



It's Summer: Focus on Fun



Hi all,

Don't worry, no long letter from me this month.

It's almost July and it's time to focus on fun. I'm off to take my own advice and enjoy all summer has to offer!

In the meantime, if you really want to do something, start thinking about our next conference in December.

Have you thought about hosting a Watch Party at your school? Why enjoy the conference by yourself when you can hang with your colleagues and learn and reflect together? If you're interested in hosting a gathering at your school, [let us know](#). We're happy to share our Watch Party kit with you.

Take a cruise through this month's newsletter to meet our World Changer for June, think about who you'd like to nominate for our Annual Student Award winner, and peruse all the awesome speakers we'll be hosting in December. And if you know you're going to go, why not grab our early bird tickets before July 31st and save big time? Or, gather a group of 10 or more and save even more. [Contact us](#) for more details about group rates.

Then, go hop on your paddle boards, hike, or relax at the pool, and have some fun, y'all!

-Lori

Seriously, This Conference is Beyond Our Wildest Dreams!



The 2021 SENIA International virtual conference aims to inspire international school teachers, related service providers, and parents around our theme: Learning Ecosystems – Supporting Inclusive School Communities. Attendees can learn from these amazing keynote speakers and from each other! Click below to read about all the cool speakers we've lined up so far. And, there's more to come!

[More info about the conference here](#)

Register now and save \$50 USD



*Register before August 1st and save some cash!

World Changer Award: June



**IRIS VAN DER
VELDEN**

Dutch/American/Vietnam

For more info, go to:

www.seniainternational.org/senia-world-changer-awards/



Congratulations to Iris van der Velden as the recipient of June 2021 SENIA World Changer Award.

As part of her IBO MYP Personal Project, Iris researched her diagnosis of ADHD. The final product of her project was a presentation to the elementary teachers about ADHD, its causes, impacts and what teachers can do to support ADHD in the classroom.

Iris went through the identification process in middle school and as she has matured through high school she embraced the opportunity to dig into her own understanding of what this diagnosis means to her identity and how it impacts her learning. It was important to her to return to speak to her elementary teachers about how they can support students and their families with ADHD.

The impact of Iris' presentation was enormous. Teachers and leadership left feeling more confident in being able to talk about neuro-diverse learners around their needs. The Vietnam SENIA representative has asked her to present at their monthly meetings and in May 2021 she will present to her current teachers in the secondary school. Iris is a role model in the school community of a strong, resilient, and proud neuro-diverse student.

[Iris's Story](#)

[Nominate a World Changer](#)

SENIA Student Award: Scholarship



**DO YOU KNOW AN EXCEPTIONAL CHILD OR YOUTH WITH
DISABILITIES WHO IS RAISING AWARENESS OR
ADVOCATING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY?**



**NOMINATE TODAY!
DUE OCTOBER 15, 2021**

Applications & regulations are found on our website
[www.seniainternational.org/senia-student-award-
home/](http://www.seniainternational.org/senia-student-award-home/)

SENIA is pleased to announce the **2021 SENIA Student Award**. Do you know of a student who advocates and promotes inclusion in their community? Then nominate them today!

The recipient of the award receives a scholarship, plaque, certificate and the opportunity to present their inspirational story at the SENIA International conference, as well as be featured in future SENIA publications.

The deadline for all nominations is **October 15, 2021**. A full list of rules and regulations can be found [here](#).

Nominate a Student Advocate Today!

SENIA in the News

SENIA is featured in the latest edition of *Jing Kids Beijing's Essential Family Resource*. Click [here](#) to read this fantastic article entitled "SENIA to the



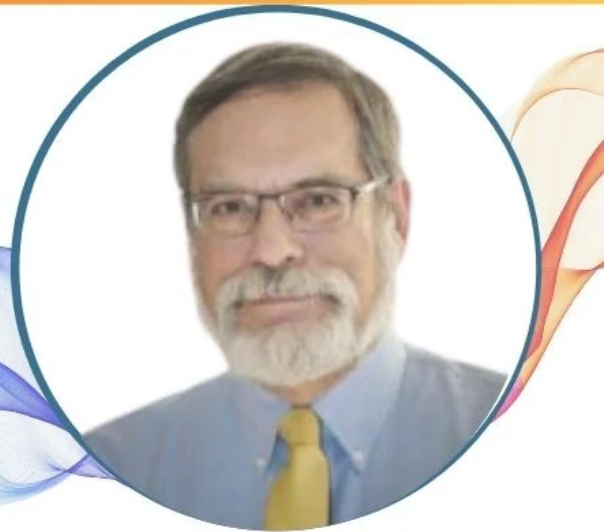
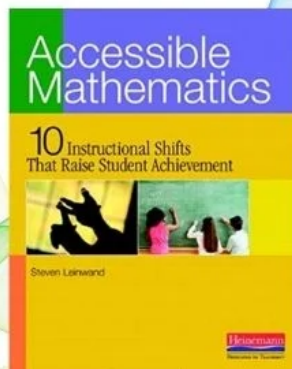
Rescue: Resources for Parents and Teachers Working with Differently Abled Children," by Julie Wolf. SENIA would like to thank *Jing Kids* for their support.

Check This Out!

SPEAKER SPOTLIGHT

Steve Leinwand

Author of



SENIA CONFERENCE

2021

LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

[Register](#)

Have You Listened to Our Podcasts?



Breaking Barriers with Best Buddies

Gustavo Soriano

Over 45

PODCASTS FOR YOU



SENIA ROUNDTABLE Discussions

JUNE TOPIC: "IT'S ALL ABOUT BALANCE"

HOSTED BY: ERIN MADONNA, MATT BARKER & LORI BOLL

[HTTPS://SENIAINTERNATIONAL.ORG/PODCAST/](https://seniainternational.org/podcast/)



SENIA HAPPY HOUR PODCAST

Traumatic Brain Injury and Learning

Drs. Melissa McCart & Sondra Marshall

Find Our Podcasts Here


What We're Reading

MARIO MEMO


The MARIO Memo exists to help bridge the gap between educational researchers and practitioners, especially in relation to the field of special education. MARIO believes everyone, regardless of their time or financial resources, should have access to the most recent research available. Their goal is to empower and inspire more teacher-researchers. Sign up [here](#) to receive a twice-monthly memo.

Issue 1
June 9, 2021

MARIO Memo™




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Notable Quote

"For a healthy socio-emotional development, it is critical that children can construct meaning of emotional experiences to increase their understanding of their own inner worlds. One way to promote such understanding is by engaging children in conversations about emotional experiences (Split et al., 2021 quoting Fivush et al., 2003)."



Needed Insight

Families should be valued, and we should reconceptualize families as central stakeholders, seen and treated as significant contributors who have authority to influence and impact the trajectory of content and research decisions. It shifts the focus by taking into account the family's popular knowledge and wisdom—expertise that comes mainly from hands-on experiences based on their daily lives, experiences, and needs.

—Jay Lingo

SENIA's very own Jay Lingo, Director of Marketing & Communications, and Erin Madonna, Round-table podcast host, are both contributors to the MARIO memo.

Our SENIA website now features free resources, such as the MARIO Memo. Check them out [here](#), and if you have any too add, please let us know.



The graphic features the IDS logo on the left, which consists of the letters 'IDS' in blue inside a grey monitor-like frame. To the right, the words 'SUMMER SERVICES' are in large green letters, with 'ONLINE' in smaller green letters below them. In the center is a blue world map with several location pins. Dashed lines connect these pins in a circular path. Labels for various services are placed around the map: 'Occupational Therapy' (top left), 'Speech Therapy' (middle left), 'Reading Support' (bottom left), 'Psychological Testing' (top right), 'Counseling' (middle right), and 'Math Support' (bottom right).

No matter where summer takes you

LET OUR THERAPY AND EDUCATION SUPPORT SERVICES HELP YOUR CHILD LEAP INTO NEXT SCHOOL YEAR WITH SUCCESS!

www.idsalliance.com



The banner has a background of colorful, flowing, ethereal waves in shades of yellow, green, blue, and purple. On the right side, there is a photograph of a man with dark hair, wearing a blue button-down shirt and a grey blazer, holding a megaphone to his mouth as if shouting. The text 'CALL FOR PRESENTERS' is prominently displayed in the center-left. 'CALL FOR' is in large red letters, and 'PRESENTERS' is in large blue letters. Below the text is a thick orange horizontal bar.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

It's true. SENIA has invited some of the most renowned speakers for our virtual conference. However, we know that our members are some of the most knowledgeable and innovative professionals there are. Why not share your passion with our audience? But hurry. Proposals for the December conference are due July 1st!

Click [here](#) to submit your proposal today.

Become A SENIA Teacher Rep



The SENIA TR keeps your school abreast of SENIA events/conferences. In addition, the SENIA reps encourage their faculty to attend local and international SENIA conferences, help motivate teachers to submit proposals to present at SENIA, and keep schools informed about inclusion PD in the region.

Consider appointing/nominating an individual whose role involves meeting the needs of diverse learners and is committed to advancing best

practices in education for all students. Ideally, the appointed individual has attended at least one SENIA conference.

Contact us at TeacherRep@seniainternational.org to learn more.

Contact us to nominate a TR



Please take a moment to check out our sponsors for the 2021-2022 school year. These organizations have sponsored SENIA because they believe in our mission and wish to help bring you good quality professional development at a low cost to you and your schools.

Gold Sponsors:

[International Diagnostic Solutions \(IDS\)](#)

[MARIO Framework](#)

Silver Sponsors:

[STEP- Strategic Tracking for Educational Progress](#)

[Lindamood-Bell Learning Processes](#)

[Oasis Place](#)

Vivido- Learning Made Visible- stay tuned for an exciting announcement about this sponsor.

Would you like to sponsor SENIA in 2021-2022?

Do you know of an organization who would like to sponsor our us? Sponsoring SENIA is a great way for organizations who share our mission to interact with SENIA members worldwide. Check out all our great [sponsorship opportunities](#). Interested? Contact [Lori Boll](#) today.

REGISTRANT SPOTLIGHT

Tracy Wood

First Registrant from Calgary,
Alberta, Canada

"This will be my first SENIA Conference but I am sure will not be my last. It is very difficult for me to travel for conferences and so the virtual world has opened up unlimited possibilities for me to attend online."



SENIA CONFERENCE 2021

LEARNING ECOSYSTEMS
SUPPORTING INCLUSIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITIES

Thank you, Tracy, for being our first person to register for #SENIA2021! Since Tracy registered, we've had many others register including some large school groups.

Register today and tell us your story of why you are coming to the conference.

Tracy's story:

My connection to the world of Diverse Learning started when I was 14 and volunteered at a local organization. I started my career in education in 1997 and have always worked with diverse learning students. We moved from England to Canada in 2001 and I have been lucky enough to continue my journey in education with the Calgary Catholic School District. I worked as an EA when I first arrived before gaining the qualifications to be able to teach here. Since that point I have worked as a Special Needs teacher in a congregated program, a District Diverse Learning Teacher serving in many classrooms across the district and the latest position I have the pleasure of holding is Diverse Learning Consultant. I currently have 18 schools and 10 programs under my portfolio and spend lots of time working with many students and teachers daily.

I signed up for the conference when I saw who the Keynote speakers were. I have a lot of respect for them all and cannot wait to hear them speak.

This will be my first SENIA Conference but I am sure it will not be my last. It is very difficult for me to travel for conferences and so the virtual world has opened up unlimited possibilities for me to attend online.

Register

SENIA International

A Non-profit organization 501(c)(3)

Based in Oregon, USA

Operates Worldwide

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