

ASRC Bridging Communities Conference

Panel Discussion With Dr. Loomis

March 24, 2017 - SCSU @ 2:45 pm

Ryan Senft - Ryan is a 35-year-old who was diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome at age 32.

Ryan studied Spanish/Education at Central Connecticut State University (CCSU) and graduated with his bachelor's degree in 2006. He is also attending online classes at University of Connecticut (UConn) for a graduate certificate in Disability Studies in Public Policy.

After years of struggle, he has turned around his experiences and uses them to help individuals and families advocate for themselves and their children for Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) related causes. He lives independently in Middletown CT.

Keith Borkowski - Keith is a well-adjusted, well liked, independent 26 year.

His story is the definition of success, going from a non-verbal child to a happy, caring and compassionate adult. He is currently employed at a local IGA where he has been working for the past 5 years. Prior to that, as part of his high school vocational program, Keith was employed at a privately owned video store for 2 years as well as a Veterinarian's office for 1 & 1/2 years. Throughout his many years of employment Keith has held a variety of positions, with varying responsibilities, developing many diverse skills. Keith has a strong work ethic, is conscientiousness, and has a friendly personality.

Keith's success can be directly attributed to his hard work, program continuity, generalization, and carryover of his intense individualized ABA program. For example within a week of initiation into the program at home, he began calling out to his mom by name.

Despite some missed opportunities due to our public school rigidity, Keith graduated from High School in 4 years and moved on to The Highlander Transition Academy at UConn Torrington for 1 and 1/2 years. He spoke at Commencement and was invited back the following year as an alumni speaker where he received a standing ovation.

Keith is currently perusing his driver's license and resides in Watertown, CT, with his family and is very independent in his daily life. He continues to grow and learn everyday and is excited for what the future may hold.

Brandon Grody - Brandon Grody is a 27 years old young man.

Brandon went to Daemen College in Amherst NY, graduating with a B.A in History and Government.

Some of his biggest accomplishments include living in an apartment and holding a steady job.

The jobs that he has worked at include signing up people for energy audits, working as a C.N.A, and being a delivery driver.

Kevin Daly – Kevin is an adult who was diagnosed with Autism in 2009

Kevin Daly is a special education consultant and parent advocate with Daly Consulting. Over the last 18 years, Kevin has worked with hundreds of Connecticut families of students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other disabilities. He is a longtime member of the Council of Parent Advocates and Attorneys.

Kevin chairs the Connecticut Special Education PTO Alliance, which is a statewide council of independent parent groups that advocate for students with disabilities and their families. Kevin also facilitates the Greater Bristol/Farmington Valley Community Collaborative and has been active in Connecticut's Network of Care for more than a decade. Kevin is a frequent presenter at conferences and parent group meetings, speaking on topics related to special education, students with Autism Spectrum Disorder and the legal rights of parents.

Kevin is the father of adult twins and has two grandchildren. His son was a special education student for twelve years. Kevin and his wife live in Bristol.