



2025 DAY OF LEARNING SERIES

CONNECT & ADVOCATE TOGETHER!

JANUARY 25, 2025 | 8:00 am – 3:00 pm

<u>8:00</u>	Saguaro	REGISTRATION & CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST Continental breakfast in Saguaro Dining Room. Be sure to visit with Sponsors and Exhibitors, open now til 3:00 pm
<u>9:00</u>	Ocotillo	WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS Ann Monahan, AZ Autism Coalition President <i>Introductions and general information for the day's events.</i>
<u>9:15-10:15</u>	Ocotillo	STUDENT DISCIPLINE-WHAT ARE MY CHILD'S LEGAL RIGHTS? Hope Kirsch, M.Ed., Esq., Lori Kirsch-Goodwin, Esq., Kirsch-Goodwin & Kirsch PLLC <i>Discipline of students has been increasing more and more every school year. Learn why, and learn what schools can and cannot do, and what you can do when your child is facing discipline. Learn about the extra protections for students with IEPs and 504 Plans. We will also discuss FBAs and BIPs and Title IX.</i>
	Brittlebush	ASK THE ATTORNEY! Emily Kile, Esq., Mushkatel, Gobbato & Kile, PLLC <i>This is an opportunity for the audience to bring general questions regarding guardianships, conservatorships, SSI, ABLE accounts, probate, special needs trusts and more! It seems like there is never enough time to answer questions so this is the opportunity to get answers.</i>
<u>10:30-11:30</u>	Ocotillo	AUTISM AND MEDICAL CARE TEAMS Todd Levine, MD, Phoenix Children's Hospital <i>Dr. Levine is a Psychiatrist at Phoenix Children's who specializes in caring for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) and behavioral difficulties. This session will provide information and strategies for the following objectives: 1) Discuss the variety of medical care systems that exist in the community. 2) Describe the challenges that families of special needs children and adults have in navigating them. 3) Review family strategies to receive and coordinate medical care for a family member.</i>
	Brittlebush	EMPOWER U: BUILDING SELF ADVOCATES FOR THE FUTURE Amanda Steele, SLP-A, Lisa McCormick, BSW, EPIC Disability Advocacy <i>Discover how EPIC Disability Advocacy's EmpowerU program enhances the lives of neurodivergent individuals through self-determination and self-advocacy. This session highlights the development and impact of our two-cohort model-Trailblazers and Future Leaders-designed to promote confidence, communication and leadership skills. Learn about our unique approach, success stories and how self-development empowers neurodivergent individuals to reach their full potential. Join us for insights into building inclusive, supportive pathways for personal growth and advocacy.</i>
<u>11:30-12:45</u>	Saguaro	LUNCH-Hot luncheon buffet with soup, salad, entrees, dessert, beverages.
<u>12:45-1:45</u>	Ocotillo	NAVIGATING THE DDD/ALTCS JOURNEY: YOUR GUIDE TO ARIZONA'S DISABILITY SUPPORT SYSTEMS. Katie Hurtswicker, MSSW, LCSW, Arizona Lionhearts <i>This comprehensive workshop demystifies Arizona's developmental disability support systems, specifically focusing on the Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) and Arizona Long Term Care System (ALTCS). The presentation walks through the qualification criteria, application processes, and available services for both programs, providing essential insights for families and individuals seeking support. It offers practical tips for navigating the application process, understanding eligibility requirements, and accessing vital resources for individuals with developmental disabilities in Arizona</i>

Brittlebush **SUCCESS FOR COLLEGE STUDENTS WITH ASD**
Roxanna Dewey, M.Ed., Glendale Community College
A general faculty understanding of ASD and best practices is essential to support these students beyond accommodations. Leave with resources you can use now.

2:00-3:00

Ocotillo **BEYOND 20/20: VISION AND LEARNING IN THE CLASSROOM**
Christina Esposito, Optometrist, Midwestern University
This presentation is designed to discuss the connection between vision and learning with children on the spectrum, developing an understanding among parents and therapists that vision is more than 20/20 on the eye chart, how to assess and diagnosis learning related vision problems, how to manage these conditions and lastly how to provide accommodations to the school to help the student learn based on the their diagnosis and correlated findings.

Brittlebush **ADVOCACY 101: TRANSFORMING PASSION INTO ACTION**
Brandi Coon, Care 4 the Caregivers
This is a hands-on and interactive course designed for caregivers. We will explore what advocacy means to each of us. Those in attendance will gain the confidence to navigate systems, build strong support networks, and create meaningful change for your child's life. Whether you are seeking better educational accommodations, improved medical care, or more inclusive social opportunities, this course will empower you to turn your passion for your child's well-being into tangible, effective change.

3:00

END-THANKS FOR JOINING US!

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2025 DAY OF LEARNING SPONSORS!**

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All Abilities Ministry, Arizona Lionhearts, Autism Academy for Education & Development, Blue Balloon ABA, Division of Developmental Disabilities, EPIC Disability, MedOne Healthcare, Mercy Care, Mushkatel Gobbato & Kile, PLLC, Southwest Autism Research & Resource Center, Trulieve