

2019 MSLBD Keynote Session
Sharing Perspectives on: Anger, Aggression, and Violence!
Can We Create Civility in Schools?

Friday, February 22, 2019 | 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Sheraton Grand Ballroom

Dorothy L. Espelage, PhD, Professor,
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Dorothy L. Espelage, Ph.D., is Professor of Psychology at the University of Florida. She is the recipient of the American Psychological Association Lifetime Achievement Award in Prevention Science and the 2016 APA Award for Distinguished Contributions to Research in Public Policy, and is a Fellow of APS, APA, and AERA. She was just elected to the National Academy of Education. She earned her Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Indiana University in 1997. Over the last 22 years, she has authored over 200 peer-reviewed articles, six edited books, and 70 chapters on bullying, homophobic teasing, sexual harassment, dating violence, and gang violence. Her research focuses on translating empirical findings into prevention and intervention programming and she has secured over twelve million dollars of external funding. She advises members of Congress and Senate on bully prevention legislation. She conducts regular webinars for Centers for Disease Control, National Institutes of Health and National Institute of Justice to disseminate research. She authored a 2011 White House Brief on bullying among LGBTQ youth and attended the White House Conference in 2011.



Tara Rinehart, PhD, Director of Special Services,
Metropolitan School District of Wayne Township, Indianapolis, IN

Dr. Tara Rinehart is the Director of Special Services, and has worked in the district since 2011. She was an Elementary Principal and District Director of Exceptional Learners in a rural district prior to her move to the urban setting. Her previous experience includes work at the Indiana Department of Education as the State Response to Intervention Specialist as well as an Exceptional Learners specialist with Special Education Complaints, Disproportionality and Parent Involvement. Prior to joining the Indiana Department of Education, Dr. Rinehart was a Special Education Department Chair and teacher for a suburban district on the west side of Indianapolis. She taught Special Education K-12 in Arizona and Iowa. She holds her Ph.D. and Ed.S. from Indiana State University, M.S. in Educational Administration from Butler University and Bachelor of Arts in Special Education from Arizona State University. She serves on the Indiana Council for Exceptional Children Executive Board and represents Indiana in Washington, D.C. She has published in the Journal of Special Education Leadership. She is the wife and mother of three children.



Tammy Nyden, PhD, Associate Professor
of Philosophy, Grinnell College and Co-
Founder and President, Mothers on the
Frontline, Iowa, City, IA

Dr. Tammy Nyden is a mother, professor of philosophy at Grinnell College and children's mental health advocate. She is the Co-founder and Co-director of Mothers On the Frontline, a non-profit organization dedicated to caregiver healing and children's mental health advocacy through storytelling. She is also the founder of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Johnson County Children's Coalition, and member of the NAMI Iowa Advocacy Committee. She previously served on the Iowa Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council (2014-2018), the Iowa Children's Mental Health and Well-Being Workgroup and Advisory Committee (2015-2018); chaired the NAMI Iowa Children's Mental Health Committee (2014-2017); co-chaired the Iowa Coalition for a Children's Mental Health Redesign (2015), and co-wrote its *Statewide Call for Action: A Strategic Plan for a Children's Mental Health Redesign in Iowa*.



Matthew McNiff, PhD, Special Education
Director, Educational Service Unit No. 5,
Beatrice, NE

Dr. Matt McNiff is currently the special education director Educational Service Unit No. 5 in Beatrice, Nebraska. He also serves as a behavior consultant where he works with nine school districts to help teachers and administrators develop ways to help students with behavior concerns. Prior to that he was a special education teacher for students with behavioral needs, in a public school and residential setting. With over 20 years of experience in the field, Dr. McNiff has worked with thousands of students with behavioral challenges and grades ranging from early childhood to high school and transitional programming. He attained his Ph.D. in special education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, specializing in behavior disorders and autism. Dr. McNiff is a nationally recognized speaker in the field of behavior management and specializes in helping school staff to develop programs that will reduce problematic behaviors and increase academic time. His presentations are known for being positive, humorous and engaging and are full of easy to use strategies and examples that can be used quickly with even the toughest to reach children. He is the parent of two children, one of which has autism.

