



TASH

2015 ANNUAL REPORT



As a leader in disability advocacy for 40 years, the mission of TASH is to promote the full inclusion and participation of children and adults with significant disabilities in every aspect of their community, and to eliminate the social injustices that diminish human rights.

TASH ENVISIONS A WORLD WHERE ALL PEOPLE ARE:

- Afforded the dignity of high expectations,
- Supported to live in accordance with their aspirations, and
- Considered full members of and contributors to their communities without control from another person or system regardless of the perceived or real extent of their support needs.

TO ACT ON THIS MISSION TASH DOES THE FOLLOWING:

- We combine research with values to advance social justice.
- We focus research and advocacy to create solutions for people with complex support needs to ensure ALL really means ALL.
- We consistently engage families and self-advocates to ensure our work has relevance and value in their lives.
- We serve as conduit for future leaders to share, work, and develop their careers.

WE ACCOMPLISH THIS WORK BY:

- Hosting a large annual “inclusive community of practice” conference, several regional conferences, and other training throughout the year.
- Publishing a highly regarded peer-reviewed scientific journal, *Research and Practice in Severe Disabilities*.
- Working with Congress, the executive branch, and other policy decision makers to ensure policy is aligned to support best practice and advance opportunity and inclusion.
- Reaching out to the general public to share how research can influence practice through podcasts, informational campaigns, and social media.
- Developing and strengthening chapters to support families, self-advocates, and professionals in local communities to advance inclusion and quality of life outcomes.
- Facilitating connection between members to solve problems and replicate good outcomes across geographic boundaries.

“TASH has an uncompromising stand that all people have value and that everyone should be able to determine their own lives. What makes TASH different? We have the expertise to make it happen.”

- Barb Trader, TASH Executive Director

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

An anniversary year provides a tremendous opportunity to reflect and renew. Throughout 2015, the TASH community celebrated our 40 year commitment to the “pure and undiminished humanity of persons with significant disabilities.”¹ We live this commitment in unusual ways which keeps us relevant and at the same time, continually challenges us. For example, TASH has a deep commitment to both research and values, a balance that is sometimes hard to strike. And, unlike any other disability organization, TASH is made up of a rich community of people who share values, but not necessarily professional background or “stakeholder” identity – we include researchers, people with disabilities, graduate students, parents and other family members, policy makers, state agency staff, lawyers, consultants, and many others. Finally, as Rob Horner pointed out at the 2015 conference, “what’s made TASH so fascinating from the very beginning is its focus on complexity.” This focus on complexity has proven that all really can mean ALL.

From whatever perspective reviewers of this annual report come from, we hope you’ll be as inspired by TASH as we are – as evidenced in these pages, we continue to make invaluable contributions to people with disabilities and to those who love them and work on their behalf. We hope you’ll also understand that a world without TASH would be a very different world indeed.

It is doubtful that, without TASH, we would know how to provide quality academic instruction to ALL students; that we would have successfully made aversive interventions untenable; that all people would be presumed employable, and that we’d know so clearly and with deep conviction that ALL people can lead regular lives – if only given a chance and respectful supports. We are not to a place where these things are the reality for all people, but we are closer to that day than we would have been without TASH. And as a result of this community, we have valued relationships with people with disabilities who have changed us in simple and profound ways.



Barb Trader
Executive Director

Barbara Trader



Ralph Edwards
President

Ralph Edwards

Will, Madeleine. (2015). In Appreciation. In TASH: 40 years of progressive leadership (4). Washington, DC: TASH.

2015 TASH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

TASH would like to thank the following individuals for serving on the 2015 TASH Board of Directors.



Ralph Edwards
President
Boston, MA



Jean Trainor*
Vice President
Waterloo, IA



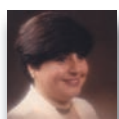
Kathleen Fallon
Treasurer
Boston, MA



Gail Fanjoy
Secretary, Co-Chair,
Community Living Committee
Millinocket, ME



Merrill Friedman
Chair, Executive Committee
Austin, TX



Rima Hatoum*
Chair, International
Committee
Tallahassee, FL



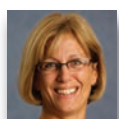
Christi Kasa*
Editor, *Connections*
Colorado Springs, CO



Mathew McCollough*
Chair, Diversity and Cultural
Competency Committee
Washington, DC



Ruby Moore
Chair, Employment
Committee
Decatur, GA



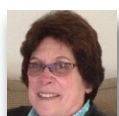
Mary Morningstar*
Chair, Inclusive Education
Committee
Lawrence, KS



Whitney Rapp
Chair, Human Rights
Committee
Rochester, NY



April Regester
Chair, Conference
Committee
St. Louis, MO



Shirley Rodriguez*
Chair, Chapter Leadership
Committee
San Francisco, CA



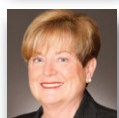
George Singer
Chair, Research and
Publications Committee
Santa Barbara, CA



Robin Blount
Atlanta, GA



Micah Fialka-Feldman
Syracuse, NY



Connie Garner
Washington, DC



Jenny Kurth
Lawrence, KS



Kurt Schneider
Chicago, IL



Emily Titon
Jamestown, RI

*Board tenure ended in 2015

PARTNERSHIPS

The Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion (APRAIS)

APRAIS was established in 2004 by leading education, research and advocacy organizations with a common goal: to eliminate the use of dangerous and dehumanizing practices as a means of managing challenging behavior. Led by TASH, APRAIS is currently comprised of 31 organizations.

The Collaboration to Promote Self-Determination (CPSD)

CPSD is an advocacy network of 15 national disability organizations working to ensure all people with intellectual and developmental disabilities can become employed, live independently and in an inclusive community, and rise out of poverty. TASH's Executive Director, Barb Trader, was elected to serve as Chair of CPSD in 2016.

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD)

CCD is a coalition of approximately 100 national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. TASH is an active member of CCD's Education Task Force.

Leadership Conference for Civil and Human Rights

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights is a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 200 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States. Through advocacy and outreach to targeted constituencies, the Leadership Conference works toward the goal of a more open and just society. TASH is an active member of the Education Task Force and partners with other organizations to insure that the interests of students with the most significant impact of disabilities are considered throughout the work.

Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation (SWIFT)

SWIFT is a national K-8 technical assistance center that builds school capacity to provide academic and behavioral support to improve outcomes for all students through equity-based inclusion. TASH leads the Policy Team for SWIFT, providing direct technical assistance to state education agencies, local education agencies, and schools.

The Collaboration for Effective Educator Development, Accountability and Reform (CEEDAR)

CEEDAR is a technical assistance center designed to help states, Inclusive Higher Education (IHEs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs) create coherent professional learning systems that provide opportunities to learn for teachers and leaders. The center is dedicated to supporting states in their

PARTNERSHIPS

efforts to develop teachers and leaders who can successfully prepare students with disabilities to achieve college and career ready standards. TASH provides content and direction on supports for students with complex needs.

The National Center on Trauma-Informed Care (NCTIC)

NCTIC works to eliminate the use of seclusion, restraints, and other coercive practices and to develop the knowledge base on trauma-informed care. NCTIC offers consultation and technical assistance, education and outreach, and resources to support a broad range of service systems, including systems providing mental health and substance abuse services, housing and homelessness services, HIV services, peer and family organizations, child welfare, criminal justice, and education. TASH's contribution to the Center's work focuses on prevention of restraint and seclusion use in public schools.



SUPPORTERS

Creating equity, opportunity, and inclusion for people with significant disabilities begins with support from our donors. It's your commitment to our mission that contributes to our successful advocacy efforts and we want to thank you!

Pat Amos
Jacki L. Anderson
Robert Baker
Georgi-Ann Bargamian
Kathleen Barney
Diane Baumgart
Dean Beaupain
Jessica Best
Becky Bitter
Robin Blount
Vaughn Bouchard
Cheryl Brown
Dawn Brown
Lou Brown
John Butterworth
Norah Carroll
Mary Cerreto
Jeffrey Cohen
Mardge Cohen
Adelaide Comegys
Mary Ann Crossley
Vicky Davidson
James Deabay
Brent Edwards
Jonathan Edwards
Ralph Edwards
Joanne Eichinger
Barbara Elaine
Kathleen Fallon
Gail Fanjoy
Janice Fialka
John Fialka
Micah Fialka-Feldman
Robinsue Frohboese
Constance Garner
Kathleen Gee
Alisha Giampola
Donna Gilles
Deborah Gilmer
Stacey Goodwin
Jamie Gordon

Denise Gould
Ruth Greenberg
Norris Haring
Rima Hatoum
Elizabeth Healey
Vern Heinrichs
Shauntel Hogan
Natalie Holdren
Marvinette Holly
Kelley Hutchinson
Pamela Hunt
Judith Jellison
Leslie Jones
Matt Kahn
Jacqueline Farmer Kearns
Mary Kittrell-Kinkaid
Paula M. Kluth
Leslie Kolkmeier
Julie Kraus
Jeannie Kuhlman
Jennifer Kurth
Leslie Lederer
Tamera Leighton
Kathleen H. Lique
Heather Lytle
Mackinnon Family
Susan Mann
Sandra McClennen
Mathew McCollough
Eileen Medina
Kay Melet
Lisa Mills
The Minneapolis Foundation
Ruby Moore
Mary Morningstar
Anthony & Nancy Moscone
Ari Ne'eman
Albert Pelham
Cyndi Pitonyak
Matthew Polstein
Public Consulting Group

Victoria Pulos
Ina Resnikoff
Michael Remus
Donna Ribick
Shirley Rodriguez
Zachary Rossetti
Marianne Rutter
Gabriele Sabura
Wayne Sailor
Susan Schaefer
Kurt Schneider
Scott Shepard
Carole Shutzer
George & Bea Simon
George Singer
Joanne Singer
Margaret Somer
Stephen & Brenda Sprague
Jeffrey L. Strully
Sally Sweeney
Deborah Thomson
Barbara Trader
Jean Trainor
Dina Traniello
Milton Tyree
United Way California
Capital Region
C. Richard Wagner III
W. Ray Wagoner
Terri Ward
Jo-Ann Waring
Peggy Welker
Wells Fargo Advisors
Champions of Diversity
David Westling
Carvin Wilson
Mark Wurzbacher
Zeina Yousof
Karen Zimbrich

CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Keeping the TASH Conference at an affordable rate can be quite the challenge. It takes the support of many key organizations to accomplish, but for some individuals, it's still a barrier. Thanks to our 2015 conference sponsors, we were able to award 25 scholarships to self-advocates and family members, making it possible for them to attend the conference. TASH is grateful to the following organizations and individuals who generously supported the 2015 TASH Conference in Portland, Oregon.

- Public Consulting Group
- Anthem
- Oregon Department of Education
- Walmart
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Developmental Disabilities Administration
- Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation
- King County Developmental Disabilities Division
- Spokane County Community Services, Housing, and Community Development Department
- MetLife Center for Special Needs Planning
- LEAD Center
- University of Oregon
- Cal-TASH
- Arbor Soft LLC
- Chapman University
- Robinsue Frohboese
- Clark County Developmental Disabilities
- Multnomah County Developmental Disabilities
- WISE

Thanks to our Sponsors...

We were able to award 25 scholarships to self-advocates and family members to attend the TASH 2015 conference.



2015 REGIONAL CONFERENCE RECAP:

TASH hosted two regional conferences in 2015: one in Marlborough, MA on May 12th, Inclusive School and Community Engagement Across the Lifespan: An Ethical Imperative, co-hosted by NE TASH; and another in Greensboro, NC, May 15-16th, Inclusive Education as a Results-Driven Imperative: Preparing Students with Significant Disabilities for College and Careers, co-hosted by NC TASH.

The purpose of these conferences was to elevate attendees' commitment to inclusive practices. The topics discussed featured philosophy and values that guide practice; successful family and community engagement strategies; and the role of all stakeholders.

Inclusive School and Community Engagement Across the Lifespan featured presentations about the SWIFT Center, facilitation community *connections*, person-centered planning, supported decision-making, Positive Behavior and Intervention Support (PBIS), and a discussion of federal developments including Center for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) and U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) actions, the Workforce innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA), and other efforts to expand employment by both the federal government and federal contractors.

Inclusive Education as a Results-Driven Imperative: Preparing Students with Significant Disabilities for College and Careers featured a mother and daughter team who discussed their family journey together from childhood to high school to life after high school and the important aspects of transitions along the life span of individuals with disabilities. Other presenters discussed guardianship issues, employment concerns, and daily living supports. In addition, presenters discussed a multi-tiered system of supports that can work in a classroom or school to proactively address the needs of students with problem behaviors; domains and features of the SWIFT Center; characteristics of high quality work transition jobs; and college as a pathway to employment.

2015 TASH CONFERENCE RECAP:

Wow! Not many words can describe this year's TASH Conference and the passion it reignited for so many. To most, the TASH Conference is a community like no other – where inclusion, equity, and high expectations are not just words, they are realities. Nearly 900 attendees from 45 states and eight countries gathered at the beautiful Downtown Portland Marriott Hotel. Attendees each received a copy of TASH's commemorative anniversary book, 40 Years of Progressive Leadership. The book, sharing glimpses of the past and ideas of a bright future, foreshadowed the days to come.



OPENING SESSION

Barb Trader, TASH's Executive Director, welcomed the crowd for the last time. As she announced her retirement, she also shared her appreciation and gratitude for working with TASH, its members, and its community for the past nine years. She then welcomed deputy assistant secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Sue Swenson, who encouraged the crowd to keep the fire at the feet of policy makers by sharing a story about one of our country's first policy makers, Thomas Jefferson.

“When he wrote those words he was thinking about our people, because he lived with our people. Maybe it wasn't obvious, maybe it wasn't even obvious to him, but those words became the foundation of the 14th amendment and equal protection of the law.”

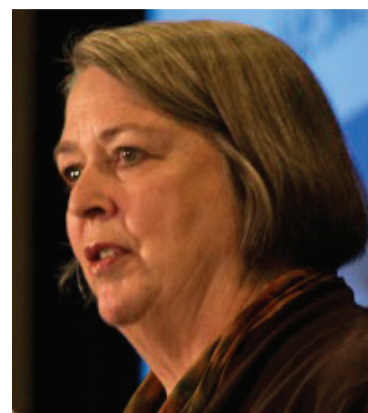
- Sue Swenson

She explained how his role as the brother of a woman with significant disabilities shaped his outlook when writing the Declaration of Independence.

Keynote speaker Erik Carter, professor in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University shared 10 modest ideas that will help young people with disabilities create a future of flourishing.

“There should be no separate set of dreams for young people with disabilities.” - Erik Carter

To conclude the session, friends of Judith Snow shared a moving tribute to her life and legacy as a philosopher, a scientist, a researcher, an engineer, a guru, an artist, and an advocate.

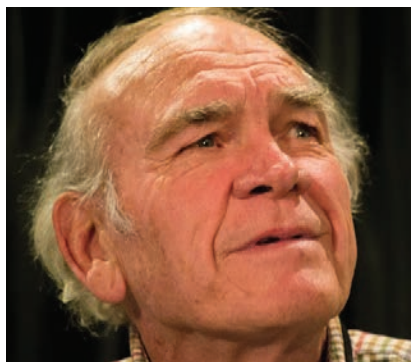


POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Poster Presentations were a hit! Conversations ensued as presenters shared their research in the form of printed text and graphics. A special congratulation goes to our 2015 Poster Presentation award winners: Kay Bounkeua, Margo Colloer, Megan Hoorne, Karla Kingslet, Yi-Ling Lin, Sujata Norman, Brigid Ovitt, Cathy Qi, and Juliette Romero Benavidez.

40TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

Wayne Sailor, co-founder of TASH, kicked off the celebration by describing the meeting where TASH was created and how it all began 40 long years ago in a smoke-filled room. Several members followed with a series of short vignettes using the fast-paced Pecha Kucha format.



Interpretive dancers from Dance Ability International wowed the crowd while dancing on wheels. Filmmaker, Dan Habib added to the celebration with a world premiere of his new film, *Intelligent Lives* (working title). Finally a cake cutting, a “Happy Birthday” sing-a-long, and dance performance wrapped up the evening event.

IMPORTANT DISCUSSIONS

Making time for meaningful discussions on critical topics is a hallmark of TASH conferences. The 2015 conference featured dynamic and thought-provoking Roundtable Discussions and resulted in clarity and new direction on topics of concern to members. The TASH IDEA Principles for the Future – Forging a Framework for Education Equity Roundtable will result in a document describing TASH’s principles for IDEA reform, which will be finalized and disseminated in Spring 2016. Feedback shared by attendees during the Transition Roundtable: Expanding Secondary Inclusion and Improving Postschool Outcomes and the Sound the Alarm: Addressing the Ongoing Crisis in Communication Services and Supports will lead to action, tool kits, or TASH position statements later this year.





“The TASH Conference provides an environment of unconditional acceptance that the world should emulate.”

- Jean Trainor, TASH Board Member (2009-2015)

TASH also hosted a half-day Evidence Based Practices and Implementation Science Colloquium. The purpose of the colloquium was to bring together activist scholars and innovative interventionists who are engaged in analyzing, developing, evaluating, and implementing evidence based practices for improving the quality of life of individuals with severe disabilities across the lifespan. It was a well-attended event.

CLOSING SESSION

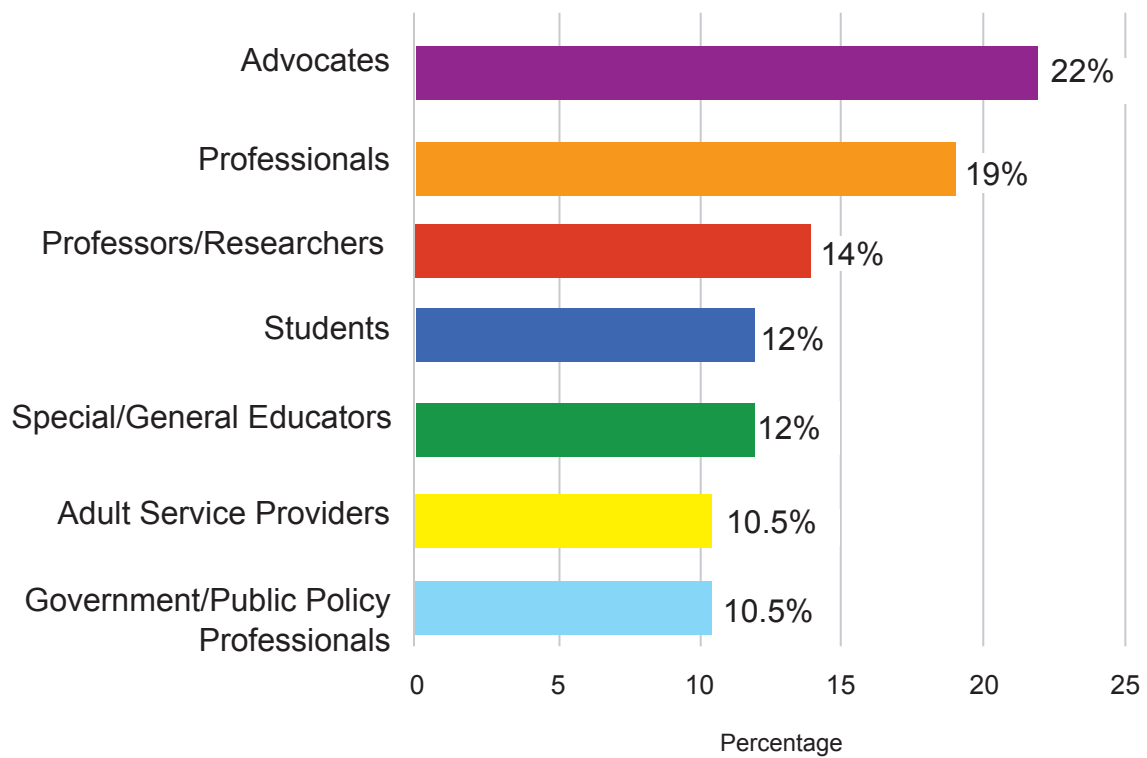
Scott Shepard of Avenues Supported Living Services and self-advocates, Heather Hardman and Christopher Lin, described the quality of life possible when people are engaged with community life. Then Alison Barkoff of the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law and Serena Lowe of the Office of Disability Employment Policy addressed what it will take to make lives like Heather's and Chris' possible for ALL people with disabilities through values-driven implementation of the HCBS Rule.

This inspiring keynote panel was followed by a reception and stunning performance by United by Music North America, a group of musicians with disabilities: a pianist playing the piano backwards, a vocalist sharing the meaning of the song she wrote, and a director displaying the steps it takes to compose a new song. Wow!

TASH would like to thank the following individuals for serving on the 2015 TASH Conference Committee:

- April Regester, Chair
- Angela Jarvis-Holland
- Ruth Falco
- Susie Shaefer
- Animesh Shah
- Joann Noll

CONFERENCE AUDIENCE PROFILE



CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS



MISSOURI

In 2015, Missouri TASH worked with other organizations to host the St. Louis Americans with Disabilities Act 25th anniversary celebration at the Missouri History Museum, advocated for a sub-minimum wage amendment, represented TASH at multiple statewide events, and began planning the 2016 TASH Annual Conference in St. Louis.



KENTUCKY

Kentucky TASH and co-host Kentucky Arc held their 2015 conference in March, featuring TASH board member, Gail Fanjoy, as a workshop presenter and keynote speaker. Kentucky TASH also used stories they collected as the basis for a workshop about directing your own service.



VIRGINIA

Virginia TASH partnered with other organizations in the state (The Arc and Down Syndrome Association) to form Including Me, an inclusion task force working with parents, teachers, and self-advocates to promote inclusion. They wrote letters to Governor Terry McAuliffe to help Reginald Latson, a young man with autism, receive a conditional pardon from prison – where he was wrongly put in solitary confinement – and moved to a treatment center.



OHIO

The Ohio TASH chapter held social justice events at Mount St. Joseph in Cincinnati and Otterbein University in Columbus, involving over 35 faculty and staff, and over 75 students and community members. They co-sponsored two inclusive education events with the Up Side of Downs of Northern Ohio and the Down Syndrome of Central Ohio, bringing Dr. Paula Kluth to each. Over 350 family members and educators attended. They completed work on the Family and Job Seekers grant with a coalition of state groups that trained over 200 people with disabilities and service assistants throughout the state. They also collaborated with advocacy groups to create a two-day Americans with Disabilities Act 25th anniversary celebration as well as on various state issues, including the delivery of a written testimony to the Ohio Departments of Health, Exceptional Children, and Developmental Disabilities.



IOWA

Iowa TASH supported the 2nd Annual Midwest Summer Institute: Inclusion and Communication for All at the University of Northern Iowa in partnership with the Inclusion Connection, including sponsoring five students with complex communication needs and their support teams to attend the conference. These students participated in communication workshops and three of them typed with support for the first time.

CHAPTER HIGHLIGHTS

ARIZONA



Arizona TASH conducted six trainings for families and school personnel around the state on: “Closing the Gap: How Inclusive Practices Maximizes Student Achievement”, “Differentiated Instruction: Accommodations and Modifications”, “Co-Teaching”, and “The What, Why, and How of Inclusive Practices.” These events were attended by a total of 163 people. They also had their 11th Annual Institute for Inclusive Practices, attended by 125 people. Chapter staff also participated in legislative activities on seclusion and restraint.

CALIFORNIA



California TASH hosted their 32nd Annual Cal-TASH Conference in Irvine. Chapter Vice President Natalie Holdren participated in the Georgetown Leadership Institute for Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence, a catalyst for change in networks supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. She reported on the event for TASH’s blog. Scott Shepard and Shirley Rodriguez rallied board members up and down the state to meet with local legislators, to rally in their hometowns and at the Capitol Building in Sacramento, and to advocate for an increase in funds to California’s service system. The state is on the brink of collapse, agencies are closing and a strong voice is needed. People around the state have garnered a wonderful groundswell movement. California voices are being heard.



2015 HIGHLIGHTS

1) FROM SEGREGATED TO INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Since its inception, TASH has distinguished itself by systematically setting out to develop, refine, and popularize the essential models of supports and services necessary for students with significant disabilities and complex support needs to be educated in inclusive schools and classrooms.

TASH seeks to transform school communities based on social justice principles in which all students:

- a. are presumed competent
- b. are welcomed as valued members of all general education classes and extra-curricular activities in their local schools,
- c. fully participate and learn alongside their same age peers in general education instruction based on the general education curriculum and
- d. experience reciprocal social relationships.

In 2015, TASH joined with the disability and civil rights communities to push for continued commitment to school accountability through the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and continued to promote inclusive education world-wide by:

- Publishing the TASH Inclusive Education Research Advocacy Agenda. This agenda, created by TASH's Inclusive Education Committee, calls for new and innovative research to advance inclusive education for students with significant disabilities. Visit www.tash.org/2016IERearchagenda to view the full agenda.
- Serving as the Policy Team lead for the SWIFT Center (Schoolwide Integrated Framework for Transformation, the National Training and Technical Assistance Center on Inclusive Education) and contributing to technical assistance to five states, 16 school districts, 64 schools, impacting more than 25,000 students. TASH's issue briefs on policy are the most frequently downloaded documents at www.swiftschools.org. TASH has developed a protocol for conducting state-level policy analyses, is analyzing state policies in all five SWIFT partner states (OR, MS, NH, VT, MD), and is recommending changes to support implementation of the SWIFT framework.
- Being recognized for innovation in inclusive education by the international body monitoring global progress on implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. TASH's policy analysis and alignment work with the SWIFT Center was selected for this honor, included in the 2015 global report, www.zeroproject.org, and was featured at the 2016 Zero Project Conference on Inclusive Education and ICT in Vienna, Austria.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

2) ADVANCING COMPETITIVE INTEGRATED EMPLOYMENT

For decades, TASH has been committed to increasing the employment rate for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and elevating the expectation that a regular adult life includes a working life. TASH has also been committed to eliminating federally sanctioned sub-minimum wages and took extensive measures toward achieving this in 2015.

- The reauthorization of the Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) in 2014 called for the establishment of an Advisory Committee charged with recommending actions to the Secretary of Labor and all administrative agencies that would increase competitive, integrated employment for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Several TASH nominees serve on this Advisory Committee, and TASH has provided testimony on three different occasions, laying out strategies to build knowledge in the field, improve interagency cooperation, and increase the use of customized employment and discovery to improve employment outcomes.
- TASH has paid close attention to the Lane vs. Brown federal court case this year. Several TASH members were involved in the case as subject matter experts and our annual conference was held in Oregon – home of lead plaintiff, Paula Lane. Being so close to the action made it possible for plaintiffs, family members and advocates involved in the case to share their story, and contributed to the region's ability to respond to the requirements of the settlement agreement. By the end of the year, the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon approved the Lane v. Brown settlement agreement, promising 1,115 working-age individuals currently in sheltered workshops the opportunity to obtain competitive integrated employment.
- The AbilityOne program was under intense media scrutiny for charges of fraud in 2015, providing the disability community an opportunity to question the overall structure and operation of this program and its inconsistency with contemporary disability policy. TASH joined with six other national organizations to call for overall reform, generating media interest and heightening public pressure. More than 46,000 people with disabilities, about 9% of whom make less than minimum wage, are employed in segregated environments by this program.

3) COMMUNITY MEANS EVERYONE

In January 2014, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released final rules of the Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) Waiver. These rules require HCBS settings to provide opportunities for participants to engage in community life, have access to the community, control their personal resources, and seek employment and work in competitive settings. The HCBS settings rules give states up to five years to develop a transition plan describing how they

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

will come into compliance, seek public input on the plan, and submit it to CMS for approval. With just one year of transition planning under our belts, we dedicated much time to the HCBS settings rules in 2015.

The TASH conference enabled attendees to identify possible issues with how states plan to comply with the settings rule. It also created a platform for attendees to advocate for better compliance, share experiences and observations of state rule implementation, and work with federal representatives who provided clarity and utilized input to inform implementation.

TASH partnered with the American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) to host a successful six-part webinar series, Stepping Up to the Promise and the Spirit of the Home and Community Based Waiver. The series provided nearly 80 attendees grounding in the meaning of the new Waiver regulations and a comprehensive review of why and how to implement them.

In September 2015, Barb Trader and TASH board members, Gail Fanjoy and Merrill Friedman, presented at the National Home and Community Based Services Conference in Washington, DC. The trio led a discussion on how to build understanding and constructive communication between stakeholders and MCOs, and how high quality, outcomes-driven personalized supports for people with the most significant impact of disability can be supported over the long term.

4) PREVENTING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOR IN SCHOOLS

TASH believes that all children with disabilities should grow up free from the use of aversive interventions, restraints and seclusion. In 2015, TASH continued the fight to end these dangerous practices by:

- Publishing a position statement on camera surveillance in self-contained classrooms. This statement includes major concerns with installing cameras in classrooms and makes recommendations on how to increase student safety in schools.
- Testifying before the Mississippi Department of Education on its newly drafted restraint and seclusion policy.
- Keynoting the launch of the Restraint Reduction Network, an initiative of the Crisis Prevention Institute (CPI)
- Sending a formal set of recommendations to the Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education to issue enforceable guidance on restraint and seclusion use.
- Keynoting the first Federal Partners Trauma-Informed Care Conference to promote the use of restraint and seclusion prevention measures in public schools.

2015 HIGHLIGHTS

- Leading APRAIS (the Alliance for the Prevention of Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion) for the 12th year, working together to successfully add a requirement for states to develop prevention plans in the newly reauthorized Every Student Succeeds Act.
- And, launching a social media campaign with the Alliance to Prevent Restraint, Aversive Interventions and Seclusion (APRAIS) to draw attention to the American Civil Liberties Union's (ACLU) lawsuit filed in Kentucky.

TASH continues to gain wide support for the adoption of practices and policies that maintain a learning environment free from the threat of abusive behavior.

5) EXPANDING THE TASH COMMUNITY

TASH dove head first into the 21st century this year, giving members and non-members, the opportunity to connect and collaborate on a more powerful level. TASH's new membership database enables members to join groups and forums to discuss all things inclusion. TASH's new conference website and app enables attendees to build their own schedule, connect with friends, and view their friend's schedules.

TASH RESEARCH AND PRACTICE FOR PERSONS WITH SEVERE DISABILITIES (RPSD) REPORT

For over 40 years, TASH and its members have published innovative practices, groundbreaking research, and models of success that have transformed the disability field.

TASH's flagship peer-reviewed journal, *Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities (RPSD)*, is a critically acclaimed and widely read scientific journal in the field of disabilities. *RPSD* publishes breakthrough articles on such topics as inclusion, augmentative and alternative communication, supported living, supported employment, early childhood issues, self-advocacy, positive behavioral supports, disability rights and issues of concern to families. This journal is the most influential vehicle for progressive research in the disability field. Published quarterly, *RPSD* occasionally focuses on special topics, such as cultural competency, covered by many of the most notable authors and researchers in the field.

RPSD STATISTICS

Top Article:

Guardianship and the Potential of Supported Decision Making with Individuals with Disabilities. (Viewership: 2,130) Free access for a month.

Downloaded in 10 countries

Total Subscriptions:

2,533 up from 896 in 2014
(65% increase)

Full-text Online Downloads:

21,616 up from 4,329 in 2014
(80% increase)

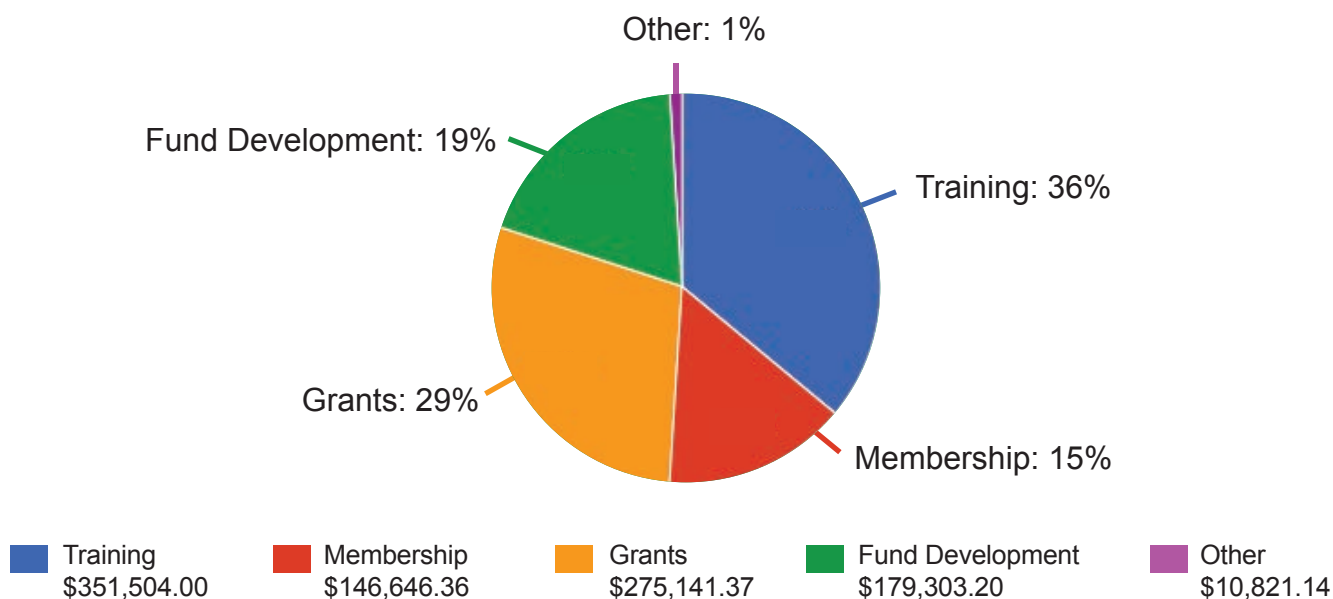
**TASH COMBINES
RESEARCH WITH
VALUES TO ADVANCE
INCLUSIVE PRACTICES.**

TASH CONNECTIONS REPORT

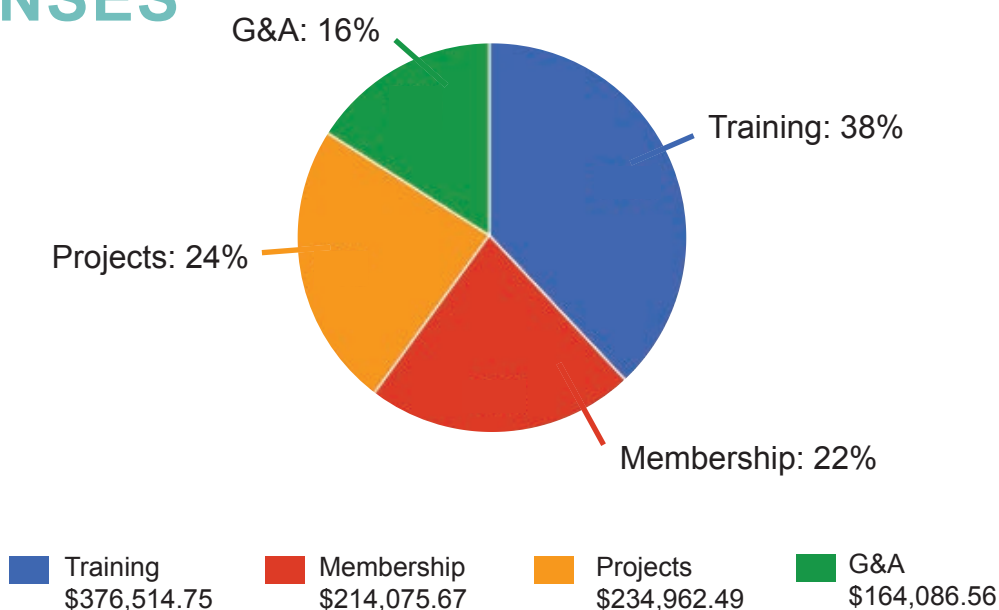
Connections is the online magazine written exclusively for, and by, TASH members. Each issue contains provocative articles and challenges readers to rethink some of the toughest issues affecting people with disabilities, their families and advocates. *Connections* is best known for describing practical methods of using research to improve practice.

In 2015, TASH digitized over a decade of *Connections* issues. Currently, members can access digital versions of *Connections* dating back to 2001. These digital files are also for sale to the general public at www.tash.org.

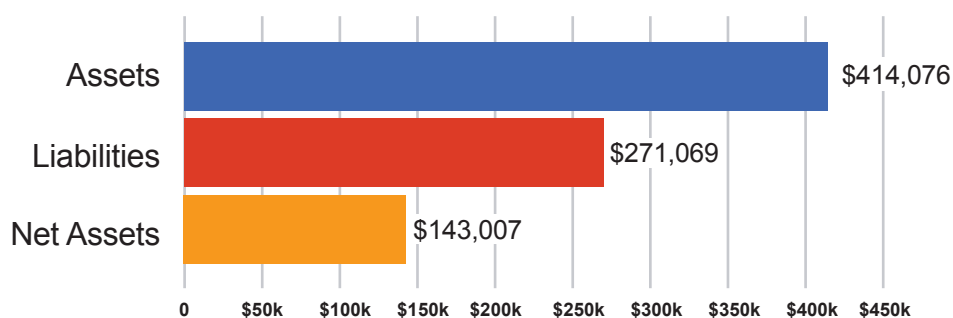
REVENUE



EXPENSES



ASSETS & LIABILITIES



TASH INTO THE FUTURE

The key to our success in the next 40 years will be our ability to measure our members' experience and our impact on practice and policy. To that end, TASH has adopted a framework to help the organization translate strategy into operational action. TASH expects to keep making a difference by:

- Increasing our knowledge and capacity: By continuing to investigate evidence-based practices for individuals of diverse backgrounds and their families, we will respond to and be respectful of their interests and support needs.
- Investing in human capital: By measuring whether we have necessary skills, community connections, retention, and adherence to the organization's mission, we will expand our reach. This will result in a growing membership, more families of young children served, new chapters, increased international visibility, and expanded alliances. A highly performing board, volunteers, and staff are the foundation of TASH's success.
- Attending to quality: By measuring the quality of our services, products, and benefits, we will gain an understanding of how well we are meeting the real needs of our membership. TASH will continue to listen, think, communicate, and teach so we can impact federal, state, and local policies and practices.
- Maintaining our organizational integrity: By securing the human, financial, and material resources we need, we can continue to stand strong. We will keep building relationships with funders, grantors, and other partners, ensuring our organizational integrity.
- TASH's mission and expertise is unique in human rights advocacy and vitally important in a rapidly changing world. An investment in TASH is an investment in a vision of equity, opportunity, and inclusion where all really does mean ALL.

