

# Imagine... Together We Rise!

Conference Schedule

**MORNING**

Thursday, May 21, 2026

<p><b>Registration Check-in/Breakfast</b> 7:30-8:30</p> <p><i>(Please be sure to visit our Resource Tables - open from 8:00-3:30!)</i></p>			
<p><b>Welcome/Opening Remarks</b> Pat Osbourn, MA, CCC, CED Associate Director, UNM-CDD Director, CDD Autism Programs Director, NM START Program</p> <p><b>Opening Keynote Session</b> <b>The Power of Human Connection</b> Russell Lehmann 8:30-10:00 Alvarado D</p> <p><i>Book Sale and Signing 10:00</i></p>			
<p>Break 10:00-10:30</p> <p><i>(Please be sure to visit our Resource Tables - open from 8:00-3:30!)</i></p>			
<p>Breakout Sessions</p>	<p>10:30-11:30</p>	<p>Mental Wellness Made Simple- Everyday Strategies for All Felicia Nevarez, MEd</p>	<p>Alvarado A</p>
		<p>IED, ODD, Bipolar Disorder, Oh My! When Individuals with IDD Struggle with Mood Regulation Tiffany Otero, PhD, BCBA</p> <p><i>(1) Psychology CE Available with Sign-In</i></p>	<p>Alvarado B</p>
		<p>People Are Part of the Environment: Building Self-Regulation and Self-Management Skills for Behavior Change Kayla Lopez, MA, BCBA</p>	<p>Alvarado C</p>
		<p>Bringing Visibility to Invisible Disabilities Russell Lehmann</p>	<p>Alvarado D</p>
<p>11:30-12:45</p> <p>Enjoy a complimentary buffet lunch</p>			

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## AFTERNOON

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Breakout Sessions	12:45-1:45	Preparation and Collaboration: Supporting Students in and out of School Ashley Collins, MA, BCBA	Alvarado A
		Comunidad y Conversación Sobre el Autismo Community and Conversation about Autism <i>(Session offered in Spanish with English interpretation)</i> Sylvia Acosta, PhD; Sylvia Sarmiento, MS, CCC-SLP; Roselyn Cintron Diaz BHE, MPHE, CHES	Alvarado B
		Moving Targets - How Shifting Perspectives on Autism Effects Families Gay Finlayson, MA, CFPSW	Alvarado C
		Clicks, Connections, and Caution: Protecting Young People from Online Exploitation and Harm Kaisa Marshall, PhD; Elizabeth Bryant, PsyD <i>(1) Psychology CE Available with Sign-In</i>	Alvarado D
Break 1:45-2:00			
Breakout Sessions	2:00-3:00	Supported Decision Making Daniel Ekman, MA; Vashad Frink, Lindsay Sloan	Alvarado A
		Fact vs. Fiction: Identifying Evidence-based Practices in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Sylvia Acosta, PhD; Jessica Garcia, PhD <i>(1) Psychology CE Available with Sign-In</i>	Alvarado B
		Together We Connect! Supporting Meaningful Communication for Minimally Speaking Individuals Marci Laurel, MA, CCC-SLP	Alvarado C
		Recognizing and Addressing Compassion Fatigue: Building Resilience and Well-Being Jeneé Lewis-Walker, PsyD, Licensed Clinical Psychologist <i>(1) Psychology CE Available with Sign-In</i>	Alvarado D
Break 3:00-3:15			
Breakout Sessions	3:15-4:15	Community Mapping Amanda Cowan, Deborah Lassiter, Alma Gamboa	Alvarado A
		Fostering Belonging and Inclusion for Individuals with ASD Maria Mendez. PhD, NCSP, NCC <i>(1) Psychology CE Available with Sign-In</i>	Alvarado B
		Albuquerque Community Safety: The Right Response at the Right Time Walter Adams, MHI; Jeffery Bustamante	Alvarado C
		Integrative Approaches to Mental Health Treatment Mohammad Murtuza, MD	Alvarado D