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| |  | | --- | | Erik Carter is an Associate Professor in the Department of Special Education at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. He completed his graduate work in the area of severe disabilities at Vanderbilt University and his undergraduate work in Christian Education at Wheaton College. His research and teaching focuses on strategies for supporting meaningful school inclusion and promoting valued roles in school, work, and community settings for children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He has co-authored five books, including Peer Support Strategies: Improving all Students’ Social Lives and Learning (Brookes Publishing) and Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: A Guide for Service Providers, Families, and Congregations (Brookes Publishing).  He has co-authored more than 100 articles and book chapters and was the recipient of the Distinguished Early Career Research Award from the Council for Exceptional Children, the Early Career Award from the American Association for Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, and the Patricia Sitlington Research Award from the Division on Career Development and Transition. | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Workshop:  Promoting Inclusion for Students with Autism/Disabilities and Preparing for Transition to Adulthood Friday, November 14th, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. First Assembly of God North Little Rock**  Audience:  General education professionals, special education professionals, school administrators & support staff, medical & allied health professionals, and parents/families (AR Department of Education professional development credit is available for this workshop)  [**Click HERE to register:  $90.00 per person (includes box lunch)**](http://aaroc.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=edd775568eb5ae14a8f6b5b35&id=3ee3ad2e09&e=e3a0a8a716)  **Workshop Descriptions**  **Morning Session:  Promoting Relationships and Learning Through Peer-Mediated Interventions: Practical Strategies with Strong Evidence** Overview: This presentation will address the effectiveness and feasibility of peer-mediated interventions as evidence-based approaches for promoting inclusion and social participation within inclusive classrooms, extracurricular activities, and other school settings. Strategies for implementing peer support arrangements and peer networks will be shared, along with recommendations for reconsidering the use of individually assigned paraprofessionals and other special education staff to promote school inclusion. **Learner Outcomes:** 1. Participants will identify how peer support and peer network interventions can benefit students with and without disabilities. 2. Participants will learn practical strategies for recruiting students, developing effective intervention plans, orienting students to their roles, and supporting them as they work together. 3. Participants will be able to evaluate the social and academic impact of peer-mediated interventions, as well as their social validity.  **Afternoon Session: Equipping Adolescents with Disabilities for the World of Work: Engaging Youth and Communities to Improve Transition Outcomes** Overview: Early work experiences during high school are among the most powerful predictors of post-school employment for youth with disabilities. This presentation will focus on findings from and lessons learned from projects aimed at connecting youth with disabilities to paid, integrated work experiences during the school year, summer months, and after high school. An especially unique feature of these projects has been our efforts to engage broader communities in supporting early career and community experiences of youth with significant disabilities. Recommendations for schools, families, and communities interested in raising the post-school outcomes and aspirations of youth will be shared. **Learner Outcomes:** 1. Participants will learn about evidence-based practices for promoting early work experiences for transition-age youth. 2. Participants will learn how natural community partners can be engaged in school transition efforts. 3. Participants will apply these strategies to issues of importance in their own schools and communities.  ***\*IMPORTANT PLEASE READ: If you are registering for a group and plan to pay with a purchase order, please use the promotional code PURCHASEORDER (click on "Enter promotional code" just above the green "Order Now" button)***   Questions?  Email [ddvarady@uark.edu](mailto:ddvarady@uark.edu?subject=Erik%20Carter%20workshop%2011-14-2014) or call 501-454-8542 | | |

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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Workshop:  Including People with Disabilities in Faith Communities: On Welcoming Well** **Saturday, November 15th, 2014, 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. First Assembly of God North Little Rock**  Audience:  Families of individuals with disabilities, their extended family and friends; ministers/pastors, support staff, and congregants of all faiths; educators; clinicians; general public  [**Click HERE to register:  $10.00 per person (includes lunch)**](http://aaroc.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=edd775568eb5ae14a8f6b5b35&id=70dd9c61b3&e=e3a0a8a716)  ***Sessions within the Day:***   * Incomplete without You: The Church and People with Disabilities (casting a vision) * Starting Points and Possibilities (reflecting on your welcome and accessibility and creating a plan to move forward) * Better Together: Designing Inclusive Programming for Children and Youth * The Other Six Days: Supporting People with Disabilities and Their Families After the Benediction     Questions?  Email Brian Dollar at [**BDollar@FirstNLR.com**](mailto:BDollar@FirstNLR.com?subject=Special%20Needs%20workshop%2011-15-2014) or call (501) 758-8553 | | |