2024 Keynote Speakers

This year's keynote speakers will inspire you to make connections, show compassion and serve competently. This year our keynote sessions featuring these outstanding professionals:

Wednesday, March 27th

Brent Wolfe, PhD, LRT, CTRS, FDRT, Associate Professor in the Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro; Executive Director for the American Therapeutic Recreation Association.

Dr. Wolfe believes that the two most important keys to being a successful leader, student, therapist, and person are listening and empathy. Put your listening skills to work and join us as he shares what ATRA is doing to empower and advocate for recreational therapist across the country. Expect to start this symposium feeling connected and ready to change the world!

Thursday, March 28th

Leandra A. Bedini, PhD, LRT, CTRS, FDRT, Professor Emerita, Department of Community and Therapeutic Recreation, UNC-Greensboro

CTRSs often feel overwhelmed and stressed from not only daily expectations, but the constant need to explain who we are and what we do. We need to advocate, but advocacy sounds complicated and time consuming. Our keynote speaker, Leandra Bedini, will offer simple but effective ideas to help participants feel empowered to make a difference from the bottom up to get the support and recognition we need.

Friday March 29th

Jasmine Townsend, PhD, CTRS, FDRT, CARSS-II, Associate Professor, Director of Adaptive Sports and Recreation, Clemson University and **Jeff Townsend**, Lecturer, Adaptive Athlete, Clemson University

Learn from two experts in the use of adaptive sports and recreation to make lifelong impacts in peoples' lives! Leave the conference with motivation, inspiration, and tips for how to use adaptive sports and recreation in your RT practice and community!

Southeast Recreational Therapy Symposium
March 27 – 29, 2024
Myrtle Beach, SC

Session Preview

Unlocking Calm: Harnessing Strategies for Stress Relief and Emotional Regulation in Recreational Therapy
Amelia Saul, PhD, LRT,CTRS

A Seat at the Table: Advocating for Recreational Therapy in Mental Health Throughout Facility Expansion
Amanda Cox, CTRS

Pickle Squad, a Therapeutic Recreation Intervention to Promote Self-Determination and Pickleball Skills
Lori Koplin, MS, CTRS, CPRP, CYSA, CARSS and Tania Santiago Perez, PhD, CTRS

A Theoretical Approach for Recreational Therapy Practice in Mental/Behavioral Health: Function & Application
Cara Gray, PhD, LRT, CTRS

Let Me Play! The impact of Recreational Therapy on LGBTQ+ constraints
Jay Hoppes, Harry Strobel, and Alice Dupree

Virtual Reality as a Recreational Therapy Intervention Among Individuals with IDD: Implications from a Systematic Literature Review
Lindsey Oakes, PhD. LRT, CTRS

2023 Ann James Award Winner

Managing Recreational Therapy Agencies Post-COVID: Lessons Learned from the Pandemic
Steven N. Waller, PhD, CPRP; Jason L. Scott, PhD., CTRS; Angela J. Wozencroft, PhD, CTRS; and Ashley Hamilton, MS, CTRS

More Sessions to Come!!