



**Learning and Reflection Forum Series**  
**February 7, 2019 2:00 - 3:30 pm EST**

**Leadership Frameworks and Styles: Implications for Advancing Cultural and Linguistic Competence in Developmental Disabilities**

**Presenter Bios**

**Andy Arias**

Andy Arias has been an advocacy professional for over seven years. He has worked as a System Change Advocate and Program Manager for Orange County & Los Angeles, California. He is member of many boards and commissions related to creating greater visibility and advancement for diverse communities, especially the disability community. Andy is often hired to speak and train at universities, and high schools. In addition, Andy has spoken at forums by invitation of Congressional leaders to address ADA compliance and the inclusion of people disabilities and others from diverse backgrounds and communities. He has received several awards for his presentations on LGBTQ diversity and disability equality.

Andy's experience and leadership gave him skills to develop and implement a youth program that served over 150 young adults in Southern California helping them reach their dreams for independence. The curriculum for this program is utilized today by specific County agencies. Andy excels in teaching students that nothing can get in the way of their dreams, as long as they use their disabilities as an asset.

Andy advocates in the entertainment industry by creating visible pathways as an actor and stand-up comedian. As an actor, Andy has had the pleasure of working with Tom Hanks, Mark Ruffalo and Hilary Swank on projects. He is often asked to consult with producers and directors to create greater media visibility of people with disabilities. He has also produced several small projects that have brought attention to persons with disabilities and the LGBTQ to community.

Andy's expertise extends to Federal government and corporate levels. His goal is to marry his policy work with his work in the entertainment industry to create a systemic lasting change. Andy is a member of the Leadership Academy faculty.

## **Eric Brown**

Eric Brown is the Education and Advocacy Coordinator at RAMP which is a Center for Independent Living that advocates for individuals with disabilities in Winnebago, Boone, Stephenson and DeKalb Counties. In his role Eric works to identify barriers to independence facing individuals with disabilities and strives to eliminate those barriers through education and advocacy for systemic change.

A graduate of Western Illinois University, Eric holds a Bachelor of Science in Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration with an emphasis in Therapeutic Recreation and is a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS)

## **Tanisha Clarke**

Tanisha Clarke, MPH, is the Senior Manager of Disability and Public Health at the Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD), a national organization that supports a network of 133 member centers across the States and territories. Tanisha brings almost 20 years of experience working with people with disabilities and their family members, emerging professionals, and community or professional partners. She has formal training in public health and has served in many capacities. Currently, Tanisha manages public health projects and capacity development activities for the National Center on Disability in Public Health. She provides training, technical assistance and leads initiatives among staff members and network centers. Her activities primarily focus on capacity building, systems change, and health promotion for people with disabilities. Additionally, Tanisha is actively involved in mentoring the next generation of leaders.

## **Brenda Liz (Bren) Muñoz**

Brenda Liz (Bren) Muñoz is a State of Georgia Governor Appointed Council and Executive Committee Member with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD), as well as a former Diversity Fellow, and Family Fellow/Trainee with Georgia's Leadership Education in Neurodevelopmental and related Disabilities (GaLEND) with the Center for Leadership in Disability (CLD), the School of Public Health, at Georgia State University. At CLD, Bren co-leads with Dr. Emily Graybill the *Latino Community of Practice: Supporting Families with Children and Youth with Disabilities*, a diverse, multi-sector consortium of professionals, families and allies in Georgia with three areas of focus: 1) professional capacity building and collective impact; 2) Latino parent education and leadership training, and; 3) formal and informal advocacy in public policy and systems of care.

Bren is also a freelance English<>Spanish bilingual, multicultural advocate, cultural bearer and broker, educator, interpreter and translator, and consultant. She is fluent in English, Spanish and (Brazilian) Portuguese. Bren obtained a Master of Science degree in Education with focus on Educational Foundations and Policy Studies, and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Spanish (dual major) and Women and Gender Studies (minor). She holds professional post-graduate certificates as an Interpreter in Education and Healthcare from The University of Georgia, completed Georgia's Partners in Policymaking, and is an inaugural graduate of the Georgetown

University, National Center for Cultural Competence (GU-NCCC), Cultural Diversity and Cultural and Linguistic Competence and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Leadership Academy. She is interested in collective and social impact in her work for and with Latinx communities in Georgia and the southeast, and is currently pursuing an Executive Certificate in Social Impact Strategy through the School of Social Policy and Practice at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn.)

Bren is a proud parent of a tall, dark and handsome nonverbal young man who lives with severe to profound autism spectrum disorders (ASD).