

# Presenter Bio



Christina Chester, Psy.D, NCSP, is the Director for Psychological Services with the Montgomery County Public Schools in Rockville, MD. Dr. Chester is responsible for school psychologists and the Bilingual Assessment Team (BAT) in the Division of Psychological Services. In this role, she oversees the Signs of Suicide Prevention Program, Trauma-Informed Schools, Crisis Intervention responses, and the Behavioral Threat Assessment initiatives. She is the former Director for Crisis Intervention and Safety for the Waukegan Public Schools and was responsible for managing the five missions of emergency management and safety/security for her school district. She is the former chairperson of the National Association of School Psychologist's (NASP) School Safety & Crisis Response Committee and coauthor of the PREPaRE Workshop 1: Crisis Prevention and Preparedness. She also received the NASP Presidential Award in 2017, 2018, and 2021 for her work with understanding race and privilege, national crisis responses around the continental United States and Puerto Rico, and advocacy around school crisis response and recovery work during the COVID19 pandemic.

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Dr. Matthew K. Burns is the Fien Professor of Special Education at the University of Florida and an Assistant Director of the University of Florida Literacy Institute. Dr. Burns has published over 200 articles and book chapters in national publications, and has co-authored or co-edited 15 books. He is a Past Editor of *School Psychology Review* and *Assessment for Effective Intervention*. Dr. Burns is one of the leading researchers regarding the use of assessment data to determine individual or small-group interventions, and has published extensively on response to intervention, academic interventions, and facilitating problem-solving teams. He received the 2020 Senior Scientist Award from Division 16 (School Psychology) of the American Psychological Association..

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Dr. Ray W. Christner, Psy.D., NCSP, ABPP, is a licensed psychologist and a certified school psychologist in Pennsylvania, a nationally certified school psychologist, and a nationally registered health service psychologist. He specializes in clinical and school psychology, and he is board-certified in behavioral and cognitive psychology. He maintains a private practice in Hanover, Pennsylvania, and serves as President of Cognitive Health Solutions, LLC. Dr. Christner's clinical work includes psychotherapy, psychological/neuropsychological testing, and consultation services with children, adolescents, and adults affected by various psychological, developmental, learning, and medical/neurological concerns.

Dr. Christner is a recognized and accomplished clinician, author, editor, and presenter at local, state, national, and international levels. He has authored or edited numerous books, chapters, and articles on psychological assessment, cognitive-behavior therapy (CBT), school-based mental health, ethics, and the training of mental health professionals. He has been an invited speaker for more than 160 presentations. Dr. Christner served as the founding editor of *School Psychology Forum: Research in Practice*, a peer-reviewed journal for the National Association of School Psychologists, and he has been an ad hoc reviewer for many other journals. Dr. Christner has been featured in many media outlets, including *Today*, *Parents*, *Lifehacker*, *ABC*, *Fox*, *Special Education Connection*, and *Authority Magazine*, to name a few. He is the co-host of the popular podcast *Psyched to Practice*.

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Dr. Robert Foltz is a clinical psychologist with over 35 years of experience in the field. This work has included inpatient, residential, and outpatient services, often with adults and adolescents struggling with severe mental illness. He has been teaching at The Chicago School since 2009 and his courses include Psychopathology, Pediatric Psychopharmacology, Trauma Theory & Treatment, and advanced psychotherapy supervision. He has also consulted with numerous residential treatment centers, the Office of Refugee Resettlement, and educational settings with a focus on strength-based, trauma-informed services. Dr. Foltz has many publications and presentations related to the use (and misuse) of psychotropic medications in youth. This work has led to the development of his forthcoming book, *No Method to the Madness: Making Sense of the Psychiatric Treatment of our Youth*, to be published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2025.

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Kristal H. Shelvin, Ph.D. was recently appointed as the executive director of student support for McLean Unit School District #5. Dr. Shelvin administers the district departments that support students with special education services, multilingual services, SEL/ mental health, and MTSS. She also leads the implementation of the district's equity action plan to achieve equitable experiences for students and staff. Dr. Shelvin previously supervised school psychologists and social workers at a special education cooperative and coordinated a county-wide system-of-care project for children's social-emotional and behavioral development. With a particular interest in interdisciplinary work, she strives to build collaborations among educators, mental health professionals, child welfare staff, medical providers, families, and communities. Her passion is broadening educational opportunities for all students regardless of their life circumstances. Kristal H. Shelvin holds a master's degree in education administration and a doctorate in school psychology. She is licensed in Illinois to practice school and clinical psychology. She shares her life with her husband of 25 years and their two adult children.

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Robert J. Dixon, PhD, NCSP, LP has been practicing school psychology for over 30 years. He has taught and directed the School Psychology face-to-face program at the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse before developing and directing the School Psychology Online program at UW-La Crosse. In addition to his role as a Graduate Educator, he has worked with the School District of La Crosse as a school psychologist, supervisor and mental health liaison. He helped spearhead mental health screening in the district over the past several years as part of a grant initiative. He has served in State and National leadership positions, administration, and a doctorate in school psychology, both from Illinois State University.

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W. Joel Schneider is a Professor at Temple University in both the School Psychology and Counseling programs in the College of Education and Human Development. He completed his undergraduate education at the University of California, Berkeley and earned a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Texas A&M University in 2003. Although his research interests span diverse domains, his primary focus is on understanding and improving the validity of psychological assessment practices. Along with Kevin McGrew, he has co-authored the most recent updates to the Cattell-Horn-Carroll Theory of Cognitive Abilities (Schneider & McGrew, 2012, 2018). He co-authored two books on psychological assessment: the Essentials of Assessment Report Writing, 2nd Edition (Schneider, Lichtenberger, Mather, & Kaufman, 2018) and Psychological Testing, 10th Edition (Cohen, Schneider, & Tobin, 2022). More information about his work can be found here: <https://wjschne.github.io/>.



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Dr. Breeda McGrath is President of Pacific Oaks College and Children's School in Pasadena, CA. She previously served as Dean of Academic Affairs at The Chicago School where she supervised over 30 graduate programs including international psychology, organizational leadership, behavioral economics, behavior analysis, forensic psychology, counseling, and psychopharmacology. Breeda is a member of the APA Ethics Committee and serves on the boards of the Peace Psychology and International Psychology divisions. She also serves on the board member of the Illinois Community for Displaced Immigrants and provides consultation and training for the Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights. Originally from Ireland, Breeda collaborates with international colleagues in Indonesia, Senegal, Greece, and India. Breeda earned her doctoral and master's degrees in school psychology from Loyola University Chicago and spent 9+ years working in public schools in the Chicagoland area.