

Meet Our Speakers

Photo	Speaker	Highlights and Sessions
	Linda Burkhart Monday Preconference	Internationally recognized AAC and assistive technology consultant with more than 50 years of experience. Session: Make Access Possible: Partner-Assisted Auditory and Two-Switch Step Scanning.
	Mateo Moreno Tuesday Keynote	AAC mentor who grew up as the “kid with the talking box” and the only AAC user in his school district. Mateo brings honest stories and practical tips for communication partners, with a challenge to build schools where AAC users lead.
	Sally Norton-Darr MS, CCC-SLP Tuesday Makers Room	Independent consultant and longtime assistive technology trainer for Loudoun County Public Schools. Joy Zabala Spirit Award recipient and ISTE co-author. Session: Make AT in Minutes Lab, open all day.
	Judith Schoonover MEd, OTR/L, ATP, FAOTA Tuesday Makers Room	Occupational therapist with more than 44 years in schools and a passion for low-tech adaptations for play and learning. Joy Zabala Spirit Award recipient. Session: Make AT in Minutes Lab, open all day.
	Brandon Stees Wednesday Keynote	Blue Ridge Community College student and disability advocate. Brandon was the first person with Down syndrome to earn a standard diploma at Harrisonburg High School and has served on the Virginia State Special Education Advisory Committee.
	Emily Rubin MS, CCC-SLP Wednesday National Presenter	Director of Communication Crossroads and co-author of the SCERTS Model, focused on social emotional engagement and learning. Sessions: The Neurochemistry of Learning (morning). Finding the Fuel for Learning and Emotional Well-Being (afternoon).
	Kelly Fonner MS Wednesday National Presenter	Assistive technology consultant and trainer for four decades. QIAT leadership team member. Sessions: Empowering Paraprofessionals (morning). Literacy-Related AT in the Classroom (afternoon).
	Kelli Suding MEd, CPACC Wednesday National Presenter	Professional Learning and Implementation Specialist at CAST and a former teacher of students with complex support needs. Sessions: Access by Design: Connecting UDL, AEM, and AT (morning). AT Is Not Cheating (afternoon).
	Christopher Bugaj MA, CCC-SLP Wednesday National Presenter	Assistive Technology Specialist for Loudoun County Public Schools, co-host of the Talking With Tech podcast, and author of The New Assistive Tech. Sessions: Necessary Considerations for the Selection and Implementation of AAC (morning). Coaching Communication Partners (afternoon).

Virginia's Own: Local Presenter Day, Tuesday, November 17

After Mateo's keynote, more than 20 school-based practitioners from around Virginia lead 13 breakout sessions on what is working in their own classrooms. Topics include AAC programs, alternative pencils, UDL, family partnerships, AI for accessibility, and House Bill 2219. Full lineup: [TechKnowledge Conference program page](#).

Join us in Harrisonburg. Register at cvent.me/7OB4Q4.