

## SPEAKERS

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Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D

Karrie A. Shogren, Ph.D

Julie Jones, Ph.D., LMFT-S, LPC-S

Clarinda Comstock, Associate Judge Harris County

Probate Court Four

Michele K. Goldberg, Attorney & Counselor at Law

Jennifer Phillips, MS, CRC

Charlene Reed, B.S.

Michele B. Joseph, M.Ed





## MICHAEL L. WEHMEYER, PH.D

*Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities*

Ross and Marianna Beach Distinguished Professor of Special Education; Director and Senior Scientist, Beach Center on Disability; Co-Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities



## KARRIE A SHOGREN, PH.D

*Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities*

Professor in the Department of Special Education, Senior Scientist in the Life Span Institute, and co-Director of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities



## JULIE JONES, PH.D, LMFT-S, LPC-S

*Gateway Academy, JJones Therapy*

Dean of Gateway Academy, Private Practice Clinician



## ASSOCIATE JUDGE CLARINDA COMSTOCK

*Harris County Probate Court Four*

Associate Judge/Staff Attorney, Probate Litigation, Dismissal for Want of Prosecution, Trust Litigation



## MICHELE K. GOLDBERG, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

### *Law Office of Michele K. Goldberg*

Attorney in private practice focusing on probate law, including guardianship, estate administration, estate planning, mental health law, with a specific emphasis on special needs planning, which includes (in addition to guardianship or powers of attorney) obtaining government benefits and special needs estate planning



## CHARLENE REED, BS

### *OPTIONS Transitions to Independence*

Options Director, former instructor, Admissions Director and Supervisor of Educational Services at Brehm, and Coordinator of OPTIONS Transitions to Independence



## JENNIFER PHILLIPS, MS, CRC

### *OPTIONS Transitions to Independence*

Options Associate Director, Rehabilitation Institutes at SIUC's advisory committee member, Brehm School Foundation Board member, Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living (SICIL) Board of Directors member



## MICHELE BAUMAN JOSEPH, M.ED

### *Gateway Academy*

Head of School and founder of Gateway Academy, past Principal Joy School

## MICHAEL L. WEHMEYER, PH.D

**Dr. Michael L. Wehmeyer** is the Ross and Mariana Beach Distinguished Professor of Special Education; Director and Senior Scientist, Beach Center on Disability; and, co-Director, Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, all at the University of Kansas. Dr. Wehmeyer is the author or co-author of more than 350 peer-reviewed journal articles or book chapters and has been an author or editor for 35 books on disability and education related issues, including issues pertaining to self-determination, positive psychology and disability, transition to adulthood, the education and inclusion of students with severe disabilities, and technology use by people with cognitive disabilities. Dr. Wehmeyer is Past-President and a Fellow of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AAIDD); a past president of the Council for Exceptional Children's Division on Career Development and Transition; a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Division (Div. 33); and Vice-President for the Americas and a Fellow of the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. He is former Editor of the journal Remedial and Special Education and is a founding Co-Editor of the AAIDD journal Inclusion. He is a co-author of the AAIDD Supports Intensity Scale and the 2010 AAIDD Intellectual Disability Terminology, Classification, and Systems of Supports Manual. He has been recognized for his research and service with awards from numerous associations and organizations, including, recently, the American Psychological Association Distinguished Contributions to the Advancement of Disability Issues in Psychology Award, the AAIDD Research Award, the Distinguished Researcher Award for lifetime contributions to research in intellectual disability by The Arc of the United States, the Burton Blatt Humanitarian Award from the CEC Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities, and the CEC Special Education Research Award for 2016. Dr. Wehmeyer holds undergraduate and Master's degrees in Special Education from the University of Tulsa and a Master's degree in Experimental Psychology from the University of Sussex in Brighton, England, where he was a Rotary International Fellow from 1987 to 1988. He earned his Ph.D. in Human Development and Communication Sciences from the University of Texas at Dallas, where he received a 2014 Distinguished Alumni Award.

## KARRIE A. SHOGREN, PH.D.

**Dr. Karrie A Shogren** is Professor of Special Education, Senior Scientist and co-Director of the Kansas University Center on Developmental Disabilities, and Associate Director of the Beach Center on Disability, all at the University of Kansas. Dr. Shogren's research focuses on self-determination and systems of support for people with disabilities as well as applications of positive psychology and strengths-based approaches to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Her current work focuses on the developing and researching the efficacy and effectiveness of assessment and intervention approaches for students with and without disabilities to promote self-determination with a particular focus on the role of these approaches in the transition to adult life and engagement in meaningful adult roles and responsibilities. Dr. Shogren has published over 85 articles in peer-reviewed journals, is the author or co-author of 10 books, and is one of the co-authors of Intellectual Disability: Definition, Classification, and Systems of Support, the 11th Edition of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities' seminal definition of intellectual disability (formerly mental retardation) as well as the Supports Intensity Scale-Children's and Adult Version. Dr. Shogren has received grant funding from several sources, including the Institute of Education Sciences (IES) and National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR). Dr. Shogren is co-Editor of Inclusion and Remedial and Special Education, and Associate Editor of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and Research and Practice for Persons with Severe Disabilities. She is a Fellow of the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and has received the Council for Exceptional Children's Division for Research and the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Early Career Research Award. Dr. Shogren completed bachelor and master's degrees in psychology at Ohio State University and the University of Dayton, respectively, and her doctoral degree at the University of Kansas.

## JULIE JONES, PH.D., LMFT-S, LPC-S

**Dr. Julie Jones** serves in an administrative position as the Dean of Gateway Academy, a school where all students are identified with social and learning differences ([www.thegatewayacademy.org](http://www.thegatewayacademy.org)). She is the Director of Counseling, Director of Research, lead coordinator for Educational Outreach, lead coordinator of alumni relations, and is a key stakeholder in the collaborative transitioning to adulthood program.

Dr. Jones is a published researcher. She is currently engaged in several research projects including a yearlong study on the impact of fitness on academic learning for adolescents with autism (with UTMB). Dr. Jones frequently speaks to local and national audiences on the outcomes of her research, including a new focus in 2017 on AD/HD and marriage.

Dr. Jones is the principal owner of a private practice in family therapy ([www.jjonestherapy.org](http://www.jjonestherapy.org)). She is considered an expert treating professional with specialties in AD/HD and autism. In addition, she has a long history of helping individuals manage extreme anxiety. She has advocated for and treated children with selective mutism for almost two decades. She currently supervises counselor interns and will teach counselors in training as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston-Clear Lake in 2017.

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## CLARINDA COMSTOCK ASSOCIATE JUDGE IN HARRIS COUNTY

**Associate Judge Clarinda Comstock** joined Harris County Probate Court No. Four (4) in November, 2014. Prior to that time, Judge Comstock practiced in the areas of probate and guardianship law, mental health law, and estate planning for over 14 years.

Judge Comstock earned her Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law and was licensed to practice law in Texas in 1994. She earned a Bachelor's Degree (1990) and a Master of Business Administration (MBA, 2000) from the University of Houston.

Judge Comstock is a member of the Houston Bar Association where she provides pro bono services for the Elder Law Committee and the IDEA Committee, through which she has given presentations regarding rights of seniors, estate planning, guardianship and the risks associated with the use of drugs and alcohol to 5th grade students.

She has served as a mediator in a variety of cases and has spoken frequently regarding guardianship, less restrictive alternatives to guardianship and protections for seniors and incapacitated individuals.

## MICHELE K. GOLDBERG, ATTORNEY & COUNSELOR AT LAW

**Michele K. Goldberg**, Attorney at Law, is a solo practitioner with an office in Bellaire, Texas. She practices in the following areas of law: Probate, Elder Law, Guardianship, Mental Health Law, Social Security, long term planning for special needs families, and Family Law matters involving special needs. She is a frequent speaker on each of these topics in various venues including the State Bar of Texas, various Houston Bar Association sections, the Brazoria County Bar Association, South Texas College of Law, the ARC of Houston, the ARC of Texas, of Houston, of Katy, of Fort Bend County, Tri-County Mental Health Mental Retardation, MHMRA (The Harris Center) of Houston, Autism Association, The Down Syndrome Association, Friends and Family of Asians with Special Needs (FFASN); The Williams Syndrome Association, The Fragile X Association, Texas Children's Hospital, United Way, The Center, Jewish Family Service, the special education departments of numerous school districts (Katy ISD, Cy-Fair ISD, HISD, Fort Bend ISD, Channelview ISD, Crosby ISD, Pasadena ISD, Goose Creek CISD, La Marque ISD, Alvin ISD, Pearland ISD), and numerous residential facilities and churches in Houston and the surrounding counties.

Ms. Goldberg received her Doctor of Jurisprudence from South Texas College of Law in 1995, and is licensed to practice in Texas State and Federal Courts. Ms. Goldberg is also a Certified Mediator from South Texas College of Law. She is a member of the American, Texas, and Houston Bar Associations, The Texas Bar College, and NAEA (National Association of Elder Law Attorneys). She is a member and past president of the Disability and Elder Law Attorneys Association (DELA), a former executive board member of Parents As Case Managers, Inc. and Archer Care, Inc, has served on seminar planning committees for the State Bar of Texas, South Texas College of Law and Inns of Court for topics such as Elder Law, Mental Health Law, Probate Law, and Family Law matters involving special needs. Ms. Goldberg has volunteered with the Special Olympics, the Houston Bar Association, The Center Foundation, The Brookwood Community, Jewish Family Service, The Houston Bar Association, and several other community based organizations.

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CHARLENE REED, B.S.  
AND  
JENNIFER PHILLIPS, MS, CRC

**Charlene Reed, B.S.** is the Director at OPTIONS Transitions to Independence in Carbondale, IL, which is affiliated with Brehm School for students with learning disabilities.

Charlene Reed, is a former special education teacher with certification in Learning Disabilities Education. She is very proud that she was one of the original teaching staff members of Brehm Preparatory School when it opened in 1982. During her tenure at Brehm, Char has worked in many capacities. She has been an instructor of several courses and has also served as Admissions Director and Supervisor of Educational Services at Brehm. In 1995, she became the Coordinator of OPTIONS Transitions to Independence, formally known as the OPTIONS Program at Brehm. In 2012, she was named the Director of OPTIONS. In that capacity, she supervises staff and students; creates teaching materials and staff training materials; presents at conferences at the local, state and national levels; recruits new students; manages OPTIONS admissions and guides the growth of the OPTIONS.

**Jennifer Phillips, MS, CRC** is the Associate Director at OPTIONS Transitions to Independence in Carbondale, IL, which is affiliated with Brehm School for students with learning disabilities.

Instrumental in creating the program she now co-directs, she helps post- high school students with disabilities locate internship and paid employment opportunities and provides transition services to empower students to recognize and optimize their lifetime potentials.

In her work as a disability and employment advocate, she also serves on the Statewide Independent Living Counsel (SILC) the Center for Independent Living, (CIL) the IL Association of People Supporting Employment First (ILAPSE), and the Brehm School Foundation boards.

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## MICHELE BAUMAN JOSEPH, M.ED

**Michele Bauman Joseph** serves as Head of School and a founder of Gateway Academy. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Speech Language Pathology in 1987 and a Master's degree in Education in 1994. Michele served students as a resource teacher for 13 years in public schools, both in Houston and Chicago. She then served as principal of The Joy School for 7 years. Her background in Speech Language Pathology, learning disabilities, and behavior disorders makes her an expert in identifying students' specific learning differences so that goals and plans can be made accordingly. Combined with her commitment to teacher education and training, Michele's background has made her the natural leader for Gateway Academy. She feels blessed to have such an excellent job surrounded by this caring community of people.

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