

## Expert on Autism Featured at Workshop at STCC: Temple Grandin To Be Keynote Speaker on Helping Young Adults on Autism Spectrum

Dr. Temple Grandin, one of the world's best-known adults with autism, will be the keynote speaker at a one-day workshop to be held on Tuesday, November 17 at Springfield Technical Community College. Sponsored by STCC and the Autism Asperger Publishing Company, the workshop is titled *Helping Young Adults on the Autism Spectrum Capitalize on Their Strengths and Special Interests; Developing Talents: Career Planning, Including Higher Education, for Students with ASD*.

Born in Boston in 1947, Grandin was diagnosed as autistic in 1950, and didn't speak until she was three and a half years old. She says, "I can remember the frustration of not being able to talk. I knew what I wanted to say, but I could not get the words out, so I would just scream."

Grandin's 1986 book *Emergence: Labeled Autistic* was described by psychologist Oliver Sacks as "extraordinary, unprecedented, and in a way unthinkable," as there had never before been an "inside narrative" of autism. "Temple Grandin's voice came from a place which had never had a voice...and she spoke not only for herself, but for thousands of others." Grandin's 2008 book *The Way I See It: A Personal Look at Autism and Asperger's* provides practical strategies for parents, teachers, and individuals on the spectrum.

The November 17<sup>th</sup> conference schedule includes the keynote address by Grandin from 8:30 through noon, lunch, and four breakout sessions. The first afternoon session will be *A Guide to Helping Students With Autism Spectrum Disorders Find a Livelihood That's Right for Them*. The session will be presented by Kate Duffy, M.S., who has taught for 21 years at Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley. She is a co-author with Temple Grandin of *Developing Talents: Careers for Individuals With Asperger Syndrome and High Functioning Autism*.

The second session is titled *The Hidden Curriculum of Postsecondary Education*, and will be led by Jane Thierfeld Brown, Ed.D., director of student services at the University of Connecticut School of Law, who has worked in disability services for 27 years. She is the co-author of *Students With Asperger Syndrome: A Guide for College Personnel*.

The third breakout session is *Preparing Students with Disabilities for the Transition From High School to College*, led by Kris Kozuch, M.Ed., LRC, and Joy Dykstra, M.Ed., CRC, both from Springfield Technical Community College. Kozuch is coordinator of disability services, served as accommodations specialist for 15 years, and has been a rehabilitation clinician in a community mental health setting. Dykstra is the STCC learning disability specialist; she is co-facilitator of a homework support group and coordinator of an orientation session, both for students with disabilities.

The fourth breakout session is *Entrepreneurship and Disabilities: A Good Match*, presented by Tammy L. Ciak, JD and Coleen Moynihan, M.Ed., CLU, CMFC. Ciak, with New England Business Associates, is an employment consultant assisting individuals with disabilities and developing an exploring entrepreneurship program. Moynihan is an advisor with the New

England Business Associates Business Consulting Center, and has 25 years' experience with Fortune 100 companies in marketing and strategic planning.

There is a registration fee for the conference, which includes lunch, with a sliding scale for professionals, parents, students, and individuals with ASD. For more information or to register, individuals may go to [www.asperger.net](http://www.asperger.net), email [events@asperger.net](mailto:events@asperger.net) or call 913/897-1004.