



# New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants

*Promoting Professional Development and Communication Since 1965*

## *The New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants Fall Symposium 2019*

### *“Before, During, After” Assessment, Intervention and Transition*

Thursday evening, October 17, 2019  
Friday, October 18, 2019

#### **Thursday Evening:**

6:30-7:00 Registration and Refreshments  
7:00-9:00 Speaker

#### **Friday Schedule:**

7:30-8:30 Registration, Vendors  
8:30-11:00 AM Sessions  
11:15-12:30 Lunch, Vendors, Door Prizes  
12:30-3:00 PM Sessions

In an effort to maintain NJ ALC's policy of being “green”, NO handouts will be available, unless provided by the speaker. Please bring your own note taking materials.

#### ***Conference:***

**The Imperia**  
1714 Easton Ave.  
Somerset, N.J. 08873  
732-469-2522

#### ***Hotel:***

**Springhill Suites by Marriott**  
16 Cedar Grove Lane  
Somerset, N.J. 08873  
732-595-5100

NJALC is a professional development provider.  
Share this information/brochure with a friend or co-worker. Additional copies of this brochure,  
or membership applications, can be found on our website:

**[www.newjerseyalc.org](http://www.newjerseyalc.org)**

*Questions? Contact conference chair: [bdieckmann@optonline.net](mailto:bdieckmann@optonline.net)*

## THURSDAY EVENING

Stacy Cherry, Esq.

### Changes and Trends in Special Education Law in New Jersey

Mrs. Cherry will speak to legal updates in policies and procedures, consent, eligibility, and dyslexia, including recent and relevant legislation and case law.

**Presenter:** Stacey Theresa Cherry is a partner with Fogarty & Hara. Mrs. Cherry graduated *magna cum laude* from Pepperdine University School of Law in 2004. She graduated *magna cum laude* from Hope College with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Learning Disabilities in 1999. After obtaining her B.A., Mrs. Cherry taught inclusion and self-contained special education classes and is a New Jersey certified Teacher of the Handicapped and Elementary School Teacher.

Mrs. Cherry represents boards of education in all areas, including labor and employment, student discipline, and harassment, intimidation and bullying, and has particular expertise in special education law. She is admitted to practice in New Jersey and New York, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Mrs. Cherry was recently named to New Jersey's *Super Lawyers: Rising Stars* list, which was published in the 2017 issue of *New Jersey Super Lawyers* magazine.

In addition, Mrs. Cherry has volunteered for over 10 years with the New Jersey Branch of The International Dyslexia Association, where she has been a Director, the Vice President for Community Affairs, the Fall Conference Chair, and a member of the Nominating Committee. She also serves as an invited speaker for boards of education and parents as well as for organizations including the New Jersey Association of Pupil Services Administrators, the New Jersey Association of Learning Consultants, the Somerset County Association of Directors of Special Services, and Fairleigh Dickinson University.



## FRIDAY MORNING SESSIONS

1) Melissa Farrall, Ph.D.

### Comprehensive Reading Evaluations

Despite significant advances in reading research, the assessment of reading comprehension continues to cling to 20th century practices. Questions relating to the main idea and supporting details abound at a time when curious (and well-informed) minds want to know more. Come learn how to forge a stronger link between what we test and what current research has to say about the complexities of reading comprehension.

This workshop will present a top-down approach to testing as a foundation for conducting reading assessments that are both efficient and informative. Standardized tests for reading and oral language will be compared and contrasted with an eye for small differences in test design that can have large consequences for how students perform. We will look at how the test publisher's view of reading affects passage quality, and how question-types provide a window into the mind of the reader. We will examine how tests of oral language can reveal why students have challenges with the comprehension of print. In the end, participants will learn how to select tests and interpret findings with a critical eye as a prelude to making meaningful recommendations.

**Presenter:** Melissa Farrall is the author of Reading Assessment: Linking Language, Literacy, and Cognition, and the co-author of All About Tests & Assessments published by Wrightslaw. Melissa Farrall presently works as the program manager for evaluation at the Stern Center for Language and Learning in Williston, Vermont. She has also worked as an educational consultant for St. Joseph Hospital in Nashua, NH. She teaches the structure of language at Simmons College in Boston, MA. Dr. Farrall received her doctorate from Brown University in 1981 in the area of Slavic Linguistics. She received her Master's Degree from Rivier College in Learning Disabilities in 1994, and her certification as a Specialist in the Assessment of Intellectual Functioning in 1999. Dr. Farrall worked as a learning disability specialist in the public schools for several years. She has worked with the International Dyslexia Association at both the national and branch levels.

2) Dawn Flannagan, Ph.D.

### Recommendations, Resources, and Strategies to Teach and Empower Students with Reading Difficulties and Disabilities

**Presentation Description:** There are 6.7 million students receiving special education services in the United States. Of these students, nearly 2 million are students with specific learning disabilities (SLD) *in reading*. This presentation exposes participants to five categories of interventions, including *Instructional, Environmental, Curricular, Remediation Techniques and Programs*, and *Skill Building and Compensatory Strategies*. Examples of interventions in each of these categories will be presented as they apply to Basic Reading Skills, Reading Fluency, and Reading Comprehension. In addition, this presentation will demonstrate how to minimize the effects of a students' cognitive weaknesses to maximize their exposure to remedial reading instruction. When remedial techniques and programs are modified or adapted to address the student's cognitive limitations, learning is maximized. Throughout the presentation, links to websites will be provided. Many of the websites contain downloadable materials and printables that can be used in practice immediately. Some websites also provide important information about interventions and how to implement them effectively. The better tailored the interventions, the greater the likelihood of positive outcomes. It is expected that participants will learn different ways of intervening with students with reading difficulties and disabilities and gain skills necessary to supplement and expand upon techniques and programs currently in use.

**Presenter:** Dr. Dawn P. Flanagan is Professor of Psychology at St. John's University in Queens, NY. She is also an Affiliate Clinical Professor at Yale Child Study Center, Yale University School of Medicine in New Haven, CT. She teaches graduate level courses on *psychoeducational assessment for intervention and diagnosis and treatment of specific learning disabilities (SLD)*. She serves as an expert witness, SLD consultant, and test/measurement consultant and trainer for organizations both nationally and internationally. She is a widely published author as well as a co-developer of the *Cross-Battery Assessment* approach and its corresponding software system (X-BASS). Her most recent books include *Contemporary Intellectual Assessment: Theories, Tests, and Issues – 4th edition*; *Essentials of Specific Learning Disability Identification – 2nd edition*; *Essentials of WISC-V Assessment*; *Clinical Use and Interpretation of the WJ IV: Scientist-Practitioner Perspectives* and *Essentials of Planning, Selecting, and Tailoring Interventions for Unique Learners*. Dr. Flanagan's recent awards include APA's *Contributions to Practice Award* – an inaugural award for exceptional contributions to the field of school psychology through innovations in practice; and a *Lifetime Achievement Award* given at the 13th annual national School Neuropsychology conference.

### 3) Kelly Borden, LSW

#### **Project ADULTS (Accessing, Developing, and Utilizing Life Transition Skills)**

Ms. Borden will discuss the continuum of services for young adults aimed at bridging the gap between school and adult life. Ms. Borden works with students approaching graduation from High School as well as students with disabilities referred from all high schools. Project ADULTS staff helps young adults with disabilities and their families prepare for the transition to adult life. She will review all counseling, information, referral services, and general service coordination to young adults and their families as they navigate the world of adult services after graduation.

**Presenter:** Kelly Borden, a licensed clinical social worker, is the coordinator of Project Adults for Mercer County Special Services School District located in Mercer County NJ. Ms. Borden assists schools, community groups, as well as parents to provide all transition services for special needs students. She assists with school to adult life transition planning, applications for respite and in-home training for care givers, as well as a large variety of community support services. Ms. Borden also connects families with legal advice regarding guardianship and estate planning for families with special needs children.



## FRIDAY AFTERNOON SESSIONS

### 4) Melissa Farrall, Ph.D.

#### **Repeat of Comprehensive Reading Evaluations**

### 5) Dawn Flanagan, Ph.D

#### **Repeat of Recommendations, Resources, and Strategies to Teach and Empower Students with Reading Difficulties and Disabilities**

### 6) Kelly Borden, LSW

#### **Repeat of Project ADULTS**

# REGISTRATION FOR NJALC FALL SYMPOSIUM 2019

**Thursday evening, October 18, 2018 | 6:30 PM - 9:00 PM**

**Friday, October 19, 2018 | 7:30 AM -3:00 PM**

**Thursday evening: Members - \$40.00    Nonmembers - \$60.00\***  
**Conference fee:    Members - \$165.00    Nonmembers - \$195.00\***

Make checks payable to: **NJ Association of Learning Consultants**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

To receive confirmation of your registration, a valid email address must be provided.  
 Please mark the box reflecting your session choices.

<b>THURSDAY EVENING</b>	Stacey Cherry, Esq. Changes and Trends in Special Education Law in New Jersey			___ Cherry
<b>FRIDAY AM SESSIONS</b>	Melissa Farrall, Ph.D. Comprehensive Reading Evaluations	Dawn Flannagan, Ph.D. Recommendations, Resources, and Strategies	Kelly Borden, LSW Project ADULTS	<i>Select one (AM)</i> ___ Farrall ___ Flannagan ___ Borden
<b>PM SESSIONS</b>	Melissa Farrall, Ph.D. <i>Repeat of a.m. session</i>	Dawn Flannagan, Ph.D. <i>Repeat of a.m. session</i>	Kelly Borden, LSW <i>Repeat of a.m. session</i>	<i>Select one (PM)</i> ___ Farrall ___ Flannagan ___ Borden
Total fee enclosed represents my choices and membership status:				\$

**Please send checks only. No purchase orders unless accompanied by personal check**

Registrations must be accompanied by a check, either a personal check or a P.O. with a check.  
 Registrations without a check will be returned to you and not processed. Please alert your business office to this requirement.  
 Check with your district regarding changes in district policies/timeframes for conference reimbursements.

\*All registrations are checked for current member status. Membership year is from July 1 to June 30.  
 If you would like to renew your membership or join ALC, a membership application is available on line at [www.newjerseyalc.org](http://www.newjerseyalc.org).

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE - October 5, 2019

Conference Deadline: Sessions will be filled on a "first come" basis with every effort made to accommodate those who register in a timely manner. Walk-in registration cannot be guaranteed.

**Return this section with payment to:**  
**Sue Pensack**  
 10317 Upper Little Creek Road, Bangor, PA 18013  
 Questions? Contact conference chair: [bdieckmann@optonline.net](mailto:bdieckmann@optonline.net)

Do not write in this section

Current member? \_\_\_\_\_ Date received \_\_\_\_\_  
 Method of payment: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_ Action taken \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Card \_\_\_\_\_