

**Gifted and Talented Resources:  
Speakers and Consultants in Michigan**

Looking for a speaker, consultant, or therapist who specializes in gifted education? MAGC has compiled the following list of gifted education professionals willing to assist educators and families through professional development sessions, speaking engagements, individual or group consulting, and/or conference presentations. These leaders and advocates of gifted education are eager to connect you with high-quality experiences that best meet your needs.

**Lisa Bottesi**

Topics: Strategies for perfectionism  
Identification and characteristics of gifted children  
Emotional intelligence  
Differentiation strategies  
Formative assessment



Bio.: Lisa holds a Master's degree in Education from Wayne State University and wrote her master's thesis on gifted children and perfectionism. She taught at The Roeper School for five years and currently is the Assistant Director for the Lower School and Dean of Lower School Admissions. She also has experience raising two gifted sons, one in high school and one in middle school. Lisa also holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in business administration and was a banking and corporate finance professional for several years before her career change.

Contact: [lisa.bottesi@roeper.org](mailto:lisa.bottesi@roeper.org)

**Dr. Ellen Fiedler, Ph.D., M.S.E.**

Topics: Gifted adults over the lifespan  
Services for gifted students  
Curriculum for the gifted  
Differentiation  
Social and emotional issues



Bio.: Dr. Ellen Fiedler, Professor Emerita from the Master in Arts in Gifted Education (MAGE) program at Northeastern Illinois University, is currently a private educational consultant who regularly provides professional development for school districts and other educational agencies, presentations for parents, and a wide range of consultation services related to gifted students and their education. Ellen has a Ph.D. in Counseling and Guidance and an M.Ed. in elementary education with an emphasis on gifted children. She previously has served as a gifted program coordinator, state consultant for gifted, MAGC president, chair of NAGC's Counseling and Guidance Division, and co-chair and newsletter editor of NAGC's

Global Awareness Division. She has published several articles in professional journals, a chapter on psychosocial issues for the gifted, and several book chapters on gifted adults, and she is currently working on a book on gifted adults to be published by Great Potential Press in 2015. Ellen has two highly gifted children and lives in southwest Michigan from May through October and in Florida for the rest of the year.

Contact: ellenfiedler@comcast.net  
(269) 469-6225

### **Ann Grahl**

Topics: Giftedness in general  
Learning options and support  
Social/emotional needs of the gifted  
throughout the lifespan



Bio.: Ann Grahl is the president of Knowledge Enrichment Enterprise, a company whose mission is to share information that enhances lifelong learning. Ann is also the founder of Supporting Gifted Learners, a globally well-received Facebook page and website (supportinggiftedlearners.com). During her over 13 years of gifted advocacy, she has worked with children, parents, and educators in a variety of settings.

Contact: ann@supportinggiftedlearners.com

### **Diana Hart, M.Ed., GATE certified**

Topics: Gifted curriculum  
Gifted strategies for the classroom: differentiation,  
cluster grouping, depth and complexity  
Designing and implementing gifted programs



Bio.: Diana Hart is a veteran teacher with 29 years of experience, 20 of which she educated gifted students and implemented gifted programs. She presents at conferences on gifted strategies in the classroom and is currently a MAGC board member. Diana has also done curriculum work integrating mathematics into the career technical education classrooms. Diana holds a BA from Wayne State University in secondary mathematics education, M.Ed. in mathematics education from the University of Michigan, Gifted and Talented (GATE) certificate from the University of California, and additional training in designing and implementing gifted programs from Drake University.

Contact: Diana.Hart@att.net  
(586) 677-0441

### **Nan Janecke**

Topics: The gifted student's college search  
Surviving middle school  
Dealing with digital distractions  
NUMATS/talent search participation



Bio.: Nan Janecke works as Program Coordinator of the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University's Lee Honors College. A graduate of the University of Michigan with a bachelor's degree in English, Nan sits on the board of the Michigan Association for Gifted Children where she is editor of *Images*, the Association newsletter, and on the board of Northwestern University's Midwest Academic Talent Search. She is also the president and co-founder of Partners in Learning for Unlimited Success (PLUS) of Southwest Michigan, a regional support and advocacy group for families of gifted children. Nan enjoys reading, cooking, and keeping life with her three daughters and her husband, Dan, from dissolving into chaos.

Contact: nan.janecke@wmich.edu  
nkjanecke@sbcglobal.net  
(269) 387-3553  
(269) 353-3757

### **Lizabeth Jenkins-Dale, M.Ed.**

Topics: Spiritual child development  
Identification of indigo, crystal, and rainbow children



Bio.: Lizabeth Jenkins-Dale is an empowerment author of nine spiritually infused books on a wide variety of topics such as gossiping, death, suicide, relationships, middle school, and happiness for both parents and kids. She is a veteran educator of nearly 20 years with teaching experiences in multiple grades in several school environments, including 10 years in middle school. Lizabeth states, "We are all spirits in borrowed body suits on life journeys trying to have the best experiences right now." She writes in her books, "You are never stuck. Your child is never stuck. You always have options with everything."

Contact: info@middleschoolyearswithouttears.com

## **Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore, Ph.D.**

Topics: Social and emotional development: perfectionism, sensitivity, motivation, self-esteem, anxiety, stress  
Parenting

Bio: Dr. Eileen Kennedy-Moore is an author, psychologist, and mother of four. She has a private practice in Princeton, NJ, where she works with adults, children, and families. She's co-author of two books for parents: *Smart Parenting for Smart Kids* and *The Unwritten Rules of Friendship*. She's also the author of an award-winning children's book, *What About Me? 12 Ways to Get Your Parents' Attention Without Hitting Your Sister*. Eileen's blog on PsychologyToday.com is called *Growing Friendships*. She also serves on the advisory board for *Parents* magazine.

The Great Courses® just released Eileen's new course for parents called *Raising Emotionally and Socially Healthy Kids*. It consists of twelve half-hour lectures on children's feelings and friendships, from the toddler years to the teen years. It offers true-to-life examples, research-based strategies, and practical solutions for common stumbling blocks. The course is available in video or audio download, DVD, and CD formats. Topics include: Teaching Kids to Care, Developing Genuine Self-Esteem, How Kids Manage Anger and Anxiety, Playing Well With Others, and Growing Up Social in the Digital Age.

Video preview <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZZEoRGXNTNA>

Contact: EileenKennedyMoore.com  
EileenKennedyMoore@gmail.com  
(609) 655-2010

## **Kathleen Kryza, MA (International Presenter)**

Topics: Differentiated instruction and the learning brain  
Growth mindsets  
Self-regulation/executive function  
Brain-based learning  
Underrepresented gifted learners (minority, ESL, twice exceptional)

Bio: Kathleen Kryza is a life-long learner, an experienced teacher, an outstanding international presenter, and an author. Kathleen is passionate, informed, and committed to bringing the best educational practices to schools and teachers so that they can help ALL students succeed. She has taught general education, special education, and gifted and talented students. Kathleen has also worked with students of varying socio-economic and multi-cultural backgrounds. She is also co-author of several books including *Transformative Teaching: Changing Today's Classrooms Culturally, Emotionally and Academically* (Solution Tree, 2015) *Developing Growth Mindsets in the Inspiring Classroom* (Inspiring

Learners Press, 2011) and the Corwin Press books, *Inspiring Secondary Learners* (2007), *Inspiring Elementary Learners*, (2008,) *Differentiating in the Real Classroom* (2009), and *Winning Strategies for Test Taking*.

Contact: 11609 Rolling Meadow Drive  
Great Falls, VA 22066  
734-476-4923

**Dr. Christie McWilliams, Ed.D., M.Ed.**

Topics: Differentiation for gifted students in K-12 mixed-ability classrooms  
Activities promoting breadth, depth, and complexity for gifted students  
Project-based learning/independent study  
Strategies to motivate and engage gifted students  
Service learning  
Nature and needs of gifted students  
Cognitive, social, and emotional characteristics of gifted students  
Gifted students versus high achievers



Bio.: Dr. Christie McWilliams provides professional development for educators and speaks at conferences and other engagements. She is a veteran educator with over a decade of experience teaching gifted and high-achieving students in both mixed-ability and homogeneous English/Language Arts classrooms. While teaching, Christie also led several student groups on immersive field trips to Europe and Central America. In addition to teaching, she has served as the Director of Programs and Student Admissions at the Ann Arbor School for the Performing Arts, college and university instructor, and Michigan Association for Gifted Children board member holding the positions of Education Committee Chair and Membership Representative.

Christie holds an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Houston with a gifted education focus. She also holds a M.Ed. in English Education, a BA in English, a Gifted and Talented Texas State Supplemental Certificate, and School Administrator Certificates in both Michigan and Texas. She has made over 75 professional presentations at the international, national, state, and local levels; has published over 15 articles, columns, and other media; and has secured over \$20,000 in grants for special projects. She has also received several prestigious honors including but not limited to being named an ASCD Emerging Leader, Phi Delta Kappa International Emerging Leader, Sam Houston State University Distinguished Educator, H-E-B Excellence in Education (Leadership) State Finalist, and Crystal Teaching Award recipient. Her ongoing, quantitative research focuses on teachers' differentiated practices with gifted students in mixed-ability classrooms.

Christie currently provides professional development for educators serving gifted and high-achieving youth. She also works in test development as a psychometric facilitator for Certification Management Services and a national consultant for Data Recognition Corporation.

Participants in a sample four-hour workshop, *Keeping All Students Engaged in Learning: Simple Strategies to Differentiate Curriculum and Instruction for High Achievers and Gifted Learners*, explore these critical questions:

- What are the unique cognitive and affective characteristics of gifted learners?
- How do gifted learners and high achievers differ?
- How can teachers effectively differentiate curriculum and instruction for both gifted learners and high achievers?
- What are some practical, easy activities teachers can use tomorrow that promote breadth, depth, and complexity?

For more information about Christie, please visit her website at [christiemcwilliams.com](http://christiemcwilliams.com).

Contact: [christiemcwilliams.com](http://christiemcwilliams.com)  
832-298-7055

### **Jacquelyn Melin**

Topics: Differentiated instruction  
Formative assessment practices  
Project-based learning  
Instilling creativity in gifted learners

Bio.: Jacque's interests are in the area of formative assessment and differentiating curriculum. She has developed several strategies for helping gifted students develop their critical and creative thinking skills through differentiated learning activities and learning contracts/independent studies.



Jacque Melin joined the faculty at Grand Valley State University in August, 1999, as an affiliate faculty member. She teaches classes in educational differentiation, curriculum development, and assessment practices for Graduate Studies in Education. Prior to coming to GVSU, Jacque was a teacher, gifted/talented coordinator, then elementary principal for Rockford Public Schools for 33 years. She also does educational consulting for in various topics, mainly differentiation, formative assessment practices, gifted education, mathematics, and science. Jacque's degrees and certificates are from Michigan State University, Northern Michigan University, and Western Michigan University.

Contact: melinj@gvsu.edu  
616-450-0998  
616-866-2077

### **Kiyo Morse**

Topics: Educational models and structures for elementary schools for gifted (K-8)  
Characteristics of gifted children  
Management of gifted students  
Teaching gifted students  
Parenting gifted students  
Interpreting IQ tests  
Faculty teamwork

Bio.: Kiyo Morse is the founder and head of Steppingstone School, an elementary school for gifted students, young-k through grade 8, located in Farmington Hills, Michigan. She is a population geneticist, specializing in immunogenetics, by formal training and has her BS and MS from the University of California (Davis campus). In addition, she has devoted more than 30 years to the development of gifted students and an educational model for gifted students at Steppingstone School, where arts (she is also a violinist), enrichment, and creative problem solving are as integral a part of the curriculum as basic skills.

Contact: (248) 957-8200  
kiyo@steppingstoneschool.org

### **Dr. Kelly Schultz, Ph.D.**

Topics: Middle-school gifted education  
Identifying gifted middle-school students  
Skills for gifted students  
Organization challenges of gifted students  
Overcoming digital distractions  
Talent search model as an identification tool  
Creating gifted programs for highly gifted middle-school students

Bio.: Dr. Kelly Schultz began teaching gifted students in 1999 and has never looked back. She currently is the Director of the Academically Talented Youth Program at Western Michigan University and also teaches computer science for ATYP. Kelly sits on the board of the Michigan Association for Gifted Children and Northwestern University's Center for Talent Development. She gives many talks around the state on gifted education with the most requested talk being organization challenges for gifted students.

Contact: kelly@dyksterhouse.org (preferred)  
(269) 324-0546

## **Kelley Senkowski, M.Ed.**

Topics: Gifted needs  
Academic support  
Curriculum modification (tiering assignments)  
Social-emotional needs of gifted children  
Twice-exceptional (2e) students



Bio: Kelley Senkowski has been consulting over 12 years with educators, administrators, professionals, and parents on understanding and supporting the needs of gifted students. She brings both professional and personal experience to her profession, having five highly gifted children with varying learning disabilities. Kelley holds an M.Ed. in Educational Technology and specializes in how technology can be used to support the GT and GT/LD populations. She regularly presents at regional and state conferences and also has served on district, regional, and state boards, including past-president of Michigan Association for Gifted Children, past member of the Michigan Department of Education, and Early College Credit Earning Opportunity (ECCEO), Advisory Board under the Office of School of Improvement.

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[www.GiftedConsult.com](http://www.GiftedConsult.com)  
(616) 889-5359

## **Susan Sheth**

Topics: Identification/testing  
K-12 and post-secondary curriculum  
Parent consulting  
Professional development for teachers  
Education curriculum for GT college courses



Bio.: Susan is ABD at the University of Toledo working on a Ph.D. in Curriculum Development specializing in Gifted and Talented Education. She is the past Programs Chair and the President Elect for MAGC. Susan is on the NUMATS advisory board. She is currently the Director of GATE-Gifted and Talented Education for Michigan State University. Consulting is available in all areas of gifted education for parents, teachers, deans, principals, schools, or districts looking for identification, curriculum and/or alternative education assessments and plans. Custom professional development sessions for teachers or curriculum building and execution for college-level courses is offered. Parent consulting can be arranged to assist parents with planning for their gifted students with traditional school setting or alternative education opportunities.



Contact: shethsus@msu.edu  
248-497-7403

### **Sherry Sparks**

Topics: Curriculum development  
Gifted program development  
Administrator coaching  
School team facilitation  
Support for families of gifted and talented students

Bio: Sherry Sparks has been working with and on behalf of gifted children and youth for decades. She holds an Education Specialist Degree in Administration and Leadership, a Masters Degree in Secondary Education, and a Bachelors Degree in Literature, Science, and Arts. Sherry was recent President of the Michigan Association for Gifted Children (MAGC) before leaving for India where she served as head of a prestigious international private school. Having served as a superintendent, director of curriculum and staff development, RESA consultant for school improvement and gifted and talented education, principal, teacher, and on professional education boards, Sherry offers multiple specializations. At present, as Advocacy Chair for MAGC, Sherry is working with legislators on gifted and talented identification and funding in Michigan. Her independent consulting focuses on the integration of school improvement with gifted and talented education, curriculum development and implementation, instruction, assessment, and school accreditation.

Contact: sherry.sparks61@gmail.com  
248-855-5165

### **Kim Waters, MS**

Topics: Gifted and quirky children  
Social and emotional needs  
Intensities  
Sensory issues  
Twice exceptional (2e) needs  
When to seek additional help for gifted children

Bio.: Kim Waters is a private practice therapist who specializes in gifted children and their families. Kim has more than 25 years of experience in gifted temperament, anxiety, depression, autism spectrum disorders, and many other family and child issues.

Contact: (248) 851-5437  
www.childandfamilysolutionscenter.com

## Center for Neuropsychology, Learning and Development (CNLD)

Clinicians: Roger E. Lauer, Ph.D.  
Jodene Fine, Ph.D.  
Linda Jones, MS

Specialties: Identification of Giftedness  
Twice Exceptional Children/Adolescents/Adults- LD, ADHD, ASD, Executive  
Function Disorders,  
Anxiety/depression/mood disorders

Services: Neuropsychological/psychological/psychoeducational/developmental testing and  
assessment for giftedness and twice exceptional individuals struggling  
with LD, ADHD, ASD and/or emotional issues  
Strategies and Planning for successful intervention  
Therapy  
Consultation with schools and workplace  
Advocacy  
Working memory training  
Professional development

**Roger E. Lauer, Ph.D.**, is a fully licensed psychologist in the State of Michigan who is formally trained as a clinical neuropsychologist. He earned his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from the University of Michigan. After finishing his doctorate, Dr. Lauer completed a post-doctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology within the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Michigan Medical Center (UMMC). Subsequently, he worked as a staff psychologist within the Neuropsychology Division at the UMMC prior to entering private practice. Dr. Lauer's private practice is focused extensively on neuropsychological diagnosis, assessment and intervention of learning, and attention and developmental disorders, with a focus on twice-exceptional individuals. Dr. Lauer approaches his work from a strength-based model to improve self-esteem around learning. He provides long-term management and follow-up for clients to track progress, provide parent and individual guidance, consult with schools and maximize intervention plans across all settings (e.g., home, school, work or extra-curricular activities).



**Jodene Goldenring Fine, Ph.D.**, is a fully licensed psychologist in the State of Michigan and Certified Health Service Provider in Psychology who is trained formally as a pediatric neuropsychologist. She earned her Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in School Psychology. Following her training, she became an Assistant Professor of School Psychology and Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry at Michigan State University. Dr. Goldenring Fine's specialties are learning differences, developmental disorders (including attention, autism spectrum, and language), organic and traumatic brain injury, and psychiatric concerns, with a

focus on twice-exceptional individuals. Her philosophy of assessment embraces a collaborative approach to working with children and families as together we can discover important information to use to optimize learning and adaptive behavior across the multiple settings of home, school, and community.

**Linda Jones** is a licensed clinical psychotherapist who received her Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology from Madonna University. She has over 15 years of experience working with infants, children, adolescents, and adults. Over the last several years, Ms. Jones' practice focus has been on individual, family, and group psychotherapy with adults, children, and their families. Ms. Jones works with children with emotional and behavioral impact of attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder, and other learning challenges with individuals identified as twice exceptional. She works collaboratively with schools and families to appreciate and best meet the students' academic and social emotional needs. Ms. Jones' clinical interest includes helping families through significant adjustments (e.g. divorce, blended families, loss, life transitions, peer relationship issues).

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