



December 11, 2017

On **Saturday, April 14, 2018**, The Partnership Project, a collaboration between Baltimore County Public Schools, the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake and Towson University's Department of Special Education, will organize the 9th annual Honestly Autism Day (HAD) at the Radisson North Baltimore Hotel. This is a fabulous day devoted to understanding autism. Parents, family members, professionals and people with autism will come together to listen, ask questions and learn from each other. Experienced speakers will share their knowledge of a vast range of topics related to autism and individuals with autism will give open and honest insight into their lives on the autism spectrum. It is a positive, uplifting day filled with revelations and devoted to acceptance and embracing new perspectives.

Last year's event was a huge success with close to 600 people in attendance. Our attendees are a diverse group who are generally looking for practical information that can be applied to their everyday lives or work. Attendees are generally autism professionals, including educators, service providers and administrators, as well as adults with ASD, parents and other adult family members. Our breakouts address issues across the lifespan and we especially embrace those presentations, which provide practical strategies and allow participants to engage and be a part of the learning process.

For Honestly Autism Day 2018, we are looking to expand our topics for our breakout sessions by accepting proposals from local and national presenters, students, educators, other professionals and individuals on the autism spectrum. This year's conference theme is, "**Dream Big! Living Life Fully on the Spectrum.**" We are looking for strategies that go above and beyond to create meaningful opportunities and change in partnership with people with autism.

We are looking for proposals that are geared towards this theme and are related to one of the following topics: Sensory, Anxiety (beyond 101-practical strategies for the classroom and home), Social Skills (with an emphasis on building relationships), Working with Support Staff in Classroom, Puberty/Relationships, Engaging your Young Child with Autism at Home, Preparing for Employment (starting early for all audiences)

Below you will find the link for our call for proposals. All submissions will be reviewed by the HAD committee and will be blindly rated based on the following criteria:

- proposal demonstrates appreciation, respect and presumption of competence for individuals on the spectrum
- proposal addresses one of the listed topics above
- proposal is of high quality and includes clear and meaningful outcomes for audience
- proposal is related to the conference theme
- proposal includes practical and applicable information for audience
- experience of conference presenter (s)

You will be notified in February if your submission was accepted. Please know that if you are not selected, your submission will be kept on file for possible inclusion in future Partnership Project events and/or events sponsored by the Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake.

To submit a proposal go to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScyH-oEe4osR6vmdHlnc6jEPRS0AM6DFWUAJIP-zYXQwdMYrQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

The deadline for all proposal submissions is **January 16, 2018**. Visit our website www.baltimoreautismsociety.org for more information.

Questions? Contact: Debbie Page dpage@baltimoreautismsociety.org