



**2026  
Youth Leadership  
Conference**

*Presented by*  
The School District  
of Philadelphia  
The Institute on Disabilities  
at Temple University  
and The Arc of  
Philadelphia



Institute on Disabilities



# 12th Annual Youth Leadership Conference

9:00 – 9:40 – Arrival  
Visit Exhibitor Hall  
Snack

## 9:40 – 9:50 – Kickoff

**Christine Woyshner, PhD**  
*Associate Dean and Professor  
Research and Faculty Affairs*  
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University  
College of Education & Human Development

**Nathalie Neree, PhD**  
*Chief of Special Education and  
Diverse Learners*  
School District of Philadelphia

Sponsors' Comments

## 10 min break

## 10:00 – 10:40 Breakout 1 – Employment Support for People with Disabilities

**Joe Murphy**  
*Transition & Employment Coordinator*  
Networks for Training & Development

**Jack Albaster**  
*Project Career Launch Alumni*

**Laura McAnulty**  
*Executive Director*  
Neurodiversity Employment Network

**Jane Cordero**  
*Transition Coordinator*  
Project Career Launch

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## Breakout 2 – College Education for People with Disabilities

### Cheryl Torsney

*Program Manager  
Leadership & Career Studies  
College of Education & Human Development  
Institute on Disabilities, Temple University*

### Zyhir Garbett

*Alumni  
Leadership & Career Studies  
Temple University*

### Christie Fisher, M.Ed.

*Director of Integrated Studies  
Gwynedd Mercy University*

### Sophie Vassallo

*Alumni  
Gwynedd Mercy University*

## 10 min break

10:50 – 11:30

## Breakout 1 – Self-Advocacy and Disability Services

### Lauren Alden

*Director, Independent Living Services  
Liberty Resources Inc.  
REVUP Philadelphia*

### Liberty Resources Inc.

*Commissioner  
Office for People with Disabilities,  
City of Philadelphia*

### LaToya Maddox

*Senior Independent Living Specialist*

### Rodney Whitmore

*Independent Living Specialist  
Liberty Resources Inc.*

## Breakout 2 – Assistive Technology

### Wendy Davis

*Director of Marketing and Outreach  
Pennsylvania Assistive  
Technology Foundation  
(PATF)*

### AT Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

*TechOWL – Technology for Our  
Whole Lives  
Institute on Disabilities at  
Temple University  
College of Education  
& Human Development*

### Laura Slotkoff, MS, OTR/L, ATP

*Assistive Technology (AT) Specialist*



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**11:30 - 12:15 - Lunch**  
**Visit Exhibitor Hall**

**12:15 - 1:00 - Keynote Speaker**

**Andrew Arboe**  
*Autistic Self-Advocate and Speaker*

**1:00 - Closing**

**LaQuenta Montañez**  
*Secondary Transition Coordinator*  
Office of Diverse Learners  
School District of Philadelphia

**Jamie Ray-Leonetti**  
*Associate Director of Policy*  
Institute on Disabilities at Temple University  
College of Education & Human Development

**Shane Janick**  
*Executive Director*  
The Arc of Philadelphia

**Thank you to our sponsors and to everyone who made today such a success!**

# Independence



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**PRESBYTERIAN**  
**CHURCH**  
*in* **PHILADELPHIA**

*est. 1698*