

AFRICAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON DISABILITIES

February 15th, 2019, Desert Willow Conference Center, Phoenix, AZ

Hosted By

ABILITY360



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Conference Recap and Highlights

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Conference Synopsis

The 2019 African American Conference on Disabilities is a unique comprehensive all-day conference and is the only one of its kind in the United States that addresses the intersection between race and disabilities. The conference examines avenues for self-advocacy to ensure the effective provision of services, resources and enforcement of civil rights in the African American and Disability communities.

The vision of the conference is to form a society where individuals with disabilities enjoy full acceptance without barriers.

We hope this synopsis on the 2019 conference will give you a better understanding of the work that we are doing, the daily challenges that individuals with disabilities face and how we can educate ourselves, our family, friends, colleagues, and co-workers to make a positive difference.

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The 2019 conference featured speakers, disability subject matter experts, advocates, academics, and professionals throughout the state of Arizona and across the country. The conference held 24 unique workshops and featured over 30 exhibitors, all with an emphasis on disabilities.

Welcoming Remarks: J.J. Rico, Executive Director, Arizona Center for Disability Law

Opening Remarks: Roy Dawson, Executive Director, AZCAAR; Barry Wong, Governor's Office of Equal Opportunity and Maria Fuentes, Governor's Office on Youth, Faith & Family

Key Note Speaker: Thomas Hicks, Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Washington, D.C.

Guest Speaker: Reginald Bolding, Arizona State Representative, Legislative District 27

Closing Speaker: Shawn Aleong, Civil Rights & Disability Advocate, Student at Temple University, Philadelphia, PA, majoring in Legal Studies and minoring in Entrepreneurship & Real Estate

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Proclamation and Opening Speakers: Maria Cristina Fuentes, Director, AZ Governor's Office of Youth, Faith & Family and Barry Wong, JD, Executive Director, AZ Governor's Office of Equal Opportunity, read Governor Ducey's Proclamation and give the opening remarks for the conference.

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Keynote Speaker: Thomas Hicks, Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission, appointed by President Obama, flew in from Washington, D.C. to discuss the latest events from a national perspective regarding elections, voting and election disaster assistance.

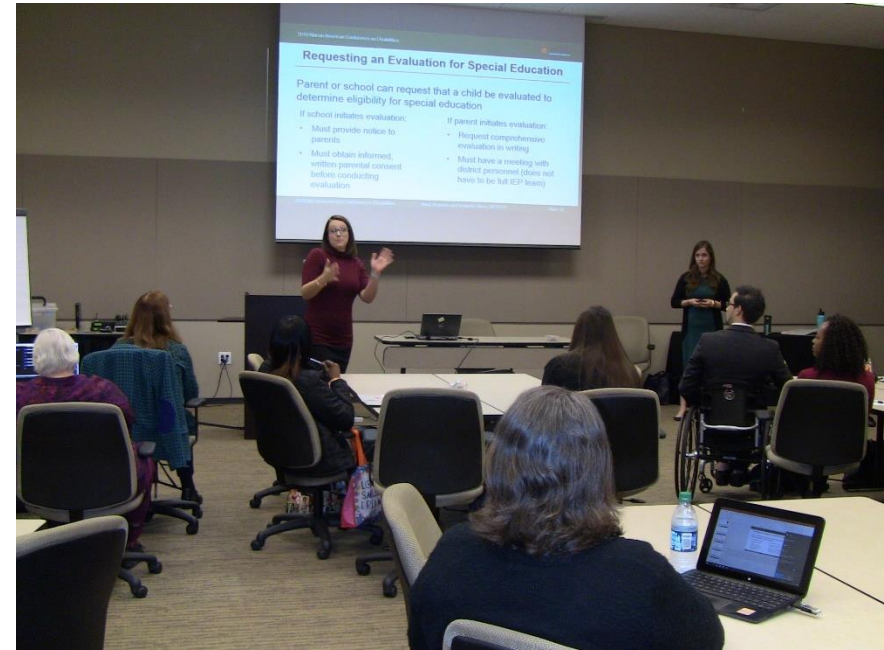


Guest Speaker: Reginald Bolding, Arizona State Representative, District 27, spoke on the latest legislation and proposals at the state level, with an emphasis on how the legislation impacts individuals with disabilities.

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Dr. Carlian Dawson, representing AZCAAR, discusses the adverse effects of trauma throughout the life of African American Children.



Anna Branson, Esq, Udall Shumway, and Amanda Glass, Esq, Equal Justice Works Fellow, delve into special education topics geared towards attorneys.

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Reginald Laister, Jr, Employer Relations Coordinator, SAAVI, discusses a 'day-in-the-life' of a black blind person and the resources available to make life easier.



Janelle Wood, Black Mother's Forum, highlights the disproportionate suspensions of African American children in Arizona's school system and its adverse mental effects.

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Corey Lovato, Esq, AZ Center for Disability Law, (middle panelist) leads a panel discussion on the laws governing service animals along with the rights of people who use them.



Nikki Hicks, heads a panel representing the Phoenix Police Department on their community engagement and outreach efforts relating to individuals with disabilities.

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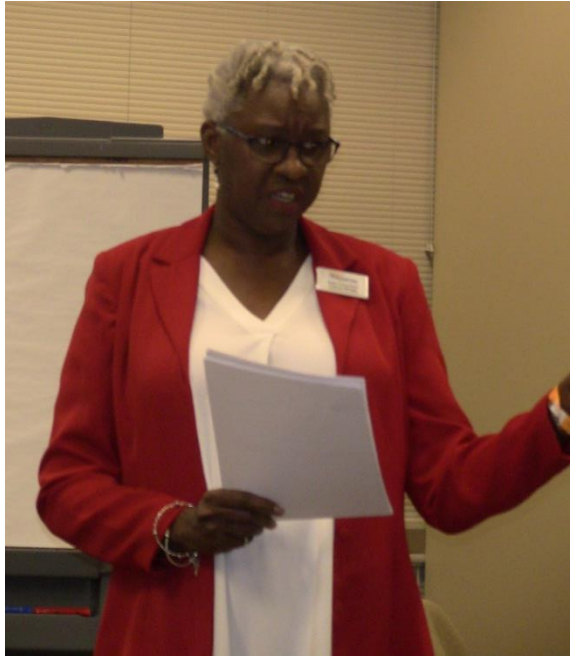


AZCAAR hosted a distinguished panel of black church leaders, Phoenix Urban League and the Arizona NAACP to talk about how decades of indifference has impacted African American children in Arizona.



Michael Campbell, Pharmacist, gives a prescription to the truth on a pharmacist's view on drugs, mental and physical health and their impact on society.

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Sulie Richardson, Desert Financial Credit Union, Examines the financial opportunities and pitfalls for individuals with disabilities and caregivers.



Kenneth Mims, M.Ed., focuses on STEM education for students with autism and has compiled a list of 19 Essential Lessons for those students to thrive and succeed.

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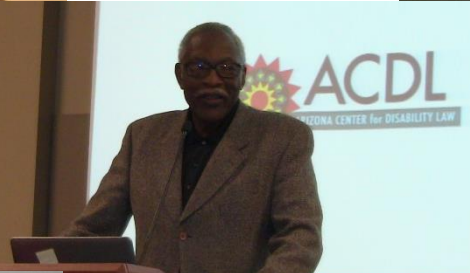


Austin Ross, Speech Therapist, and Rebekah Ross, Occupational Therapist, lead a workshop about the important roles therapists and speech pathologists play in the lives of children with disabilities.



Monica Ennis, Ed. D., President, Black Nurses Association, tells about the intersection of trauma health and parent education for healthy African American families.

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2019 Conference Workshops Morning Session

- A Diverse Dialog on Preventing Abuse of People with Disabilities
- A Journey Beyond Spinal Cord Injuries
- A Special Education Law Primer for Attorneys (CLEs available)
- Black Mother's Forum: Navigating Suspension Disparities in the School System (AZCAAR)
- Future Planning: Creating a Roadmap of Your Future Your Wishes
- Legal Trends in Proving Effective Communications through Auxiliary and Services (CLEs available)
- Phoenix Police Department: Engagement and Outreach
- Sharing is Healing
- Speech, Language and Occupational Therapy for Children in our Community
- The ABCs: African Americans, Blindness and Culture
- The Effects of Trauma throughout the Life of African American Children (AZCAAR)
- The Law on Service Animals, Emotional Support animals and Assistance Needs (CLEs available)

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2019 Conference Workshops Afternoon Session

- Child Advocacy and the African American Family (AZCAAR)
- Ethically Litigating ADA Access Cases (CLEs available)
- Health Disparities and Trauma: Implications for the African American Community (AZCAAR)
- Mind Over Matter: Addressing Mental health in the African American Community
- Organizing Your Financial Future
- Parents: Preparing for the IEP and 504 Progress
- Social Security Definition of Disability: What Does Social Security Look at in Determining Eligibility for Benefits
- The Americans with Disabilities Act: A Powerful Tool for Justice-Involved Youth with Disabilities (CLEs available)
- The Essential 19: Everything You Need to Help Students with Autism Succeed in the STEM Workforce
- The Hidden Disability in Society: A Pharmacist Prescription to the Truth
- Transition to Adulthood: Meeting the Needs of Foster Youth with Disabilities and Special Needs
- Unlawful Discriminatory Treatment against Workers with Caregiving Responsibilities (CLEs available)

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2019 Conference Workshop Organizations

Click to access website

- [Ability360](#)
- [Arizona Center for African American Resources \(AZCAAR\)](#)
- [Arizona Center for Disability Law](#)
- [Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council](#)
- [Black Mother's Forum](#)
- [Coconino County Legal Defender's Office](#)
- [Desert Financial Credit Union](#)
- [Kirtley Wells Law Office](#)
- [NAU Institute for Human Development](#)
- [Phoenix Police Department](#)
- [Science Prep Academy](#)
- [SAAVI Services for the Blind](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [Sonoran Center for Excellence in Disabilities \(UCEDD\), University of Arizona](#)
- [Sonoran UCEDD, University of Arizona College of Medicine](#)
- [Topaz Wellness Consulting, PLLC](#)
- [Udall Shumway, Attorneys](#)
- [Walgreens Pharmacy](#)

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- [Crisis Response Network, Inc.](#)
- [Dept of Economic Security, Division of Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [Maricopa Association of Governments](#)
- [Maricopa County Recorders](#)
- [Parent Partners Plus SW Human Development](#)
- [Office of Congressman Rueben Gallego](#)

- [Raising Special Kids](#)
- [Social Security Administration](#)
- [Sun Sounds](#)
- [The Arc of Arizona](#)
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Thank you to all of our partners, sponsors, exhibitors, volunteers, and conference attendees for making 2019's conference the best yet. We hope to see you at 2020's conference on ***Friday, February 28th, 2020.***

For more information about the African American Conference on Disabilities or how to become a 2020 sponsor please contact:

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