

# A Community Conversation about Autism on June 18

June 15, 2015

SUNY Broome's Center for Civic Engagement will host a community conversation on Autism Spectrum Disorder from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursday, June 18, in Decker Health Science Building Room 201.

Assemblyman Clifford Crouch will join this event because of his concern for this issue, especially from a public policy perspective.

In 2000, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimated that one child in 150 has ASD. A decade later, the figure rose to 1 child in 68. ASD occurs in children from all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups, and affects five times as many boys as it does girls. Reliable diagnosis is possible by the age of two. The annual health costs associated with treating a child with ASD averages four to six times greater (\$17,000) than other children. Clearly, this is an issue that impacts children, family and friends in our community.

Stanley Wanglund and John Lishok, adjunct professors in SUNY Broome's Department of Psychology and Human Services who work with children with ASD, will run the community conversation. The forum **will not** address diagnostic/prescriptive issues of specific children. Rather, it will focus on some of the most important unmet needs our community faces in dealing with ASD, including:

- Finding competent people to diagnose this condition properly;
- Early identification of this condition;
- Finding programs that are effective and efficient in working with spectrum disorders;
- Transition planning (high school to college or work);
- Opportunities for person-centered planning;
- Inclusion in community activities;
- Living arrangements as adults and as elderly adults;
- Getting psychiatric needs met (how responsive are the current service delivery

systems?);

- Job training/opportunities

Professors Wanglund and Lishok will then focus on things that families, advocates and individuals feel work very well.

If you have any questions, contact Professor Doug Garnar at 778-5094 or email [garnardc@sunybroome.edu](mailto:garnardc@sunybroome.edu)

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