

2018 MSLBD Keynote Session
RELATIONSHIPS! Active Ingredient, or Minor Sidelight to Success
Friday, February 23, 2018 | 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. | Sheraton Grand Ballroom

Nicholas A. Gage, PhD,
Assistant Professor, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

Dr. Gage, is an Assistant Professor in the School of Special Education, School Psychology, and Early Childhood Studies at the University of Florida. He has a Ph.D. in Special Education from the University of Missouri where he studied special education policy, statistical analysis, single-subject research, Positive Behavior Support (PBS), School-Wide Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (SWPBIS), and Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA). In addition to his doctoral studies, Dr. Gage was an Institute of Education Sciences (IES) Post-doctoral Fellow in the Center for Behavioral Education and Research at the University of Connecticut working on statistical and methodological advances in the emotional and behavioral disorders research field. Specific research interests include identification of policies and practices at the national, state, local and classroom level to support the academic, social, and behavioral needs of students with or at-risk for emotional and/or behavioral disorders through rigorous and diverse research practices and his expertise is in supporting schools, districts, and states in leveraging their data resources to best develop effective and efficient systems of support for students' academic and behavioral needs. Specific interests include statistical modeling, research design and methodology, single-subject research, and functional behavioral assessment.



Andrew Allen, BS, President and CEO YSS, Ames, IA

Mr. Allen is President and CEO of YSS, a youth serving agency with more than 400 employees serving nearly 7,000 youth across Iowa each year. YSS helps youth stand strong by providing children, teens and young adults the opportunity to find their voice, make healthy choices, feel safe and secure, learn life skills, heal with compassion, and grow their confidence through prevention, treatment and transitional services. Allen credits YSS with providing services that saved his life in 1995. He later became the charter youth member on the YSS Board of Directors, and then served on the YSS Foundation Board. Before becoming CEO, he dedicated more than 20 years to serving YSS as a volunteer, advocate and fundraiser, leading two successful YSS capital campaigns and creating Reggie's Sleepout, an annual fundraiser benefitting YSS in Des Moines and now Ames. Allen currently serves as Vice-Chair of the Iowa Juvenile Justice Committee and has served on the Federal Advisory Committee on Juvenile Justice. Allen has received the Outstanding Young Alumnus Award from Iowa State University, and was inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame by the State of Iowa.



Catherine DeSalvo, MS,
Supervisor MTSS-B, Omaha Public Schools, Omaha, NE

Mrs. DeSalvo, was principal at Boys Town's middle school for 20 years and collaborated on the development of the Positive Alternatives to Suspension program for Boys Town. In her 40-year career in education, she has been a teacher, behavioral consultant, and principal. She has co-authored a book on Positive Alternatives to Suspension. She is confident that students and schools benefit from positive behavior approaches. Currently, she is Supervisor of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support-Behavior for the Omaha Public Schools. DeSalvo has also been active with the Planning Committee of the Midwest Symposium including serving on the Awards Committee for the Planning Committee.



Terrance Scott, PhD, Professor and Distinguished University Scholar, Director, Center for Instructional and Behavioral Research in Schools, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY

Dr. Scott, is a Professor and Distinguished University Scholar in the College of Education and Human Development at the University of Louisville and is Director of the Center for Instructional and Behavioral Research in Schools (CIBRS). Having received his Ph.D. in Special Education at the University of Oregon in 1994 (with an emphasis on emotional and behaviors) he has previously been a faculty member at the Universities of Kentucky, Florida, and Oregon. He has over 120 articles, chapters, and media publications, including four books on a variety of issues in the areas of behavioral disorders and behavioral support systems and has conducted over 1000 presentations and training activities throughout the U.S., Canada, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Sweden, and Norway. Dr. Scott received in 2004 the Distinguished Early Career Award from the Research Division of the International Council for Exceptional Children and the 2012 Outstanding National Leadership Award from the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders. As a former counselor and teacher of students with seriously challenging behaviors, his research interests focus on school-wide prevention systems, the role of instructional variables in managing student behavior, functional behavior assessment/intervention, and scientific research in education.

