

TA Institute Panel on Navigating University Relationships and Politics

Panelists Bios

Susan Fox

UCEDD Director, Westchester Institute on Human Development (moderator)

Dr. Fox is the President and CEO of the Westchester Institute on Human Development. Previously, she served as Associate Director of the Institute on Disability and Co-Director of the Center on Aging and Community Living at UNH. A key aspect of her lifelong work has been the development of and advocacy for person-centered home and community-based services for older adults and adults with disabilities to prevent unnecessary institutionalization and to support all citizens to live within their home communities. She has a strong interest in the experience of family caregivers. Her Master's thesis researched the mental health of family caregivers of individuals with developmental disabilities and her doctoral work focused on the experience of family caregivers of older adults. She is currently a member of the NY State Developmental Disabilities Planning Council and the NYS Department of Health, Disability and Health Program Stakeholders Group.

Elizabeth Laugeson

Incoming UCEDD Director, UCLA Tarjan Center UCEDD

Dr. Elizabeth Laugeson is an Associate Clinical Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences at the UCLA Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and is a licensed clinical psychologist. She is the Incoming Director for the UCLA Tarjan Center UCEDD and is also Program Director for Dissemination, Outreach, and Education at the UCLA Autism Center of Excellence. Dr. Laugeson is also the Founder and Director of the UCLA PEERS Clinic, which is an outpatient hospital-based program providing parent-assisted social skills training for individuals with autism spectrum disorder and other social impairments from preschool to adulthood. As the developer of PEERS, she has trained thousands of mental health professionals, educators, and families worldwide, and is dedicated to developing and testing evidence-based treatments to improve social skills across the lifespan and across the globe. As one of the only empirically supported and internationally recognized social skills programs for youth with autism and other social challenges, her program is currently used in over 125 countries and has been translated into over a dozen languages.

Sandy Magaña

UCEDD Director, Texas Center for Disability Studies

Sandy Magaña, PhD, MSW, holds the Professorship in Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in the Steve Hicks School of Social Work. She received a Master of Social Work from California State University, San Bernardino and her Ph.D. from the Heller Graduate School of Social Policy at Brandeis University. Magaña completed post-doctoral training from the NICHD funded Post-Doctoral Program in Developmental Disabilities Research at the Waisman Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison. She was a faculty member in the UW-Madison School of Social Work for 12 years and later served as a Professor

at the Department of Disability and Human Development at the University of Illinois at Chicago. At SHSSW, Magaña is the Executive Director of the Texas Center for Disability Studies (TCDS) and Director of the Autism Consortium of Texas Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and other Related Disabilities (ACT LEND).

[Kathy Sheppard Jones](#)

UCEDD Director, University of Kentucky Human Development Institute

Kathy Sheppard-Jones, Ph.D., C.R.C., is the Executive Director of the Human Development Institute (HDI) at the University of Kentucky. The HDI is Kentucky's University Center on Disability and is home to over 70 projects under research priority areas that include employment, education, health, leadership, advocacy, assistive technology and universal design. Dr. Sheppard-Jones is implementation lead for Kentucky's Retaining Talent after Injury/Illness Network grant, funded by the US Department of Labor and lead administrator for Kentucky's Employment First Council. She holds a doctorate in Educational Psychology from the University of Kentucky and serves as adjunct assistant faculty in the Counselor Education program in the College of Education. She is a certified rehabilitation counselor. Her research interests include return to work, inclusive higher education for students and workforce, universal design, and systems change. She is guided by a vision of a workforce that is inclusive of all people.