENT & AUTISM

*This free conference is for teens and adults on the autism spectrum who are interested in employment, family members, employers, human resource managers, case managers, social workers, transition coordinators, high school, college, and vocational educators, employment specialists, residential care providers, and anyone interested in helping those with autism spectrum disorders in the work place.*

- 8:00** Registration opens  
**8:45** Announcements  
**9:00** Accommodations, Self-Disclosure, and Benefits to Hiring Someone with Autism – Part 1  
*Speaker – Jim Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D*

### Participants will learn:

- What accommodations are available for someone with an Autism Spectrum Disorder?
- When should someone ask for accommodations?
- Should a person disclose in the workplace that they have an Autism Spectrum Disorder and when should they do this?
- What are the benefits of hiring someone with an Autism Spectrum Disorder?

- 10:00** Break  
**10:15 - 11:15** Accommodations, Self- Disclosure, and Benefits to Hiring Someone with Autism – Part 2  
*Speaker – Jim Ball, Ed.D., BCBA-D*  
**11:15 - 11:30** Break  
**11:30 - Noon** Question and Answers with Dr. Jim Ball  
**Noon** Lunch provided for participants  
**12:45 - 2:00** Job Application and Interviewing Skills for the Applicant with Autism  
*Speakers – Candice Borts, Dr. Cynthia Knight, Toni Merfeld*

### Participants will learn:

1. How to apply for a job
2. How to prepare for an interview
3. Methods to practice interviewing skills
4. Strategies and ideas for the interview and follow-up after the interview

- 2:00 - 2:15** Break  
**2:15 - 3:30** How to Start your Job Search and Enter the Workforce  
*Speakers – Catlin Curry and Reyma McCoy McDeid*

### Participants would learn:

- What is supported employment?
- How can a job coach help?
- Is job shadowing helpful?
- When is someone with autism ready to be independently employed?

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**AUTISMSOCIETY**  
*Improving the Lives of All Affected by Autism*  
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PO Box 65311  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

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## AUTISM & EMPLOYMENT CONFERENCE

*Sponsored by the Autism Society of Iowa*

**Friday, August 1, 2014**

**Sheraton Hotel, West Des Moines**

*Accommodations and Self Disclosure  
for the Employee with Autism*

*Benefits of Hiring an Employee with Autism*

*Preparing for the Job Search*

*Learning How to Interview*

*Employment Models*

## SPEAKERS



### DR. JIM BALL

Dr. Jim Ball, A Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA-D), has been working in the private sector field of autism for 25+ years. In a variety of settings, he has provided educational, employment, and residential services to children and adults affected with autism.

Dr. Ball has lectured nationally and internationally, provided expert

testimony, and published in the areas of early intervention, behavior, consultation services, social skills, technology, and trauma. He is a featured author and is on the advisory board for the Autism Asperger's Digest magazine. His 2008 triple Award Winning book, "Early Intervention & Autism: Real-Life Questions, Real-Life Answers" was released in February of 2008.

Dr. Ball has won numerous awards, including NYFAC's Autism Inspiration Award, Autism Society's Literary Work of the Year for his manual on social security and employment for individuals with autism spectrum disorders, and Autism New Jersey's highest honor, its Distinguished Service Award.

Dr. Ball, a former Board of Trustee member for the New Jersey Center for Outreach and Services for the Autism Community (COSAC), now Autism New Jersey is also a member of the COSAC/Autism NJ Professional Advisory Board.

He is a Board member of the Autism Society's (AS) Board of Directors and is currently the Chair of the National Board. Prior to that, Dr. Ball assisted the AS Board as the Co-Chair of the AS Panel of Professional Advisors (2005-2009).

### CANDICE BORTS

Candice holds both a Bachelors and Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education from the University of Northern Iowa. She just completed her course work to become a Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) and will sit for the exam summer, 2014. Candice has been trained in ABA, Verbal Behavior, Lindamood-Bell Visualizing Verbalizing and Seeing Stars, TEACCH, Picture Exchange Communication Systems, and other communication devices. At Metro West Learning Center Candice provides in-home behavioral therapy for children with autism and behavioral concerns, Job-Coaching and School Support with the IEP Teams.

### CATLIN CURRY

Catlin Curry is one of the Employment Coordinators at Candeo. He has been working with Candeo in various capacities for over 5 years, providing direct support to individuals receiving job coaching supports and jobseekers as well. In his current role, Catlin provides oversight and support to a team of direct support professionals to assist them in coordinating services for the individuals receiving the supports. He has a passion for seeing client's work towards independence in their employment and ultimately works without the need for supports by connecting them with their natural supports and work culture. Catlin holds Bachelors in Communications and Marketing from Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa and was born and raised in NW Iowa.

### CYNTHIA KNIGHT, PH.D.

Dr. Knight has over 25 years of experience working with students who struggle academically and socially/emotionally. She has worked with Metro West Learning Center for the past 6 years with her expertise being utilized for the high school and college students' transitions and academic success.

### REYMA MCCOY MCDEID

Reyma McCoy McDeid is the Lead Employment Coordinator at Candeo. Her previous supported employment experience includes job development, oversight of work experience programs geared towards transition-age jobseekers, and coordination of job coaching services. She holds a Master's degree in Nonprofit Administration with concentrations in Business and Human Services; her personal interest is in supporting fellow individuals on the Autism spectrum to lead independent, fulfilling lives.

### TONI MERFELD

Toni is the Founder and Director of Metro West Learning Center. She has 35 years of experience in the field of Special Education, Challenging Behavior and Autism. She started Metro West in 2004 primarily to address the unmet needs of children with significant learning challenges.



## INFORMATION

This conference is free, but registration is requested to accommodate for handouts and lunch.

## REGISTRATION

Please register by **Monday, July 28<sup>th</sup>**

Registrations may be made online at:  
[www.autismia.org](http://www.autismia.org)

Faxed to: 515-457-7225

Mailed: P.O. Box 65311,  
West Des Moines, IA 50265

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

### Location

The conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel  
1800 50th Street, West Des Moines, IA 50266  
Phone: 515-223-1800



Phone: 1-888-722-4799 or 515-327-9075

Email: [www.autism50ia@aol.com](mailto:www.autism50ia@aol.com)

Web site: [www.autismia.org](http://www.autismia.org)