



NATIONAL  
DOWN SYNDROME  
CONGRESS



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DOWN SYNDROME  
CONGRESS

DALLAS, TEXAS  
JULY 24 - 27

2025 NDSC CONVENTION  
CELEBRATING ALL

# EDUCATORS CONFERENCE

Friday, July 25, 2025

8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Hilton Anatole, Dallas, Texas

Sponsored by:  Data.Center  
Systems

Practical in nature, this full day conference will engage participants in identifying and implementing strategies applicable to K-12 classrooms.

Our Educators Conferences offer hands-on, research-based strategies that general education and special education teachers can implement immediately to best support their students with Down syndrome and intellectual disability.

Attendees will leave equipped with ideas, tips, strategies, tools, and solutions that they can implement in the classroom.

- Addressing **BEHAVIOR** through effective strategies
- Literacy strategies to facilitate **READING DEVELOPMENT**
- Proven practices for **INCLUSION**
- Strategies for **ACCESS** for all
- **TRANSITIONING** the ages & stages
- Planning and designing **CURRICULUM**
- **MEDICAL IMPLICATIONS** for the classroom

# Dallas Educator Conference Speakers

## July 25, 2025

### **Dana Halle, J.D.**

Dana is the developer of The Learning Program and LP Online, educational platforms that focus on improving academic outcomes for learners with Down syndrome in the areas of literacy and math. She currently trains and supports hundreds of teachers, parents, and students with Down syndrome across the nation and around the world. Dana also provides weekly direct instruction on literacy and math to students through DSF's Learning Center in Irvine, California. For more information, please visit [www.dsfc.org](http://www.dsfc.org). Dana attended Pomona College, where she earned a B.A. in Public Policy Analysis and Psychology. She also attended the University of California, Hastings School of Law, where she earned her J.D. Dana practiced law as a business litigator for ten years before taking time off to parent her three children, the youngest of whom, Nick, has Down syndrome. Soon after Nick's birth in 1998, Dana began directing her energies towards developing programs to improve education for learners with Down syndrome through direct service to parents, teachers, and students.

### **Dr. Stacy Taylor, BCBA-D**

Stacy received her Doctorate in Special Education at Nova Southeastern University. She is also a doctoral level Board Certified Behavior Analyst. For over 20 years, she has provided services to people with developmental disabilities, learning differences, and behavioral challenges. She has served as director for 3 clinical programs and currently owns and operates an ABA program, Advance Behavior & Learning, and a fully inclusive private school, Advance Learning Academy in Central Florida. Dr. Taylor has worked in a variety of settings, including clinics, schools, and homes. In addition to providing 1:1 treatment to children, she also provides training and consultation around the country. She speaks at conferences, presenting information on early intervention, education, and behavioral treatment. Dr. Taylor currently serves on the medical advisory board for the Down Syndrome Association of Central Florida. She has taught many college-level courses to help students learn more about inclusion, learning, child development, and behavior. Her programs function as an internship and practicum site for students just starting in the field. Dr. Taylor is married and has 4 amazing children.

### **Sean J. Smith, Ph.D.**

Dr. Smith is a Professor of Special Education in the Department of Special Education at the University of Kansas. More importantly, he is the parent of a son with Down syndrome. Sean weaves these two perspectives together in offering practical solutions based on evidence for classroom and home application. His efforts to support the field are reflected in his over 100 peer-reviewed articles, books, and book chapters as well as his numerous regional, national, and international presentations. Leading with technology as an effective tool, Sean has also been fortunate to receive over \$30 million dollars of external funding, in collaboration with others, to facilitate the development and research of tech-based solutions for individuals with disabilities.

### **Dr. Kishore Vellody**

Dr. Kishore Vellody will be speaking on medical implications for the classroom. Dr. Vellody completed his medical degree at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine and his pediatric residency at the Children's Hospital of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. He is a Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine and has been on the faculty since 2005. In March 2009, he became Medical Director of the Down Syndrome Center of Western Pennsylvania. Dr. Vellody also served as President of the National Down Syndrome Congress (NDSC) from 2016-2019. Dr. Vellody has spoken at a variety of local, regional, national, and international meetings on the care of children with Down syndrome. Dr. Vellody became a pediatrician in large part because of his relationship with his older brother, Das, who is smart, funny, caring, . . . and also has Down syndrome.