

October 13th from 1-5:30pm at the Airport Holiday Inn, Des Moines

Ways to participate in Parent Day 2019:

- **Mingle at the Gifted and Talented Resource Fair**—Businesses and organizations from across the state have gathered to share their gifted services and opportunities from 1-5:30.
- **Attend the keynote presentation**—Dr. Brandi Klepper will address gifted families from 2-3pm
- **Support the ITAG Parent Award** — Learn who this year’s award recipient is and how you may qualify for next year’s award at 3pm
- **Choose your Breakout Sessions**—Four information-packed sessions from which to choose—3:15-4:45pm
- **Shop the Vendor Fair**— Find the perfect book of challenges or the perfect family game. Something for everyone. **Stop by the ITAG booth for gifted swag and to register for door prizes.**
- **Win a door prize**— Prizes awarded at closing ceremony
- **NEW: Kid Session Activities**—Parents are welcome to drop their kids in K-7th grades off to participate in specially-designed, supervised activities. Pre-registered kids are free. 2-5pm

For more information or concerns, please contact:
Maureen Marron,
Executive Director,
Iowa Talented and Gifted Association
PO Box 665
Iowa City, IA 52244
info@iowatag.org
888-990-4824

Parents’ Roadmap to All Things Gifted

Whether your family is new to the world of Talented and Gifted or not, ITAG Parent Day has something for you. Join us for a gifted resource fair, vendor showcase, keynote speaker, four break-out sessions, awards, door prizes, snacks, and new to ITAG’s Parent Day 2019 are supervised activities for students in grades K-7. Bring your kids to play Spheros, Rubik's Cubes, and much more. Please register at iowatag.org by [SEPTEMBER 30 for savings.](#)

PARENT DAY SCHEDULE:

1-5:30pm Talented and Gifted Resource Fair and Vendor Fair

1-2pm Event check-in and child registration

1:50pm Drop kids off at Kid Activity Station

2-3pm Brief welcome and Keynote presentation

**“Parenting with Emotional Intelligence”
with Brandi Klepper**

3-3:10pm Presentation of ITAG Parent Award

3:15-3:55pm

Breakout session 1a

**“Living in the Gifted Family”
with Arlene DeVries**

OR

Breakout session 1b

**“Mental Health and Gifted Children: When to Seek Help”
with Deb Mishak**

4:05-4:45pm

Breakout session 2a

“Parenting GT Kids: Perfectionism, “Not Enoughness,” and Emotional Coaching from Early Childhood through Adolescence into Adult Life” with Sally Beisser and Bengu Tekinalp

OR

Breakout session 2b

“Improving Executive Functioning” with Brandi Klepper

4:50-5pm Closing ceremony and door prize drawings

5pm Kid Activity Stations close—child pick-up

5:30pm Talented and Gifted Resource Fair and Vendor Fair Closes

NOTE: Snacks and Beverages will be available during the event.

[Click here to REGISTER THE WHOLE FAMILY FOR ITAG PARENT DAY](#)

ITAG Mission Statement:

The mission of the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association is to recognize, support, and respect the unique and diverse needs of talented and gifted learners through

ADVOCACY:

by encouraging *informed* educational professionals, parents, policy makers, and all other stakeholders to take appropriate action for the benefit of talented and gifted learners.

EDUCATION:

by strengthening and encouraging the recognition and implementation of practices that support *identification* of talented and gifted learners and *accommodation* of the social, emotional, and Intellectual levels.

NETWORKING:

by increasing opportunities for *collaboration* and *cooperation* among all stakeholders with the goal of advancing the abilities and developing the potential of talented and gifted learners.

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Registration:

Please register at iowatag.org by SEPTEMBER 30 for savings. Not able to pre-register, come anyway. Same day registration available.

Tickets are \$40 per family with pre-registration. Cost includes admission for two (2) adults from the same family, free admission to kid activities for kids in grades K-7, and 1 year ITAG membership. Kids not preregistered will be an additional \$25/each on the day of the event.

2-3pm KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

“Parenting with Emotional Intelligence” with Brandi L. Klepper, Psy.D.

Many parents of gifted children know that gifted kids can be emotionally sensitive and intense. These parents also know that parenting in an appropriately responsive and successful way, without making the situation worse or shaming the child, can be quite the challenge. To support such insight and understanding, this presentation will include an overview of emotional intelligence, examples of behaviors of gifted children and insight into their experiences, and examples of responsive parenting utilizing emotional intelligence.

BIO: Dr. Brandi L. Klepper is a Missouri licensed clinical psychologist who specializes in children, adolescents, and adults who are gifted, talented, and/or high achieving. She has had a private psychology practice specializing in gifted and talented individuals since 2002. Before that, as a college and graduate student, she worked therapeutically with gifted and high achieving individuals and in her dissertation she researched emotions in gifted adolescents. Throughout her life, Dr. Klepper has participated in gifted services as a student, camper, RA, teacher, camp counselor, presenter, psychologist, and consultant. In addition to her private practice, she teaches at Drury University in the Masters of Education, Gifted Certification program. She has taught at the undergraduate and graduate levels since 2002, including time teaching at Drury University, Cox College, and The School of Professional Psychology at Forest Institute. She has been a classroom volunteer since 2010. Dr. Klepper also serves as a Resident Counselor at Drury University's Center for Gifted Education PreCollege Programs. Further, she has presented at the National Association of Gifted Children's conference; at statewide and district conferences of the Gifted Association of Missouri, the Iowa Talented and Gifted Association, the Arkansans for Gifted and Talented Education, and the Kansas Association for the Gifted, Talented and Creative; as well as to various other groups.



Dr. Klepper resides in Springfield, Missouri with her husband and two children. She hopes to continue serving the gifted populations in Springfield and surrounding areas.

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Want more from Dr. Klepper? Attend breakout session 2b.

3:15—3:55pm BREAKOUT SESSION 1a:

“Living in the Gifted Family” with Arlene DeVries

This informal discussion will provide information about handling sibling squabbles, friendship issues for gifted children, how to communicate with your child, and caring for parents’ own needs.

BIO: Arlene DeVries retired as the Community Resource Consultant for the Des Moines Public Schools Gifted Talented Program. After being trained in the Supporting Emotional Needs of Gifted parent discussion groups in 1981 in Dayton, Ohio, she facilitated 70 ten-week discussion groups in the Des Moines area. She then trained facilitators in two-day workshops throughout the United States and at the World Gifted Conferences in The Hague, Netherlands; Toronto, Canada; Seattle, Washington; Hong Kong; Barcelona, Spain, and Adelaide, Australia. She was a member of the original SENG board of directors, became their president, and an Emeritus Board Member. She has attended and presented at 100 gifted/talented conferences. She is co-author of two books, *Gifted Parent Groups: the SENG Model, 2nd Edition*; and *A Parent’s Guide to Gifted Children*.



She served nine years on the National Association for Gifted Children Board of Directors, and was chair of the NAGC Parent/Community Division. As a member of the Iowa Talented and Gifted Board, Arlene organized parent workshops throughout the state. Under her term as president, she was instrumental in passing legislation that instituted the Post Secondary Enrollment Option Act, and ITAG moves from an all volunteer organization to a paid executive director.

Arlene has received the ITAG Distinguished Service Award, The SENG Outstanding Leadership Award, and the Drake University School of Education Outstanding Alumnae Award. For many years she taught a Drake University on-line class, “Social Emotional Needs of Gifted.” Prior to her gifted/talented career, Arlene was a K-12 public school music teacher. For the past 30 years, she presented the pre-concert talks for the Des Moines Symphony Classical Concerts.

3:15—3:55pm BREAKOUT SESSION 1b:

“Mental Health and Gifted Children: When to Seek Help” with Debra Mishak, Ph.D.

How does a parent decide if behaviors their child or teen is exhibiting are associated with the intensities and over-excitabilities of giftedness, or when they may be observing symptoms of paralyzing anxiety, manic-depression, or another debilitating mental illness?

This session will be run as a short presentation followed by an interactive discussion where you can share your stories and concerns and be supported by other participants who are struggling with similar complex and frightening situations in their own families.

BIO: Dr. Debra Mishak earned her B.A. in Vocal Performance and Pedagogy, her M.A. in Counselor Education, and her Ph.D. in Curriculum and Supervision from the University of Iowa. During her forty year career in education Dr. Mishak has served as a K-12 music teacher, K-12 professional school counselor, K-12 gifted coordinator, university professor of school counseling, professional development administrator for the Connie Belin and Jacqueline N. Blank International Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development, and as the Director of Gifted Education and Counseling for the Des Moines Public Schools. She currently serves as program director of Winona State University’s Austin Teacher Preparation Program. Dr. Mishak has presented over 200 workshops, consultancies, and symposia throughout North America, Europe, and Australia in the areas of social and emotional needs of the gifted, child and adolescent mental health, talent development of indigenous populations, and educator compassion, fatigue and well-being.



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Breakout sessions: If only you could be in two places at once?

4:05—4:45pm BREAKOUT SESSION 2a:

“Parenting GT Kids: Perfectionism, “Not Enoughness,” and Emotional Coaching from Early Childhood through Adolescence into Adult Life”

with Sally Beisser, Ph.D. and Bengu E. Tekinalp, Ph.D.

This session is an informal discussion from two Drake University professors who are each parenting two gifted daughters. Both will share their life experiences, insights, and suggestions from parenting their own children. They will share resources and strategies for surviving the role as parents of gifted children from academic and personal perspectives. A question and answer session will conclude the session.

BIOS: Sally Beisser, Ph.D., is the Ellis and Nelle Distinguished Professor of Education at Drake University in teacher education, doctoral qualitative research methods, and service-learning on campus, in Belize, and South Africa. Recently she conducted pedagogy workshops at University of Gjakova and University of Prizren in Kosovo. She has presented at the Oxford Round Table in the UK on gifted education and studied gifted programs in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.



She loves the state of Iowa. With a BS, MS, and Ph.D. from Iowa State University and working in three public schools in Iowa, she understands the people and promise in our state. Sally been an elementary school teacher of gifted children for 15 years and taught gifted education in higher education for 20 years. As a Drake University professor, she was named the Teacher of the Year and holds the distinction of being the only female and only School of Education professor to earn the Provost Troyer Research Award.

As a member of NAGC for 17 years, she was awarded the NAGC Doctoral Student Award, has published in *Gifted Child Quarterly*, *Gifted Child Today*, co-chaired the NAGC Parent and Community Committee, presented numerous times at the Iowa Talented and Gifted (ITAG) and the NAGC conferences, and now serves on the NAGC *Teaching for High Potential* Advisory Board. She has received the ITAG Distinguished Service Award.

Since 2007 Dr. Beisser has directed the Drake University award-winning Online Talented and Gifted Endorsement (pk-12 TAG) program, serving students from 29 states and 8 countries. She has authored 73 articles and presented at over 165 state, national, and international conferences.

Bengü (Ergüner) Tekinalp, PhD, is an associate professor, program coordinator of the Counselor Education program and co-chair of the Leadership and Counseling Department at Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa. Her research interests are intersections of positive psychology, school counseling, multicultural counseling, and Adlerian and humanistic schools of thought. Dr. Tekinalp has published more than 25 journal articles and book chapters presented at international and national conferences and has written and edited four books, one of which is on Positive Psychology in Education in her native language Turkish. She has served various Boards of professional associations such as Iowa School Counselor Association, Iowa Talented and Gifted Association and serves in the Council of Representative of North American Society for Adlerian Psychology. Dr. Tekinalp also currently serves on the Iowa Department of Education Social Emotional Learning taskforce advisory committee. She is a licensed school counselor and has a certificate in Adlerian Studies.



4:05—4:45pm BREAKOUT SESSION 2b:

“Improving Executive Functioning”

with Brandi L. Klepper, Psy.D.

Even gifted kids can struggle with executive functioning skills. Sometimes this is expressed as a gifted child who has trouble making good decisions and acts impulsively. Sometimes it’s a gifted child who struggles with where to start amongst so many thoughts and can’t keep track of what the directions are. Additionally, underdeveloped executive functioning skills are expressed in a gifted child who has no real sense of time and winds up spending way too long on a minor part of a task.

Executive functioning skills are a product of nature and nurture; development of them is biopsychosocial. Thus, there are ways to help guide these kids into developing better executive functioning skills. Those who attend this session will learn about executive functioning in general as well as techniques to improve these skills in gifted individuals.