

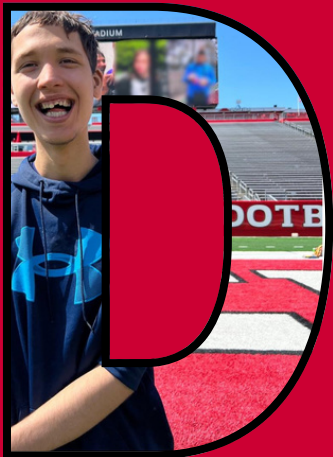


RUTGERS-NEW BRUNSWICK

Douglass Developmental
Disabilities Center

Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology

Annual Report 2023-2024




Service • Training • Research



**Serving the
Autism
Community
Since 1972**



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Message from GSAPP's Office of the Dean



As the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) turns 50 this year, our leadership team and faculty have reflected on the school's mission and renewed our pledge to carry forward the principles upon which the school was founded. As GSAPP begins its next fifty years, we are steadfast in our commitment to prepare exceptional practitioners, scholars, and leaders in applied and professional psychology to serve diverse populations by translating scientific knowledge into innovative practices that promote social justice and create lasting positive impact.

The DDDC stands as a shining example of what this looks like in practice: a center that fully commits to providing exceptional service, with embedded training experiences and a continual focus on generating and disseminating knowledge through applied research. We congratulate the DDDC on its accomplishments in each of these areas and celebrate the extent to which they continually strive to meet new challenges with the same enthusiasm and compassion that they have shown through the years. While the faces change, the heart of the DDDC leaves the same indelible mark on all those that pass through the center's halls.



DEAN ARPANA INMAN

The Dean's Cabinet



**DR. LARA DELMOLINO
GATLEY**



DR. RYAN KETTLER



DR. LINDA REDDY



MR. DANIEL RICE

Message from the Director

CATRIONA FRANCIS

Dear Friends of the DDDC,

The Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center (DDDC) has been supporting the autism community for 52 years. As a university-based program in the Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology (GSAPP) at Rutgers-New Brunswick, our mission is threefold, involving service, training, and research. Through our work, we provide support to individuals with autism spectrum disorders (ASD), their families, and the professionals providing services to them. Ever since Dr. Sandra Harris founded our center in 1972, establishing the first university-based school program for children with autism, our goal through each aspect of our work has been to make high quality, personalized services more accessible to individuals with ASD.



Over the last five decades, services for many individuals with autism have become more readily available. However, there are those, the underserved, who still lack access to high quality services to meet their unique needs. We feel it is our responsibility at the DDDC to continually examine the landscape of service availability and delivery in NJ and adjust our focus to support the development of these support services for individuals with autism where they are still lacking.

This year, we have continued to show our commitment to serving the underserved. In our center-based program we specialize in providing educational services for school aged children with significant support needs because of their challenging behavior or significant learning challenges, many of whom could not have been served effectively in other settings. In the community, we have begun important work to establish high quality educational services in high poverty and under-resourced urban districts.

This 2023-2024 Annual Report reflects our continued commitment to this important work. It will highlight the hard work of our amazing team and our renewed dedication to all those impacted by autism. Thank you for your invaluable support!

Catriona Francis, Ed.M., BCBA
Director, Douglass Developmental Disabilities Center

Our Impact by the Numbers 2023-2024

Service



45

Students from 29 districts served in the Douglass School Program



17

Clients served in the Douglass Adult Program



7

Outreach Contracts serving NJ school communities

Applied Behavior Analysis:

- 52 Undergraduate Psychology Students
- 19 Master's Degree Students
- 3 Doctor of Psychology Students

people trained at the DDDC in 2023-2024

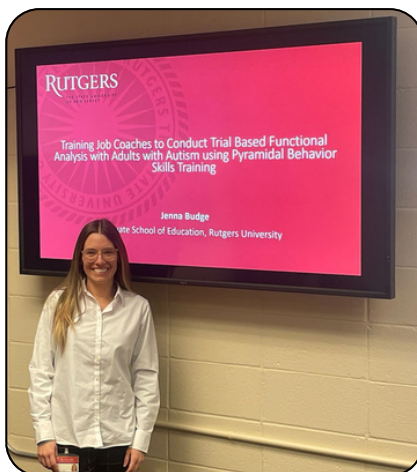
120

Other Disciplines:

- 14 Psychiatry Fellows
- 8 Nursing Students
- 6 Family Practice Residents
- 5 Graduate Speech Students
- 5 Undergraduate Speech Students
- 4 Other Graduate Psychology Students
- 3 Horticulture Interns
- 1 Volunteer

Training

Research



19

Research Posters

9

Workshops and Invited Presentations

16

Symposia

1

Publication in a Peer-Reviewed Journal



Serving Adults Since 1997



The DDDC has proudly served adult individuals with autism since 1997. In 2017, the Rutgers Center for Adult Autism Services (RCAAS), a sister program that is also part of the Applied and Academic Autism (Triple A) Services Unit at GSAPP, was established. The DDDC and the RCAAS have been working side-by-side for the past seven years with a shared service/training/research mission.

Effective July 1, 2024, to streamline adult autism services at Rutgers, our Douglass Adult Program (DAP) clients joined the RCAAS. We are excited for this wonderful opportunity for our DAP clients to benefit from the RCAAS's innovative, community-based and employment-based model, and we are excited about the future of adult autism services at Rutgers!



27 Years of Adult Services!



Best wishes to our adult clients and their exciting future at the RCAAS!





Serving School-Aged Children

Center-Based Program

The Douglass School Program serves children ages 3-21 years diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder.

We use the principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) to provide an individualized educational program designed to teach instructional readiness, functional communication, social skills, functional academics, prevocational skills, self-care, and independent adaptive living skills. Functional behavioral assessment is the cornerstone for all behavior interventions.

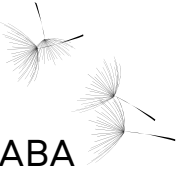


Community-Based Program

The Douglass Outreach Program provides ABA services to school-aged children in the community.

Home-based ABA therapy provides an opportunity for each learner to acquire socially significant skills in their natural environment. Our team focuses on teaching skills that are a priority to the family and will increase the child's participation in the family's routines and activities. Family members learn from our highly skilled staff how to support their child as they are acquiring these skills.

School-based consultation supports educational communities in establishing evidence-based programs to allow learners to achieve their maximum potential.





Debra Paone

Director of Training and Consultation; Co-Director of SHARE

Serving Underserved Communities through SHARE

In September 2023, with funding support from the Office of the Chancellor of Rutgers University-New Brunswick, we launched **Scarlet Hope for Autism: The Road to Excellence in Education (SHARE)**. This innovative program builds on RU-New Brunswick's solid foundation of community engagement by partnering with under-resourced urban school districts in New Jersey to recruit, develop, and place talented Rutgers students in real-world, clinical learning environments while simultaneously, directly serving children and families living in urban communities in need.

These mutually beneficial partnerships create a workforce pipeline for Rutgers students, help address the statewide public-school staff shortages, and provide broader access to high quality, evidence-based services to learners with autism - truly a win-win.



Marlene Brown

Associate Director of Consultation; Co-Director of SHARE



Training in the Community

1,839.5 training hours provided

Parent Training
30.5 hrs.

Trainings & Workshops
8.5 hrs.

School-based Contracts
1782.5 hrs.

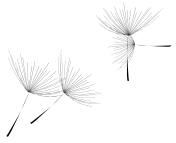
Program Evaluations
18 hrs.

Across 5 workshops for a total of 268 attendees

Consulting provided to 7 different schools

Completed for 2 schools





Graduate Training in ABA

Fulfilling our mission to train the next generation of professionals pursuing careers to support individuals with autism, the DDDC provides intensive training in applied behavior analysis (ABA) to masters and doctoral level students.

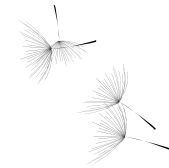
3

Doctor of
Psychology
Students

19

Master's
Degree
Students

Graduate Student Showcase



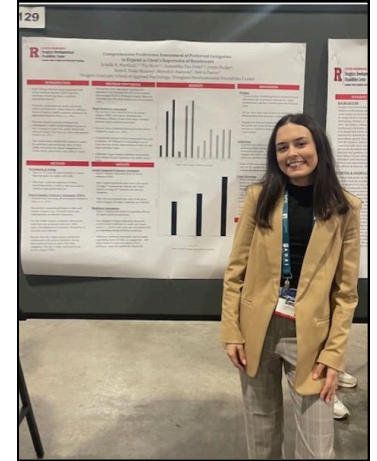
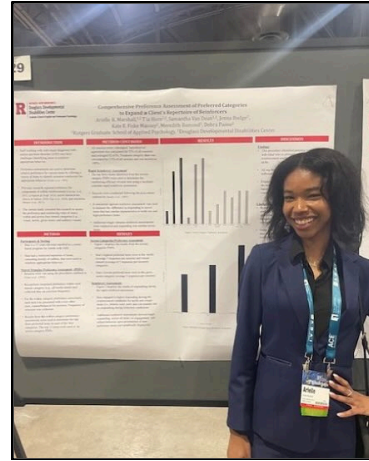
Upon her graduation in May, Arielle Marshall became an alumna of GSAPP's Master of Applied Behavior Analysis (MABA) program. While Arielle pursued her master's degree, she worked as a Team Leader in the DDDC's Adult Program.



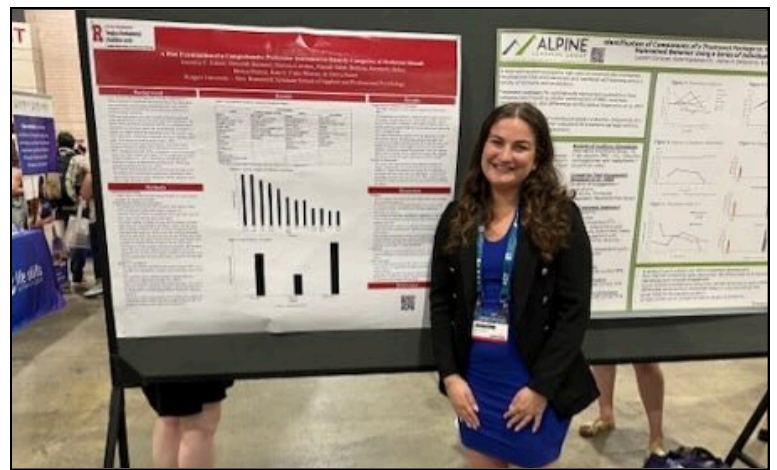
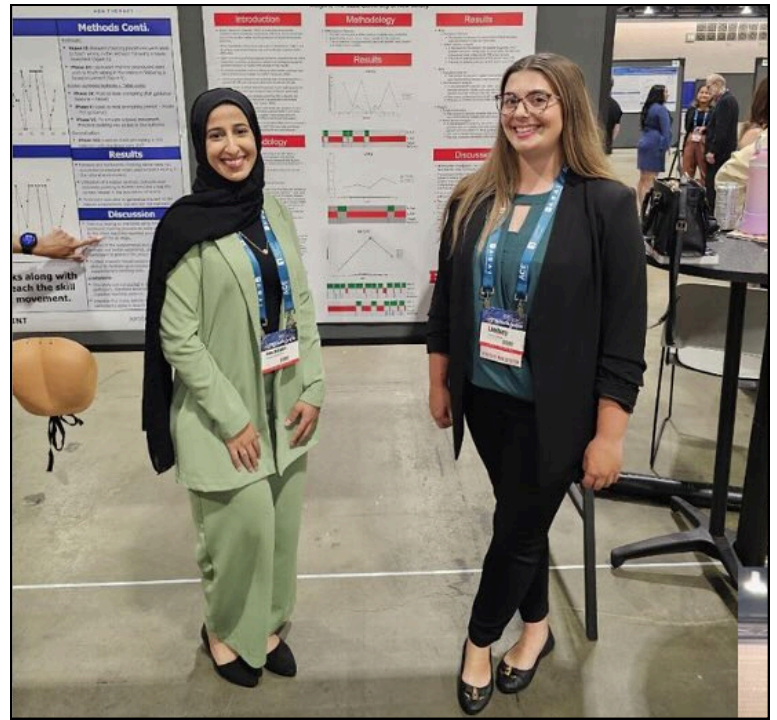
"GSAPP's MABA Program prepared me by providing numerous chances to engage in research, offer direct service, and assume leadership roles. My practicum experience at the DDDC's Adult Program, under the supervision of Jenna Budge, Ed.D, LSW, BCBA, offered abundant learning opportunities and practical application across diverse settings. Additionally, collaborating on my thesis with Dr. Daniel Mitteer, BCBA-D, and Dr. Brian Greer, BCBA-D from the Rutgers Center for Autism Research, Education, and Services (RUCARES), enabled me to greatly improve my proficiency in data analysis and precision."

Arielle has been admitted to the Ph.D. Program in applied behavior analysis at the University of Florida, where she will study under the supervision of Dr. Timothy Vollmer. We wish you all the best, Arielle!





Training at the DDDC provides graduate students the opportunity to participate in valuable clinical research and to share those results with the professional community.



Spotlight on Donors

Thank you to the 32 donors who supported the SHARE Program this year! You helped us exceed our goal!

Mr. James Baron

Mrs. Bonnie Bertino

Mr. Joseph Bertino

Ms. Shelley Bertino

Ms. Marlene P. Brown

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Ms. Vaniece Eleby Dixon

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Ms. Catriona B. Francis

Ms. Angely Francisco

Dr. Lara D. Gatley

Dr. Ariana Ijaduola

Ms. Ariel Ijaduola

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Dr. Robert W. Isenhower

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Dr. Christopher J. Manente

Mrs. Lindsay M. Manente

Mr. CJ John Olegario

Dr. Debra Paone

Mr. Yigal Rechtman

Mr. Glenn Roemmich

Ms. Donna L. Sloan

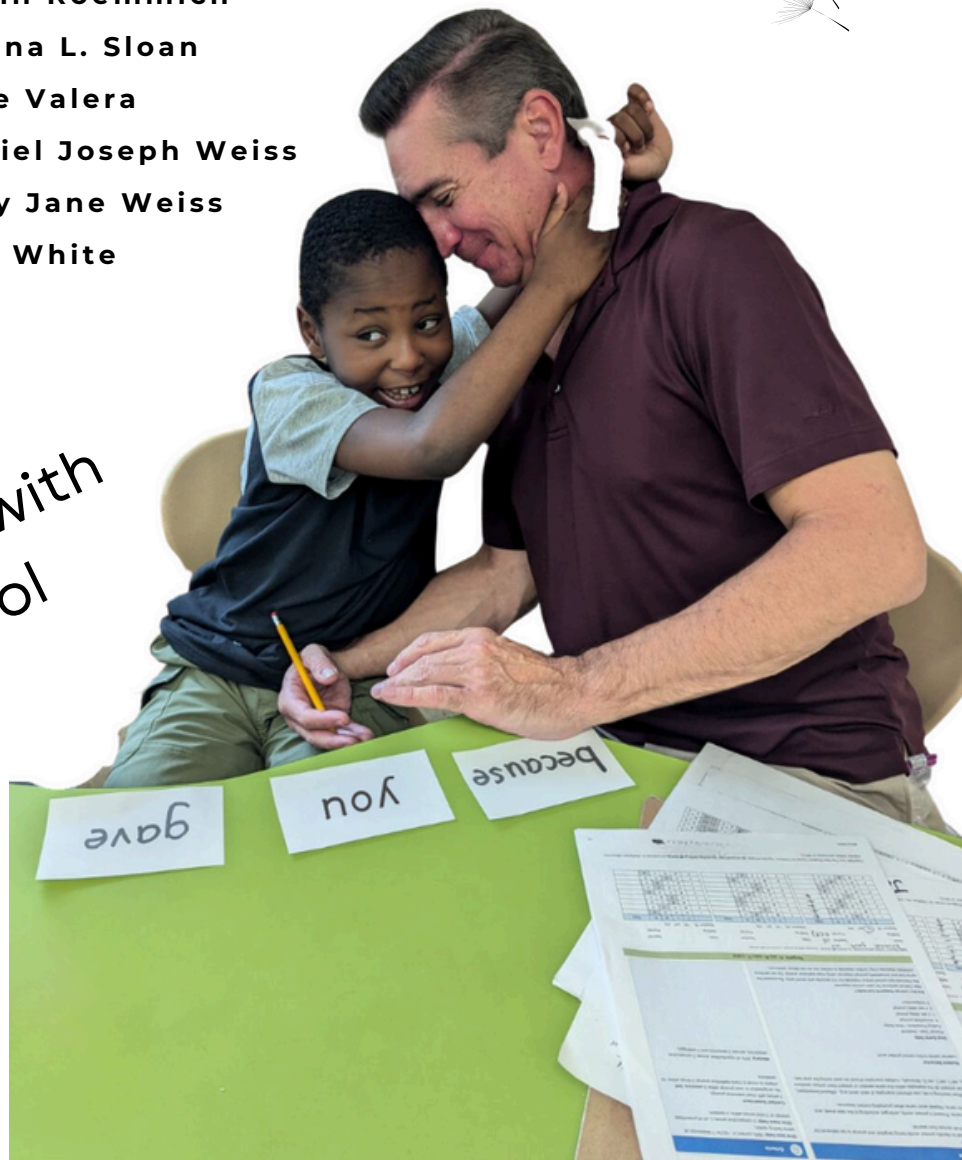
Mr. Jake Valera

Mr. Daniel Joseph Weiss

Dr. Mary Jane Weiss

Dr. Erin White

Thank You
for helping us partner with
underserved school
communities!



Spotlight on Donors

We are very grateful for the 140 donors who supported our work at the DDDC this year!

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DiLeo Family Foundation
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Mr. Kevin A. Lyons

Ms. Dawn Madia

Dr. Christopher J. Manente

Spotlight on Donors

We couldn't do it without you!

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Ms. Huimin Zhang
Ms. Alexis M. Zimmerlink
Mr. Enzo M. Zoroni
Mrs. Sophia D. Zoroni



Thank
you!



Spotlight on our Supporters

The recipient of this year's DDDC **Community Partnership Award** is Pasquale Brick Oven Pizza. Pasquale Pizza was nominated for this award by Lindsey Cicaese, a Classroom Assistant in the school program, and at the time of the nomination, an acting Team Leader in our adult program. In her nomination, Lindsay shared the following:

“Pasquale Pizza goes above and beyond to make our adults comfortable and happy while out to eat. The staff are kind and patient with our learners and always accommodate any needs we may have. The staff treat our individuals like human beings, with sensitivity and kindness, which is unfortunately hard to come by in the community.”

2024 Community Partnership Award Recipient

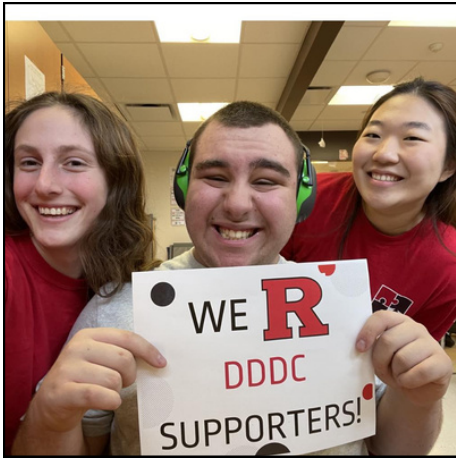
PASQUALE
• BRICK OVEN PIZZA •

120 Ryders Lane
Milltown, NJ 08850

pasqualebrickoven.com



Spotlight on our Supporters



“

I SUPPORT THE
DDDC BECAUSE...

“they provided information and training that have had a profound impact on our son Michael’s life and our family as a whole. I admire the dedication I’ve seen in the teaching staff and the true caring they have shown our family.”

Cathy A. (parent)

”

“

I SUPPORT THE
DDDC BECAUSE...

“they have been a rock-solid part of my son, Zach’s, life for 34 years. The staff are amazing and so supportive. No challenge is too great. They have been everything to Zach and me.”

Christine C. (parent)

”





As featured in *Rutgers Today*

→ PEOPLE OF RUTGERS

ANTONIO HORN

SERVING ADULTS WITH AUTISM BY IMPLEMENTING AND ASSISTING IN THE COORDINATION OF EDUCATIONAL, TRANSITIONAL, VOCATIONAL AND LIFE-RELEVANT PROGRAMMING AT THE DOUGLASS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES CENTER FOR THE LAST 19 YEARS!



DDDC Leadership



Arpana G. Inman

Dean and Distinguished Professor,
Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology
Ph.D., ABPP



Lara Delmolino Gatley

ASSOCIATE DEAN & CLINICAL PROFESSOR, GSAPP
DIRECTOR, GSAPP'S APPLIED AND ACADEMIC AUTISM SERVICES,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DDDC
Ph.D.



Catriona Francis

DIRECTOR OF THE DDDC
Ed. M, BCBA



Debra Paone

DIRECTOR OF TRAINING AND CONSULTATION
CO-DIRECTOR OF SHARE
Ph.D., BCBA-D



Robert LaRue

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Ph.D., BCBA-D



Robert Isenhower

ASSOCIATE TEACHING PROFESSOR,
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Ph.D., BCBA-D



Rachel Davis

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF CLINICAL PRACTICE
Ed.M., LDT-C, BCBA



Marlene Brown

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF CONSULTATION
CO-DIRECTOR OF SHARE
M.S., BCBA, LBA (NY)



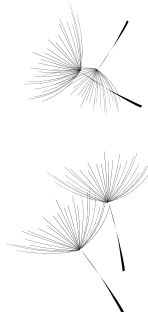
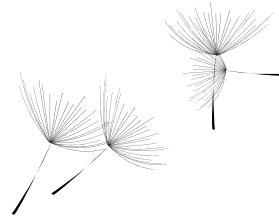
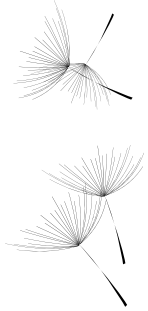
Sarah LeVine

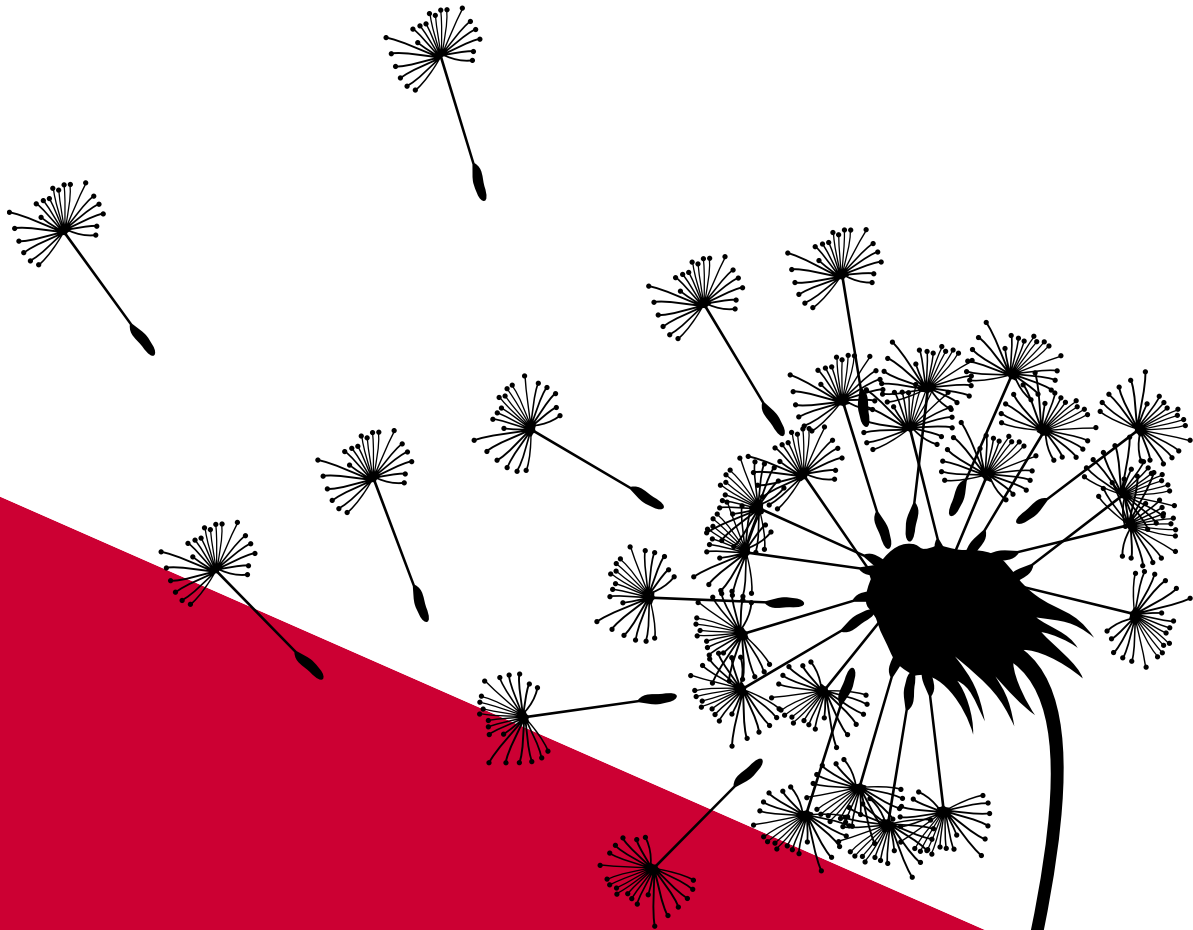
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M.A, M.Ed, CCC-SLP, BCBA



Donna L. Sloan

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DOUGLASS SCHOOL
AND ADULT PROGRAMS
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