

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
Rutgers University  
Neurodiversity Summit  
Monday, October 7, 2024



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK  
**Rutgers Center for  
Adult Autism Services**  
Graduate School of Applied and  
Professional Psychology



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY  
**University Equity and Inclusion**



RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK  
**Tyler Clementi Center for Diversity  
Education and Bias Prevention**  
Division of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement



# About the Rutgers University Neurodiversity Taskforce

The term “Neurodiversity” describes the variety of different human minds or brains, which interact and experience the world in many different ways and is often used to refer to the range of minds represented by autistic people or those with ADHD, Dyslexia, and more. The concept of Neurodiversity has its roots in the social model of disability, which considers disability to be a civil rights issue. The social model rejects the notion that an individual must be “normal” to engage and be successful in society, arguing that individual differences should not constitute a barrier to inclusion or access. The model focuses on addressing society’s response to individuals with disabilities and the social attitudes, institutional norms and physical environments that promote inclusion/exclusion and lead to positive or negative outcomes.

Rutgers University is home to many neurodiverse students, staff, and faculty; however, their perspectives are not always heard, and their needs are not always addressed. The mission of the Rutgers Neurodiversity Taskforce is to improve organizational climate, and promote access, advocacy, and equity by sending a message that Rutgers is an institution that celebrates the neurodiversity of its beloved community. At today’s event, we will highlight the ongoing work of our Rutgers Neurodiversity Taskforce members, share the results of our data collection related to the existing landscape of accessibility for neurodiverse people at Rutgers, and celebrate the neurodiverse members of our community.

**Learn more about the Rutgers Neurodiversity  
Taskforce**



# *Keynote Presentation*

## ***From Identification to Intervention: How Rutgers NB is Leading the way in Supporting Students with ADHD***

Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) is one of the most prevalent behavioral health conditions on college campuses and is associated with a host of negative academic outcomes. This presentation will describe how Rutgers is building and refining processes and systems to guide students with ADHD through all steps of the help seeking process, from psychoeducation and evaluation through evidence-based treatment.



### **Dr. Joshua Langberg**

**Director, CYSEW; Chief Wellness Officer (CWO), Rutgers-New Brunswick; Professor, Department of Clinical Psychology, GSAPP**

Joshua M. Langberg, PhD (he/him), is a licensed clinical psychologist, Professor of Psychology, and Director of the GSAPP Center for Youth Social Emotional Wellness (CYSEW). He is also the inaugural Chief Wellness Officer of Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Dr. Langberg joined Rutgers in 2022 after working at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), where he was the Associate Director of Operations for the Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development and served as the Associate Dean for Research and Operations for the College of Humanities and Sciences (CHS) at VCU from 2018-2021. He received his PhD in Clinical-Community Psychology from the University of South Carolina and completed his predoctoral internship at Duke University Medical Center. Dr. Langberg started his career at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center (CCHMC) and transitioned to VCU in 2011.

## ***Home is Where the Inclusion Is: Creating a Neurodiversity/Disability Thematic Living Community in On-Campus Housing***

An innovative experience birthed from student advocacy – learn about how the Department of Residence Life at Rutgers University created its first-ever Neurodiversity/Disability Thematic Living Community. Presenters will discuss the vision, programmatic efforts, and assessment methods behind the community, with a focus on building a sense a belonging among community members.



**Kimberly Kosinski, Ed.M., Rutgers Residence Life, Division of Student Affairs**

Kimberly Kosinski, Ed.M., is the Assistant Director of Residence Life for Student Support at Rutgers University-New Brunswick. Kimberly has been a part of the Student Support unit in Residence Life since 2017, handling housing accommodations for students with disabilities and non-clinical mental health case management for residential students. Kimberly also serves as a support for neurodivergent students living on campus.



**Gregory Dyer, M.Ed., Rutgers Residence Life, Division of Student Affairs**

Gregory Dyer, M.Ed., is a Student Conduct Coordinator for Residence Life at Rutgers University. He is currently a student in the Higher Education Ph.D. Program at Rutgers and is focused on sense of belonging in campus spaces and disability community formation on college campuses.



**Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz, 2024 Rutgers Graduate**

Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz is a Rutgers graduate with a Political Science degree. She approached Residence Life in March 2023 with the idea for a neurodiversity/disability thematic learning community, inspired by Rutgers' Rainbow Perspectives community for LGBTQ+ students. She feels this community is important to create a safe, welcoming place to live on campus around disability and neurodiversity, especially when masking and social anxiety or trauma might be a more common experience.

## ***Embracing Neurodiversity at CAPS: Supports and Services for Students***

CAPS strives to provide neurodivergent students such as those with ADHD and Autism Spectrum Disorder with the mental health supports they need to navigate the academic and social-emotional challenges of college. Services such as screenings for undiagnosed individuals, individualized treatment planning and therapeutic empowerment strategies through skills groups and/or individual counseling are implemented to highlight students' strengths as well as address their unique concerns. With valued campus partnerships and community engagement, CAPS ensures that students are connected to campus and community resources for other services tailored to their unique needs and strengths.



**Steven Sohnle, Psy.D., ABPP, Counseling Psychologist, Rutgers Student Health-CAPS**

Dr. Sohnle loves working with students at CAPS where he has served in multiple roles including CAPS Director. He is board certified in clinical psychology through the American Board of Professional Psychology and serves as an examiner for certification candidates. He is listed on the National Register of Health Service Psychologists and is a certified cognitive therapist through the Academy of Cognitive and Behavioral Therapies. He serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor for Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and supervises doctoral interns at CAPS. He has presented symposia at national conferences and has authored or co-authored numerous articles and book chapters. He co-authored the book *Trauma Among Older People: Issues and Treatment*.



**Ayanna Towers, Psy.D., Counseling Psychologist, Neurodiversity-Affirming Therapist, Rutgers Student Health-CAPS**

Dr. Ayanna Towers is a NJ Counseling Psychologist I and alumna of Rutgers University-Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP). She has over 15 years of experience working with children, teens and adults in a variety of settings including hospitals, schools, clinics, rehabilitation and correctional facilities. Through her compassion, creative skills and humility, Dr. Towers connects with individuals from all walks of life and particularly works closely with neurodivergent individuals. Special interests include social-emotional development, depression, anxiety, assertiveness training and relationship/social problems.

***Overview of the Office of Disability Services***

The Rutgers Office of Disability Services (ODS) provides accommodations and support for students with disabilities to ensure equal access to academic and campus life. This presentation will provide an overview of the "interactive process" for accessing accommodations as well as highlight some of the services available through ODS to help students succeed in their educational pursuits.



**Zachary Brown, Ed. M. Disability Services Coordinator, Overview of the Office of Disability Services**

Zach Brown is a Disability Services Coordinator with the Office of Disability Services - New Brunswick where he has worked for the past 3 years helping to make Rutgers accessible to students all students. He is a 2-time Rutgers graduate with a master's degree in special education and is especially passionate about making the world a more inclusive space for neurodivergent individuals.

***Considerations for Community Safety - RUPD***



**Marlise Correa, Community Police Sergeant, Rutgers University Police Department, IP&O**

Sergeant Correa has served as a Community Police Officer in Off-Campus Living and Community Partnerships since Spring 2013. Along with her colleagues in the RUPD, Sergeant Correa works to build relationships with students, RU staff and faculty, as well as New Brunswick residents to strengthen communication, safety and services.





**Elizabeth Dicker, Accessibility Specialist, RCAAS**

Elizabeth Dicker is the Accessibility Specialist at the Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services. She is an autistic self-advocate and has a Master's degree in Applied Behavior Analysis. Elizabeth is a part of the Neurodiversity taskforce here at Rutgers.

***Rutgers College Support Program Overview and Student Panel***

The Rutgers College Support Program serves Rutgers NB students with ASD and/or ADHD. We offer two tiers of service to help enrolled students achieve success at Rutgers, depending on the level of support needs. This presentation includes an overview of CSP by Senior Program Coordinator Ian Bober and a panel discussion featuring CSP students.



**Ian Bober, BCBA, Senior Program Coordinator, Rutgers College Support Program, RCAAS**

Ian Bober has a long history of working with autistic children and adults at Rutgers University. After starting as a preschool classroom assistant at the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center's Douglass School, Mr. Bober went on to serve as Program Coordinator for the Douglass Adult Program. Here he oversaw all clinical activities, specializing in ABA-based vocational and life-skills training for adults with autism, as well as the development and implementation of intervention for challenging behaviors. Mr. Bober came to the RCAAS in 2019 to work in the SCALE program as a Behavioral Technician, then as an Acting Supervisor and Behavior Analyst for the program. In summer of 2022, Mr. Bober accepted the position of Senior Program Coordinator for the CSP, where he now oversees all operations in the facilitation of academic and social support for enrolled Rutgers University undergraduates on the autism spectrum.

***Panel Discussion: RCAAS' Employment Network Division as part of the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program and The Benefits of a Neurodivergent Workforce: Perspectives from Employers and Beneficiaries***

This session will first provide a brief background of the roles and responsibilities of the RCAAS Employment Network as part of the SSA's Ticket to Work Program. Following, a panel comprised of employers of neurodivergent employees and neurodivergent employees will discuss the benefits of a neurodivergent workforce and collaboration with Employment Networks.

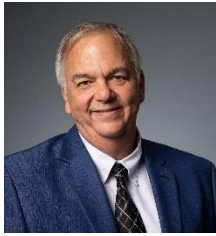


**James C. Maraventano, Ed.D., BCBA-D, Director of SCALE, RCAAS**

James Maraventano, Ed.D., BCBA-D, received his B.A., Ed.M., and Ed.D. degrees all from Rutgers University. Dr. Maraventano has over 15 years of experience working with children and adults with autism and intellectual disabilities. Prior to coming to the RCAAS, Dr. Maraventano was the Behavior Analyst at the Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center's Adult Program at Rutgers University since August of 2014. In this role, Dr. Maraventano was responsible for oversight and implementation of all clinical activities at the Douglass Adult Program, as well as all community-based advocacy projects related to acquiring appropriate budgets and meaningful employment/volunteer opportunities for the clients he served.



## ***Making for Success: A Behavioral Analytic Approach to Teaching Makerspace Activities***



### **Stephen "Skip" Carter, Director, Rutgers Makerspaces**

Supported by the Division of Continuing Studies, the Livingston Makerspace is free to all Rutgers faculty, staff, and students. We offer a large variety of DIY equipment including 3D printers, laser cutters/engravers, woodshop, CNC, embroidery textiles, and more! You can work on a class project, pursue your favorite hobby, or spark your entrepreneurial spirit. Be sure to visit our exhibitor's table with a selection of samples made at the facility. There will also be an optional tour of the Livingston Campus Makerspace following the event.



### **Chantal H. Taluba, BFA, Graduate Student/Research Coordinator, GSAPP**

Chantal Taluba is a second-year School Psychology PsyD student at Rutgers GSAPP. Her areas of interest include integrating the arts into therapeutic interventions, behavior reduction strategies for individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and adapting assessments and interventions from controlled clinical settings to public schools. Taluba is dedicated to advancing the application of research-based practices in educational environments to support diverse populations.

---

### ***Special thanks to:***



The Rutgers Neurodiversity Summit reflects a university-wide effort to foster inclusion and capacity building in support of neurodiversity and proudly sponsored by The Tyler Clementi Center for Diversity Education and Bias Prevention in DICE (New Brunswick) and University Equity and Inclusion.

### **The Rutgers Neurodiversity Taskforce Members**

To create university wide change, it was imperative to include leaders and stakeholders across departments and units of Rutgers. The taskforce is comprised of Rutgers students, faculty, and staff in positions of leadership. The development of these strategic partnerships allows the taskforce to represent neurodiversity at all levels of campus life. Taskforce members have engaged in ongoing work to contribute to creating university wide change.

### **The GSAPP IT Team**

**&**

### **Media Productions at the Division of Continuing Studies**

*for media and technology support*



# Schedule of Events

Time	Event	Presenters
9:00 – 9:30 AM	Opening Remarks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Christopher Manente</li> <li>• Dr. Daniel Hart</li> <li>• Dr. Francine Conway</li> </ul>
9:30 – 10:30 AM	Keynote Presentation  From Identification to Intervention: How Rutgers NB is Leading the way in Supporting Students with ADHD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Joshua Langberg</li> </ul>
10:40 – 11:10 AM	Home is Where the Inclusion Is: Creating a Neurodiversity/Disability Thematic Living Community in On- Campus Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kimberly Kosinski</li> <li>• Gregory Dyer</li> <li>• Raisa Rubin-Stankiewicz</li> </ul>
11:15 – 11:45 AM	Embracing Neurodiversity at CAPS: Supports and Services for Students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. Steven J. Sohnle</li> <li>• Dr. Ayanna Towers</li> </ul>
11:50 – 12:20 PM	Overview of the Office of Disability Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zachary Brown</li> </ul>
12:20 – 1:00 PM	Lunch on your own Visit the Resource Fair	
1:00 – 1:30 PM	Considerations for Community Safety - RUPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sergeant Marlise Correa</li> <li>• Elizabeth Dicker</li> </ul>
1:35 – 2:25 PM	Rutgers College Support Program Overview and Student Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ian Bober</li> <li>• Panel of CSP Students</li> </ul>
2:30 – 3:20 PM	Panel Discussion: RCAAS' Employment Network Division as part of the Social Security Administration's Ticket to Work Program and The Benefits of a Neurodivergent Workforce: Perspectives from Employers and Beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr. James Maraventano</li> <li>• Panel of RU Employers</li> </ul>
3:25 – 4:00 PM	Making for Success: A Behavioral Analytic Approach to Teaching Makerspace Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chantel Chaluba</li> <li>• Skip Carter</li> </ul>

~ Visit the Resource Fair in the Livingston Student Center Hall ~

