



RMU Trees Network October 2023 Newsletter

November 6 Family/Parent Support Meeting Supports Coordination and Waiver Funding



Join us FREE and VIRTUALLY on Monday, November 6 from 7PM-8PM for our next family/parent meeting on support coordination and waiver funding. Mary Evrard, Allegheny County Department of Human Services Office of Developmental Supports (AC DHS ODS) Community and Communications Liaison will be joining us and sharing information and resources on supports and services in our region, how to connect with a support coordinator to aid in transitioning, and how to obtain access to waiver funding.

Special Education Conference SUCCESS



On Monday, October 9, our RMU Trees Network hosted a free, virtual Special Education Conference. We had over 200 attendees listen and engage with two keynote speakers with eight different breakout sessions. Some of the topics included technology integration, dyslexia, low incidence disabilities, attacking math problems, and transitions. It was a great day of professional development for our future educators, current educators, related service providers, and family members in attendance.

October 2 Strong Steps for Back to School Recap

On Monday, October 2, we held our monthly parent meeting on transitioning from Extended School Year (ESY) back to school in another grade and/or building. Dr. Lynn Utchell, Hopewell Area School District's Director of Special Education talked about successfully getting students back into school after summer and the accommodations and modifications that can be tailored to best support students in the new school year. We had some great parent questions and responses! Thanks Dr. Utchell for sharing your time and experience with our families.



Survey of Technology and AT



Drs. Hansen and Donne are conducting research on classroom technology and assistive technology use by PA special education teachers. We're seeking your input to improve our knowledge of current practices. Your insights will inform the field and help us enhance the support we provide to both educators and students with disabilities. Please take a few minutes to complete our survey, found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TechRMU> or through this QR code



This study has been approved by RMU IRB (412-397-6227 or irb@rmu.edu). If you have any questions, you can contact the researchers at hansen@rmu.edu or donne@rmu.edu

Resources for Parents and Educators

The Network provides resources for parents and teachers and these resources can be found at the [RMU Trees Network Website](#). Information on RMU Trees is also posted on the RMU website and the previous newsletters can be read and viewed at

<https://www.rmu.edu/academics/provost/trees>. In each newsletter we provide links to resources of topics discussed in our parent meetings and workshops as well as other information that may be helpful to families, schools, and the community.



Exciting Upcoming Events!



ACEing Autism is hosting its annual Halloween Clinic on October 29th.

More information on it can be found here:

<https://aceingautism.org/programs/pittsburgh-pa/>

They also have scholarships available!

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