

UCEDD Directors Meeting Panel on Navigating COVID Year 3

Panelists Bios

Danielle Augustin

Project Manager, Vaccine Confidence Project, AUCD and Southeast COVID-19 Hub at University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute (moderator)

Danielle serves as the Program Manager for the Technical Assistance and Training Center on Disability Inclusion in Emergency Preparedness as part of AUCD's Public Health efforts. Danielle has a rich background in disability and health having served as the Disability Education Health Coach at the University of Kentucky's Human Development Institute, Kentucky's University Center for Excellence on Disability. In this role, she has been able to work across multiple projects and grant efforts, most notably the Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities National Training Center (MHDD-NTC) and Kentucky's Disability and Health Grant awarded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Danielle earned a bachelor's degree in Exercise Physiology from the University of Mount Union and a Master of Science degree in Health Promotion from the University of Kentucky. She is currently pursuing her PhD in Educational Sciences with an emphasis on Health Psychology within the disability population at the University of Kentucky.

Max Barrows

Outreach Director, Green Mountain Self-Advocates

Max Barrows is Outreach Director for Green Mountain Self-Advocates, a position he has held since 2007. He mentors youth and adults with developmental disabilities to speak up for themselves and become leaders. GMSA is a lead partner of the Self-Advocacy Resource and Technical Assistance Center (SARTAC). Max leads SARTAC's technical assistance team assisting local and state self-advocacy organizations across the nation. Max connects with people on all levels advocating for true inclusion of people with developmental disabilities. In his work, he advances the message that when you meet an individual with a disability, presume competence. He received a White House Champions of Change award for this work in 2015 and Champion of Equal Opportunity award from the National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities in 2019. Max is an accomplished self-advocate from Vermont who served as a board member for Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered from 2008 to 2016.

Emily Hotez

Assistant Professor of Medicine, UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine

Emily Hotez, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of Medicine and developmental psychology researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles David Geffen School of Medicine. She currently serves on the leadership team of the Autism Intervention Research Network on Physical Health, a 15-million-dollar HRSA award focused on promoting the physical health of autistic individuals. In this role, she collaborated on the development of the first-ever Autistic Researcher Review Board in a national

research network. Dr. Hotez's research focuses on chronic stress: persistent and cumulative stressful experiences over the life course, including lifelong stigma and marginalization across interpersonal, educational, and healthcare contexts. The COVID-19 pandemic magnified health disparities for individuals with disabilities due to chronic stress and much of her work over the past year responded to these disparities. She served as the Principal Investigator on two consecutive AUCD-CDC-funded grants to understand these disparities and identify strategies for supporting those with multiple marginalized intersectional identities. She currently oversees a quality improvement initiative that seeks to combat health disparities for minoritized populations in primary care clinics. Most recently, Dr. Hotez was appointed to the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine planning committee to address the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children with disabilities and their families. Dr. Hotez received her B.A. in psychology from George Washington University and her Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. As a sister of an autistic adult, she is personally committed to research that ameliorates disparities for individuals with disabilities.

Hasan Ko

Self-Advocacy Leader, Green Mountain Self-Advocates

Hasan is a leader of Green Mountain Self-Advocates' work on including people with disabilities from diverse backgrounds. Hasan says, "No matter where we come from, we have the right to be ourselves in our own way." Hasan mentors peers in his local self-advocacy group. He represents GMSA on national projects.

Marry Willard

Director of Training and Technical Assistance, Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)

Mary Willard has been the Director of Training and Technical Assistance for APRIL (Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living) since 2014. In her role, she helps support CILS and SILCs to serve people with disabilities to the best of their abilities through peer support opportunities, training opportunities, and through her partnerships on projects with RTC:Rural University of Montana and other allied organizations. Her favorite part of her job is helping to identify needs in the community and offering platforms and opportunities to elevate all your voices in the field to help find solutions. With Community, we are Stronger! Previously she worked at Summit Independent Living Center as the Peer Coordinator, where she worked on curriculums for youth with disabilities and creating programming for youth, as well as running the peer support program training, supervising and creating opportunities for peer supporters. She was an APRIL youth Peer Mentor for seven years, assisting several CILS across the country to start, trouble shoot, or grow their youth programs, as well as helping to plan and execute the APRIL youth conference as a volunteer. Mary received her Master's in Social Work in 2014, during which time she also worked at the Rural Institute on Disability and Research as a Student Research Associate. She spent four years on the executive committee of the Montana SILC, two of which were spent as the chair. Mary is also a person with an invisible disability.