



Inclusion Solutions, LLC
and **ED-21 Solutions**

Widening the Circle

Widening the Circle
Summer Conference
June 11 & 12, 2025

Bishop Reicher Catholic High School
2102 N 23rd St
Waco, Texas

Conference resources:
QR Code coming soon

inclusionsolutions4kids.com



SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

DAY 1: JUNE 11, 2025

- 10:00** DOORS OPEN & CHECK IN
- 10:30** INTRODUCTIONS AND WELCOME
- 10:45** KEYNOTE: DR. ERIK CARTER
- 11:45** CONFERENCE OVERVIEW & ACTIVITY PREP
- 12:00** LUNCH
- 12:45** BREAKOUT SESSION 1 (SEE PAGE 5)
- 2:00** BREAKOUT SESSION 2 (SEE PAGE 5)
- 3:15** SELF ASSESSMENT TEAM ACTIVITY:
SYSTEMS OF SUPPORT WORKSHOP
- 4:00** Q&A
GUIDED REFLECTION
OVERVIEW DAY 2 & CLOSING PRAYER
- 4:30** GREELEY CENTER SOCIAL

DAY 2: JUNE 12, 2025

- 8:45** WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 9:15** KEYNOTE 2: INSPIRATION
- 10:00** PANEL: CREATING SCHOOLS OF BELONGING
- 11:15** SELF ASSESSMENT TEAM ACTIVITY:
INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS
- 12:00** LUNCH
- 1:00** BREAKOUT SESSION 3 (SEE PAGE 5)
- 2:00** TEAM PLAN & DESIGN WORKSHOPS
- 2:30** COMMITMENTS
- 3:15** CLOSING REFLECTION & ADJOURN

Access ALL event
documents,
presentations, and
resources here!

QR CODE
COMING SOON!

Day 1

The 10 Dimensions of Belonging

Dr. Erik Carter

In this inspiring keynote, Dr. Erik Carter shares a message of inclusion through 10 specific ways in which people experience belonging. His research explores the depths of the ways every individual is valued for their strengths, contributions to the community, and their importance as a friend and peer. His message is meaningful to those who seek belonging and all who seek to create environments where all belong.



Dr. Erik W. Carter is Luther Sweet Endowed Chair in Disabilities at Baylor University. His research and teaching focuses on strategies for promoting full participation, belonging, and valued roles in school, work, community, and congregational settings for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, autism, and multiple disabilities.

Dr. Carter's passion is helping churches, schools, and communities become places of membership and belonging for individuals with disabilities and their families. He and his wife are both graduates of Wheaton College ('96)

Assessing Readiness Part 1: Systems of Support

Presenters: Crystal Brooks and Dr. Colleen McCoy-Cejka

**Team
Activity**

How ready is your school to be confidently inclusive for all learners? In this session, school teams will navigate a rubric to assess readiness in key areas for maximum impact. Areas to consider are curriculum, instruction, assessment, and behavior. Content from the readiness checklists and discussion among the teams will lay groundwork for Day Two's strategic planning session.

Your Masters of Ceremony

Colleen McCoy-Cejka, Ed.D. is Managing Partner of Inclusion Solutions, LLC. She has been a Catholic school teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, & a Director for NCEA. She is a board member for the National Catholic Partnership on Disability and co-hosted the Catholic Teacher's Lounge Podcast. Colleen is the parent of a son with autism and a neurotypical son, both of whom are college students and world travelers.



Crystal Brooks, CCC/SLP, Ed.S. is Managing Partner of Inclusion Solutions, LLC. She has worked as a special education teacher, speech language pathologist, therapy director, state department of education professional development specialist, and Catholic high school Director of Inclusion. Crystal is the mother of three adult children.

Colleen and Crystal have developed school, diocesan, and organizational partnerships throughout the country and are working to create inclusive Catholic school communities by widening the circle coast to coast!

Creating School Communities of Belonging

A Panel Discussion

SCHOOL LEADER PANELISTS TBD

Hear from a panel of leaders and practitioners who have experienced and overcome challenges when building inclusive communities and practices. Panelists will share stories and examples of successes and failures, victories and blunders, to help those on the journey navigate common obstacles as well as the unique barriers within their own school communities.



Assessing Readiness for Inclusion Part 2

Facilitators Dr. Colleen McCoy-Cejka and Crystal Brooks

**Team
Activity**

How ready are your classrooms to be confidently inclusive for all learners? In this session, school teams will navigate a rubric to assess readiness specific to the classroom environment. Areas to consider are curriculum, instruction, assessment, and behavior. Content from the readiness checklists and discussion among the teams will build on the Day 1 Systems evaluation and lay groundwork for the afternoon goal setting workshop.

**Team
Activity**

Team Plan & Design Workshop

During this workshop, school teams will use the data they have collected from the two readiness assessments as well as learning from the earlier breakout sessions to determine priorities and create an action plan toward the achievement of specific goals.

Each school team will share a firm commitment they have decided to make to move their community a step further toward creating places of belonging for ALL students.



Breakout Sessions (Repeated During Each Breakout Time Unless Otherwise Noted)

Session Description	Presenter	Room
<p>Numerical Literacy and the Neuroscience of Math Instruction More students are being diagnosed with Dyscalculia every year and teachers need strategies to address math disabilities. Come explore the neuroscience of math and learn effective teaching strategies to develop number sense through games and manipulatives. Using visual representation in a multisensory, systematic way, teachers will learn how to design engaging math instruction. (Grades K-6)</p>	Sue Milano	
<p>5 Tips for Supporting Executive Function in the Classroom (4th-12th) Have students not completing assignments? Students who struggle to initiate and complete tasks? This interactive session will share five tips for supporting executive function in 4th –12th grade classrooms. A frequent response to something like executive function is, “I don’t have time for that.” My respectful response is, “you don’t not have time for it” because often weak executive function skills can take time away from instruction.</p>	Dr. Michelle Lia	
<p>Streamlining Instructional Efforts to Meet the Needs of All Students Meeting the diverse learning needs of students in every class requires thoughtful planning and implementation. This session will introduce the Universal Design for Learning framework and explore how the mindset shift that occurs when implementing UDL helps to keep the focus on the essential learning targets, remove unnecessary “extra” work for teachers, and ultimately empower all students to have great agency over their own learning.</p>	Dr. Debra Sullivan	
<p>Creating Systems to Support All Students Each Catholic school must create unique systems to support the needs of all students. This breakout session will explain how Catholic schools can create tiers of support related to the academic, emotional, and behavioral development of students.</p>	Dr. Kaitlin Reichart	
<p>AI to the Rescue School leaders and educators will learn how to leverage AI for serving the school community. Prompting for developing lesson plans, interventions to target skills for reading and math skills, as well as developing goals for student success will be explored with AI that are ideal for educators. Learn how to save time, and further personalize instruction and assessment.</p>	Crystal Brooks	
<p>Teaching Students with Intellectual Disabilities Students with genetic conditions such as Down Syndrome, Fragile X, Angelman’s Syndrome and others have unique strengths and learning challenges that can be met in an inclusive environment. Learn how to adapt and modify curriculum resources to meet the needs of diverse learners in an inclusive environment.</p>	Presenters from Shepherd Them All	
<p>Understanding and Teaching the Dyslexic Student In this session participants will delve into the neurobiology of dyslexia and explore markers to watch for that might signal a reading disability. Startegies and practical takeaways to help teach students with reading disabilities will allow teachers grow in confidence to serve all students.</p>	Presenters from the Austin Dyslexia Center	
<p>The Third Teacher: The Learning Environment (BREAKOUT 1 and 2 ONLY) Universal Design for Learning (UDL) is a decades old, research-based framework proven to be effective for neurodiverse classrooms. UDL calls educators to consider the significance and impact of the learning environment. An interactive and visually-oriented presentation, participants will consider elements of classroom design, tools and furniture, and how learning spaces present obstacles and opportunities for neurotypical and neuro-divergent students.</p>	Dr. Colleen McCoy-Cejka	
<p>Make a Move: Integrating Movement into Lessson Design (BREAKOUT 3 ONLY) Research has proven the benefits of movement on brain function. As such, a classroom that moves is a classroom that engages and learns. This interactive workshop demonstrates a variety of strategies to integrate movement into lesson design. Attendees will participate in activities and discuss how each movement strategy can be translated to different age groups and subject areas.</p>	Dr. Colleen McCoy-Cejka	

Meet Our Presenters

Dr. Michelle Lia is a Co-Director of the Greeley Center for Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago. She is a product of Catholic education from age of 4 to 22 years! She worked in Catholic and public schools for 17 years as a classroom teacher and a reading specialist.

Dr. Lia provides coaching and professional learning to educators in Chicago and across the country in these areas:

- instruction
- literacy
- curriculum
- Universal Design for Learning
- instructional coaching

For the Greeley Center, she also acts as a coach of the coaches and a professional learning consultant. Dr. Lia teaches courses in undergraduate and graduate programs in the School of Education.



Sue Milano, M.Ed. is the Director of Programs and Advocacy at Inclusion Solutions, LLC. Sue has worked in public, charter, and private schools educating students with disabilities for over 25 years. She developed the first inclusive program within a PreK-8th grade Catholic school in her home diocese and has consulted with principals and learning specialists seeking to enrich other Catholic school communities across the country. She is knowledgeable of federal programs and has ensured students benefit from the funding they are entitled to.

Dr. Kaitlin Reichart is the Greeley Endowed Chair. In this role, Dr. Reichart teaches within the Educational Leadership program, provides coaching and professional learning to schools throughout the country, and contributes to the research field.

Previously, Dr. Reichart worked as a elementary school principal and teacher within Catholic Schools. Dr. Reichart's doctoral research focused on the effects of an intervention on classroom engagement and reading comprehension.



Dr. Debbie Sullivan is Co-Director of the Greeley Center for Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago. Dr. Sullivan teaches graduate courses for Loyola's Catholic Principal Preparation Program. She is passionate about Catholic school leadership plans as well as building the leadership capacity of those already ministering in Catholic Schools. Dr. Sullivan holds a B.A. in History, an M.A. in Educational Administration as well as an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Loyola University Chicago. She began her career as a junior high history teacher and worked for the Archdiocese of Chicago for 25 years. Upon receiving her M.A., she moved into the role of principal and was recruited to move to the Office of Catholic Schools to serve as a Regional Director for the Archdiocese of Chicago just prior to earning her Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction.

Travel Information

Airports:

[Waco Regional Airport](#)
[Dallas Fort Worth](#)
[Austin International](#)

Hotels:

There are several options to consider including
The Residence Inn, Waco
Hilton, Waco
Aloft Waco, Downtown

Event Sponsor: The Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago

The Andrew M. Greeley Center for Catholic Education was created to support the mission of pre-Kindergarten-12th grade Catholic schools through consultation and professional learning.



Special Thanks

The Diocese of Austin Office of Catholic Schools
The Bishop Louis Reicher High School Community
Shepherd Them All
The Dyslexia Center of Austin

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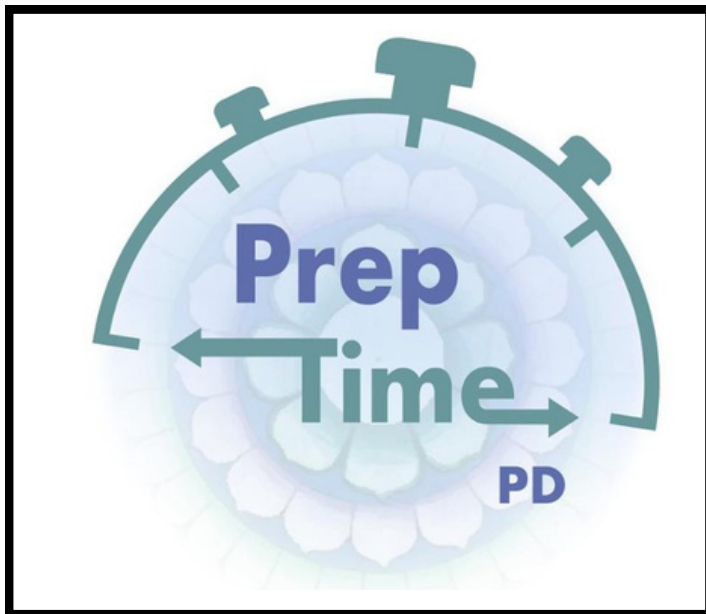
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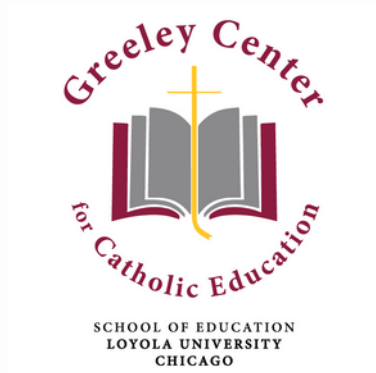
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