



The Advocate
Summer 2021

“Coming Together”

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Coming Together was the title of the 2021 conference of the National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities (NCPEID). This three-day conference hosted remarkable, informative, and scholarly presentations by many professionals across an incredible agenda from July 12 – 14th. The entire conference was supported by an online platform called Whova. The conference was extremely well organized and presented an easy transition from one session to another. Professionals were provided ample time to attend presentations, field comments and include post presentation conversations in a comfortable manner.

The *Coming Together* conference was designed to reach several levels of professional development (i.e., experienced presenters, novice educators, and all professionals in-between). Young professionals had the opportunity to present current research and share discussions with experienced professionals during their sessions. What aided the flow of presentations was the decision by the Conference Planning Committee to maintain a reasonable time allotment and stick with deadlines. When time was up; time was up. This added to the ease of access for conducting follow up conversations and creating a shared and supportive professional environment. Simply put, this approach was the backbone of the conference. What made this conference so unique was the ease, and coordination of session presentations; it was seamless. Given this was an all-virtual conference, few interruptions, delays, miscues were made. The *Coming Together* planning committee needs to celebrate and be congratulated on a job well done.

Advocating for Adapted Physical Education in your State: Navigating the Many Avenues and Channels – Day 1 and Day 2

Another exciting aspect of the conference on Day 1 and Day 2 was the inclusion of young professionals (considered Emerging Scholars) sharing their research. Emerging Scholars were allotted 3-5 minutes for oral presentations by each author followed by a 30-minute breakout session format where scholars engaged in discussions, feedback and more with audience



members. These young professionals shared their personal interactions during small group sessions using round table discussions for approaches to teaching students with disabilities. One key element enhancing new ways to teach students with disabilities was sharing new technology and ideas for improving interactions with all students. An example was the use of sensory hallways. This approach was demonstrated and applied to students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Using video modeling was another method for showcasing the application of new and improved technology. The aim of this application was to (1) identify the targeted skills and behaviors of interest, (2) determine the type of video modeling used, and (3) examine the effects of the selected video modeling techniques. Results of this study indicated targeted skills and behaviors identified in the areas of aquatics, dance, motor skills, video gaming, physiological responses to physical activity, and verbal complimenting during an athletic game.

Here are titles of Emerging Scholars presentations winners:

Chandler Casner – Assessing Seefeldt’s Proficiency Barrier

Qin Yang – Impact of Drums Alive Program on Verbal Communication and Task Engagement in Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder

Chole Simpson – Examining Physical Educators’ Socialization and Self-Efficacy Towards Behavior Management

Margaret Roberts – The Effectiveness of Online Peer Tutor Training Modules: An Action Research Approach

Junghun Han – A Status Report on Adapted Physical Education Practicum Programs During COVID-19

A Day 2 highlight – The Claudine Sherrill Wisdom Lecture and Social

The theme of *Coming Together* was never more honored than when on the second day of the conference a special tribute was made to someone who truly worked to bring people together; speaking of course about Dr. Claudine Sherrill. Dr. Sherrill was a tremendous leader, scholar, teacher, and friend. She shared her talents and expertise to make the lives of academic professionals and individuals with disabilities “come together” through celebration of activity for all. Much of her work fits the professionalism, dedication, unique applications, and teaching talents mirrored through this conference.

One of the true highlights for this unique conference was the Claudine Sherrill *Wisdom Lecture and Social*. The conference would not have been complete without a word from Dr. Claudine Sherrill. To do that, the members of the organizing committee planned and showcased the *Wisdom Lecture* followed by an all-conference Social.

Dr. Silliman-French and Dr. Tymeson were extremely professional, prepared, clear in message, and ready to present the very essence of who Dr. Sherrill was and what she meant to so many people in this profession. Their contribution showcased through this conference was what



Dr. Sherrill embodied: “professionalism, dedication, leadership, guidance, with a style of her own”. Many have mentioned that they did not think Dr. Sherrill ever met a stranger. She was a tireless worker, dedicated to perfection, and demanding of excellence. To many students she was a “teacher”, someone who could mold and shape you into a treasure; not settling for second best.

A link from this conference can be shared at https://whova.com/portal/webapp/ncpei_202102/Agenda

Closing Activities and Remarks Day 3

Awards Ceremony –These Awards were presented by NCPEID Leadership on July 14th and were awarded to professionals representing their area of expertise. The Award winners represented emerging, established, and seasoned professionals in the field of Adapted Physical Education. Here is a list of the 2021 Award Winners:

Dr. Scott McNamara – The David Beaver Young Scholar Award carries with its consistency as it requires recognition for work accomplished within the first 7 years of professor rank. Scott has accomplished over 34 publications, and utilized technology with his PODcast entitled “What’s New in Adapted Physical Education”.

Dr. Ali Brian – The G. Lawrence Rarick Research Award recognizes scholarly contributions at the local, national, and international level of publications. Dr. Brian has over 82 publications with a focused area of motor development for individuals with visual impairments.

Dr. Dallas Jackson – The William A. Hillman Distinguished Service Award which recognized distinguished service in the profession, community, and national level was presented to Dr. Jackson. He was a frequent editor of APAQ, and the Palestra journal. Many of us are glad he chose this line of work and moved away from the boxing ring as a professional; editing papers became much easier.

Dr. Samuel R. Hodge – The Hollis Fait Scholarly Award was presented to Dr. Samuel Hodge Professor. Dr. Hodge has produced over 100 publications and is a member of the editorial board for APAQ. Dr. Hodge focused his interest on community-based research with a focus on the area of social justice addressing racism and individual identities.

APE TOY Panel

This presentation brought together national APE Teachers of the Year (TOY) allowing the audience to hear the voices of the professionals as they discuss their experiences and perceptions which have rarely been heard.

Business Meeting Comments

The second half of the afternoon session included the NCPEID Membership meeting, New Business Meeting, followed by a Free Communication session that included three sub-sessions presented as individual sessions:

Let’s Walk and Talk: The Relation Between Physical Activity and Social Engagement in Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



I Have a Future: Including a Student with an Intellectual Disability in Higher Education.

Factors that predict individualized education program goal attainment in physical education.

Committee/Speakers Contributions by:

In all the conference was a representation of many professionals in APE/A. Thank you to all for sharing your expertise.

Dr. Emily Gibert

Dr. Michelle Greni

er

Dr. Andrea Taliaferro

Dr. Ali Brian

Dr. Tim D. Davis

Dr. Ann Catherine Sullivan

Dr. Melissa Bittner

Dr. Lauren Lieberman

Dr. T. N. Kirk

Dr. Deborah Shapiro

Dr. Erin Siebert

Disclaimer: The approach to this project was not to focus on the professionals by name but rather to focus on their work; the intent was to take a big picture approach and showcase their products.