

**The Quad Preparatory School presents Breakthroughs in Twice Exceptional Futures Annual Conference with
Department of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology at Hunter College, CUNY**

Date: 03/05/2026

Time: 8:30 – 4:00 pm

Format: In person, International House

Course Description

This one-day event will focus on current topics related to individuals who are neurodiverse. Experts in the field will discuss working with neurodiverse populations with a focus on transitioning into the workforce, executive function and social communication. Additionally, topics will cover understanding neurodiversity in girls and managing today’s digital world.

Time ordered agenda

8:30-9:00 **Check in**

9:00-10:00 **Keynote speaker:** Holden Thorp

Leading With Autism: Challenges and Opportunities for Neurodivergent Minds

10:15-11:15 **Break out rooms (attend one)**

1. Jennifer Hartstein, PsyD, *Over-Accommodation: The Pitfalls in Parenting and Education*
2. Pooja Patel, MA, *Boost Writing Skills: Using Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) to Help Students Find Their Voice*
3. Dr. Debbie Troxclair, *Between Worlds: How Twice-Exceptional Students Form Identity*

11:30-12:30 Dr. Kimberly Alexander, *Anxiety and Neurodivergence*

12:30-1:30 **Lunch**

1:45-2:45 **Break out rooms (attend one)**

1. Peter Shankman, hosted by Nicole Cavaliere: *Progress Over Pressure: How Small Goals Help ADHD Brains Succeed*
2. Dr. Claire E. Hughes, *From Spark to Strategy: AI-Supported Lesson Design for Twice-Exceptional Learners*

3:00-4:00 **Panel Discussion**

Dana Baker, EdD, Rebecca Sime Nagasawa, Katie Travia: *Design for All: Building Universally Designed Pathways from School to Career for Neurodivergent Learners*



Hunter College of the City
University of New York

This program is offered for 0.5 ASHA CEUs, Intermediate level ASHA CE Provider approval and use of the Brand Block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures. In order to receive .5 CEUs, participants must attend all sessions and complete a self-assessment reflection survey.

Instructor name	Session Title	Disclosures
Holden Thorp	<i>Leading With Autism: Challenges and Opportunities for Neurodivergent Minds</i>	<i>Editor-in-Chief of the Science family of journals in October 2019. He is currently a professor of chemistry and medicine at George Washington University and on leave to serve as the Editor-in-Chief at Science. Cofounded Viamet Pharmaceuticals, which developed VIVJOA (oteseconazole), now approved by the FDA and marketed by Mycovia Pharmaceuticals. Venture partner at Hatteras Venture Partners, a consultant to Ancora, Huron, and Urban Impact Advisors, and is on the board of directors of PBS and Saint Louis University. He serves on the scientific advisory boards of the Yale School of Medicine and the Underwriters' Laboratories Research Institutes.</i>
Jennifer L. Hartstein	<i>Over-Accommodation: The Pitfalls in Parenting and Education</i>	<i>Founder of Hartstein Psychological Services, a group psychotherapy practice in New York City. Dr. Jen is the author of Princess Recovery: A How-To Guide to Raising Strong Empowered Girls Who Can Create Their Own Happily Ever After, and she is a self-esteem ambassador for Dove's Real Beauty campaign.</i> <i>(Financial) Jennifer Hartstein, PsyD, received an honorarium and award as the Nancy Tarshis Legacy Fellow for the 2026 Breakthroughs Conference.</i>

Pooja Patel, MA	<i>Boost Writing Skills: Using Self-Regulated Strategy Development (SRSD) to Help Students Find Their Voice</i>	<i>7th-grade English and History Teacher and a member of the Advisory Committee, the Middle School Reading/Literacy Coordinator, and the Middle School English Curriculum Coordinator at the Dwight-Englewood School (Englewood, NJ). Pooja has been a consultant, teacher leader, and coach. She was an adjunct instructor for both pre- and in-service educators earning their MA as a Reading Specialist at Teachers College, Columbia University.</i>
Dr. Claire E. Hughes	<i>From Spark to Strategy: AI-Supported Lesson Design for Twice-Exceptional Learners</i>	<i>Professor of Special, Gifted, and Twice-Exceptional Education at Cleveland State University. Previously, she was Professor of Elementary and Special Education at the College of Coastal Georgia, Faculty Director of Special Education Programmes at Canterbury Christ Church University in the UK and has been a Fulbright Scholar to Greece twice. Winner of the Gifted & Award from NAGC, she is President of The Association of the Gifted for the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC-TAG).</i>
Dr. Debbie Troxclair	<i>Between Worlds: How Twice-Exceptional Students Form Identity</i>	<i>Associate Professor, developed/teaches online graduate courses in special and gifted education at Lamar University. In 2024, she received the CEC-TAG Service Award and was recognized as an international scholar by Phi Delta Beta Honor Society for International Students at Lamar. Dr. Troxclair is currently the President of AGTS in Louisiana and a member of the Board of Directors for the Louisiana School for Science, Mathematics, and the Arts. Dr. Troxclair was recently elected Treasurer for The Association for the Gifted (TAG). She was co-editor of Twice- Exceptional Education: Connecting Gifted and Special Education.</i>
Dr. Kimberly Alexander	<i>Anxiety and Neurodivergence</i>	<i>Kimberly Alexander, PsyD, is the Director and a psychologist in the Mood Disorders Center at the Child Mind Institute. Disclosure: Dr. Alexander completed one of her doctoral school fieldwork placements at The Quad Preparatory School, the host of the Breakthroughs Conference.</i>
Peter Shankman, hosted by Nicole Cavaliere	<i>Progress Over Pressure: How Small Goals Help ADHD Brains Succeed</i>	<i>Peter Shankman is the Founder and CEO of Source of Sources and Futurist in Residence. Co-Founder of Mental Capital Consulting and Founder of HARO. Host of Faster than Normal and author of The Boy With the Faster Brain and Faster Than Normal: Turbocharge your Focus, Productivity and Success with the Secrets of the ADHD Brain. Nicole Cavaliere is currently the Lower School Co-Head, Academic. As the Lower School Co-Head at Quad Prep, she continues to lead initiatives for educational optimization, showcasing her unwavering belief in every student's potential. Disclosure: Nicole Cavaliere is an employee of The Quad Preparatory School, host of the Breakthroughs Conference.</i>
Dana Baker	<i>UDL Panel: Design for All: Building Universally Designed Pathways from School to Career for Neurodivergent Learners</i>	<i>Dana Baker, Ed.D. is an Assistant Professor of Education and Director of the Teacher of Students with Disabilities graduate program at Fairleigh Dickinson University</i>
Rebecca Sime Nagasawa	<i>UDL Panel: Design for All: Building Universally Designed Pathways from School to Career for Neurodivergent Learners</i>	<i>Director of the Center for Accessibility Resources & Disability Services (CARDS) at Barnard College.</i>
Katie Travia	<i>UDL Panel: Design for All: Building Universally Designed Pathways from School to Career for Neurodivergent Learners</i>	<i>Head of Talent Development and Diversity for Morgan Stanley's Investment Management Business, a member of the Global Talent Operating Committee, and manages the neurodiversity efforts for Morgan Stanley.</i>