

Our PENT Forum 2015 Leaders



Valerie Johnson, Psy.D.

Director, School Psychologist
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Valerie Johnson is the Director at the Diagnostic Center, Southern California. She holds a Psy.D. in School Psychology from Alliant International University. Valerie has worked as a general education teacher and a school psychologist in school districts throughout Southern California, and has taught graduate level courses in school psychology. Valerie has had extensive experience working with culturally diverse populations and has worked with special needs students of all ages.



Deborah Holt, M.A.

PENT Co-Founder, Project Manager
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Deborah Holt has served students with all disabilities and their families and educators for 35 years, the majority of those years as an administrator. She spent ten years as Assistant Superintendent and Principal of the Diagnostic Center's former residential assessment center and 15 years as Director of the Center. During that time she had the privilege of leading teams to deliver topnotch assessment and training services throughout southern California. She served on numerous statewide committees, lending her expertise and perspective regarding staff development and quality educational programming for student with disabilities. While she now spends much of her time traveling with her husband, both abroad and around the country in their motorhome, she is pleased to be back as Consulting PENT Project Manager.



Diana Browning Wright, M.S., L.E.P.

PENT Co-Founder, Consulting PENT Director
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Diana Browning Wright is a nationally renowned educator on topics related to behavior, assessment, intervention planning, responding to student threats of violence, effective teaching, behavioral RTI and effective classrooms for students with emotional/behavioral disorders. She has been nationally recognized for her work and regularly publishes articles on her research. She is on the faculty of the LRP national special education legal conventions.

Diana is the former lead author for four editions of California Department of Education's *Positive Interventions for Serious Behavior Problems*, the manual on functional analysis assessment and interventions required by California Ed Code prior to AB. 86's revocation of some elements of the "Hughes Bill" and implementing regulations.

Diana enjoys working with diverse school faculties and systems across the nation to achieve high outcomes for all students. She has taught and/or assessed students at all grade levels-preschool through graduate school and enjoys consulting on difficult systemic and behavioral issues. Her passion is sustaining reform efforts, building Communities of Practice, assessment linked to interventions, effective differentiated instruction, solving systemic barriers and resolving challenging behavior problems. Her most current research is in collaboration with Dr. Clayton R. Cook, University of Washington, on behavioral RtI, and most recently involves methods of addressing belief barriers to system change.

Diana is the author or co-author of multiple PENT Publications, including BIP-QE II, BIP Desk Reference, and many articles and books for LRP Publications, www.shoplrp.com. Her most recently published book on traumatic brain injury and necessary behavioral and academic supports is available through www.shoplrp.com.



Elena Alvarez, M.A.

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School Psychologist
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Elena Alvarez obtained her PPS credential at CSULB. She works for the Placentia-Yorba Linda Unified School District as a school psychologist. She has serviced students ranging from preschool to high school level with a variety of disabilities. She has provided training across the state on assessment of language minority students. She has also provided training on behavior, classroom management, as well as assessment and IEP development in PYLUSD.



Vira Caro-Michel, M.S., LEP, BCBA

PENT Leadership Team
School Psychologist/Behavior Interventionist
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Vira Caro-Michel, M.S., LEP, BCBA has been an educator for 20 years, in an array of capacities such as Paraeducator, Special Education Assessment Team Assistant, Inclusion Facilitator/Special Education Teacher, School Psychologist, and is currently working at the WACSEP SELPA as a Behavior Interventionist-BCBA. She is actively involved in developing and supporting behaviorally based programs within her SELPA, and conducting trainings for general and special education staff. In the continued quest to support individuals with disabilities she often finds herself in the classrooms directly supporting children and staff members. Her passion for teaching has led her to California State University Los Angeles where she is an adjunct faculty member for the Counseling/Special Education department. Vira is constantly seeking creative ways to foster a dynamic learning environment and to promote individualization to assure that every student reaches his/her potential.



Karen Coleman, LCSW

PENT Leadership Team
Licensed Clinical Social Worker/
Coordinator, School-Based Mental Health Services
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Karen Coleman is the Coordinator of School-Based Mental Health Services at Stockton Unified School District SELPA. She received her Master's in Social Work in 1992, became licensed as a Clinical Social Worker in 1996, and went back to get her PPS Credential in School Social Work in 2010. She has been working for Stockton Unified School District for the last five years, previously as a Behavior Support Chairperson and currently as the Coordinator of School-Based Mental Health Services. Prior to her hire at SUSD, Karen was in private practice and worked as a consultant for several school districts providing district-level and site-based consultation and staff development programs in the areas of School-wide Positive Behavioral Support and Individual Behavior Support Planning for students. Prior to her work with SUSD, she was a Chief Mental Health Clinician/Program Manager for School-Based Mental Health Services for San Joaquin County Mental Health Children & Youth Services. She has been working in the field for over 23 years and a PENT Cadre member for seven years.



Clinton Eatmon, M.A.

PENT Leadership Team
Behavior Intervention Specialist
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Clinton Eatmon earned his BA with a Single Subject teaching credential and his MA with Special Education Learning Handicapped and Severely Handicapped teaching credentials from the University of the Pacific. While earning his MA, he worked as a Program Assistant at the Children's Home of Stockton Educational Program in a Behavior Change class for SED elementary age students. Clint's first teaching position (5 years) involved developing and implementing Special Education Behavior Change classes for SED adolescents at North Valley School/Regional Youth Services (RYS) formerly North Valley School/Regional Adolescent Treatment Program (RATP).

For 28 years, Clint has taught various classes for SJCOE; 2 years in an Early Identification preschool program, 6 years in Behavior Change Classes for ED students in grades K-8, and 8 years in Adolescent Day Treatment classes for ED students in grades 7-12. During this time he was an on-going member of the Behavior Committee for 5 years, a Mentor Teacher for 5 years, a trainer of Management of Assaultive Behavior (MAB) for 20 years, and a part-time Behavior Intervention Specialist (BIS) for 3 years. He was also a Program Administrator for 3 years. Currently he is a full-time BIS focusing on training and supporting teachers in the development and implementation of behavior intervention plans (BIPs), conducting functional behavior assessments (FBAs), providing teacher support in positive classroom management, and training trainers of MAB.



Ann England, M.A., CCC-SLP-L

PENT Leadership Team
Speech-Language Pathologist, Assistant Director
Diagnostic Center, Northern California
Leader of CAPTAIN (CA Autism Professional Training and Information Network)
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Ann England received her M.A. in Communicative Disorders and has a Clinical Rehabilitative Services Credential, Administrative Services Credential, Certificate of Clinical Competence in Speech and Language (CCC-SLP), and is licensed by the State of California Speech Pathology Board. In addition to being the Assistant Director at the Diagnostic Center, Northern California, CDE, Ann provides trainings to staff throughout northern California in the areas of Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, positive behavior supports and Common Core State Standards. She also consults with school district administrators and teaching teams as part of system change projects to develop evidence-based public school programs for students with special needs, especially those with an ASD and Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. Ann has served on several California Department of Education committees related to ASD and developmental disabilities including the Task Force on Education and Professional Development of The Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism and most recently, the **Behavioral Intervention Plans (BIP) Stakeholder Workgroup** to provide oversight of, and technical assistance and monitoring to, LEAs regarding changes to the requirements related to the identification and provision of behavioral intervention services included in AB 86. Ann is also a leader of CAPTAIN, an interagency ASD group that has developed a system of statewide professional development and technical assistance to promote the use of evidence-based practices for individuals with ASD and early identification of ASD in California.



Bruce M. Gale, Ph.D.

PENT Leadership Team
Clinical Psychologist (PSY10598)
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Bruce M. Gale, Ph.D. (bgalephd.com) received his undergraduate degree from UCLA and Masters/Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Florida State University. He completed his internship and advanced training at Boston Children's Hospital while a Fellow at Harvard Medical School, Department of Psychiatry. Dr. Gale is former Chief Psychologist of the Division of Inpatient Psychiatry at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and previously taught Abnormal Psychology at American Jewish University. Presently, he functions as an Independent Educational Evaluator conducting psychoeducational and functional behavioral assessments for approximately 50 school districts in the Southern California area. He is also the developer and director of LUNCH Groups® (lunchgroups.com), a trans-diagnostic empirically-supported social skills treatment program serving approximately 80 families for students and adults with internalizing and externalizing challenges. He is currently working on a training manual for both parents and clinicians based upon experiences gained during the past 13 years running the program.

Through his company, BehaviorTech Solutions (behaviortech.net), Dr. Gale presents locally and nationally on methods, including technology integration, involving assessment and treatment with students and parents. He is the developer of Rapid Screener®, an interactive social-emotional behavior assessment tool that allows multiple raters to report on student functioning. Dr. Gale is an American Psychological Association (APA) approved sponsor of Continuing Education for Psychologists and also provides CE credits through the California BBS for related professions. Dr. Gale is Chair for Division VI on Media Technology and Communication of the California Psychological Association ([click here](#)).



Scott Gutentag, Ph.D.

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Scott Gutentag is a school psychologist at the Diagnostic Center, Southern California. He holds a Ph.D. in School Psychology with a specialization in Clinical Child Psychology from The Ohio State University. As a licensed educational psychologist, Scott holds the National Certification for School Psychology from the National Association of School Psychologists. Scott has provided psychological services in a variety of settings including schools, behavioral clinics, treatment programs, and hospitals. Additionally, he has taught undergraduate and graduate level university courses in psychology at several institutions. Scott has a particular interest in the assessment and provision of behavior supports for children with developmental disabilities and challenging behaviors.



Denise Keller, M.A., BCBA

PENT Leadership Team
Co-Author, PENT Publication: BIP Desk Reference
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Denise received her Master's Degree in Counseling from Sonoma State University in 1994 and her BCBA in 2004 following completion of coursework through the University of North Texas in behavior analysis. She has worked as a behavior specialist for the Mendocino County Office of Education/SELPA since 2001 and her duties include developing and conducting training for school site personnel in functional behavioral assessment, behavioral support and intervention strategies and the development and implementation of positive behavior intervention plans. She also provides consultation and training on Applied Behavior Analysis, autism, Evidence Based Practices for autism, School Wide PBIS, functional analysis, and is certified as a ProACT trainer. To support her work bringing Evidence Based Practices for ASD to Mendocino County, she became a C.A.P.T.A.I.N. cadre member (California Autism Professional Training and Information Network) at its' inception in 2013. Denise serves on MCOE's assistive technology panel and is the lead on the Mendocino Autism Resource Team. Denise has also worked as a behavior consultant/analyst for NPAs for 20 years and currently takes cases for Aptitude Habilitation Services, providing home based early intervention programs to families of children with ASD. With her colleagues, Denise is currently working on the development of evidence based programs for students with emotional disturbance.



Luis Mendez, M.A., BCBA

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Luis Mendez is a School Psychologist at the Diagnostic Center, Southern California. He earned his M.A. from the University of California, Riverside, is a Board Certified Behavior Analyst, and is a Certified Nonviolent Crisis Intervention® Instructor. Since 1997, Luis has worked for various non-public and educational agencies to develop and/or implement behavior interventions for students with emotional and behavioral disorders and developmental disabilities across home, school, and community settings. Presently, as a member of the Diagnostic Center’s assessment team, Luis is responsible for analyzing behavior and developing intervention recommendations for students with challenging and maladaptive behaviors. He also works with various school districts in southern California on projects related to best practices in psychoeducational assessment.



Rebecca Peck, M.A.

PENT Leadership Team
Behavior Intervention Specialist
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Rebecca has been a behavior intervention specialist for 14 years, and currently works in the Livermore School District. She has a graduate degree in applied behavior analysis from the University of North Texas, a master’s degree in special education from Kingston University, England and a bachelor’s degree in English secondary education from Concordia College. As a behavior intervention specialist, Rebecca provides consultation and training to teachers in positive behavior support, assesses individual students and designs behavior intervention plans to meet their individual needs in addition to providing both direct and consultative support to students. As a certified CPI instructor, Rebecca also provides training to staff in the area of nonviolent crisis intervention. She has also worked as a special day class teacher in public and non-public schools, while teaching in California and in England. She enjoys many aspects of her work, but is particularly interested in working with staff and parents to help students with challenging behaviors.



Martha Schultz, M.Ed.

PENT Leadership Team
Director
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Martha Schultz received her B.A. in Psychology from the University of the Pacific and her M.Ed. in Special Education from the University of Arizona. Both of these programs had a strong focus on Applied Behavior Analysis. During her 37 years working in the field of special education, she has taught elementary-aged students with mild/moderate disabilities and high school students with severe disabilities and has also designed the parent component in a program for at-risk preschoolers. In her

work in both public and nonpublic settings, she gained extensive experience analyzing challenging behaviors and designing positive behavior intervention plans to address these behaviors.

Martha served for fourteen years as the Program Specialist for the North Region SELPA, conducting behavior assessments and working with teams to design and monitor positive behavior intervention plans. She has conducted many workshops in behavior assessment, classroom management, behavior support planning, and Nonviolent Crisis Intervention (“CPI”) as well as supervised student teachers in the moderate/severe credential program at San Jose State University.

Currently, Martha is the Director of the North Region SELPA, and although the position is primarily administrative, she continues to be passionate about the positive impact that thoughtful, well-designed (and doable!) behavior plans can have on children’s lives. One of the most rewarding activities in her current job is meeting with the Behavior Specialists from the five SELPA school districts to discuss research, areas of expertise, and to problem-solve challenges they encounter in their jobs. She has participated in PENT since its inception, and is excited about being on the PENT leadership team.



Sandy Smith, M.A., LEP, BCBA

PENT Leadership Team
School Psychologist
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Sandy Smith is a School Psychologist with the Ventura County Office of Education, She received her PPS credential from UCLA, is a Licensed Educational Psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Sandy has extensive experience in educational programming and behavior intervention strategies for children with moderate to severe disabilities, including multiple handicaps and autism. In addition, she provides in home behavioral support and completes developmental assessments for Regional Center Early Start programming. Sandy was presented with the Meritorious School Psychologist Award by the Ventura County Association for School Psychologists in 2009. She is also a Ventura County SELPA Positive Behavior Intervention trainer and has been a member of the PENT Cadre since its beginning.



Vanessa Smith, M.A., BCBA

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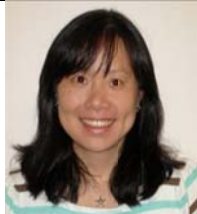
Vanessa Smith is an educational specialist at the Diagnostic Center, Southern California. She holds an M.A. in Special Education, and is also a Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Since 1999, Vanessa has worked with individuals with developmental disabilities across home, school, and community settings. She has expertise in autism, applied behavior analysis, programming for students with moderate to severe disabilities, and positive behavioral interventions. Vanessa has served as a state trainer with the National Professional Development Center to implement evidence-based practices for students with autism spectrum disorders. She is currently a member of the PENT Leadership Team, the California Association of Behavior Analysis, and the Association for Behavior Analysis International. She is also a state leader for the California Autism Professional Training and Information Network.



Rebecca Valero, M.A., NCSP, LEP

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Rebecca Valero is a Licensed Educational Psychologist currently in her fourth year site-based at a middle/high school in West Contra Costa Unified School District providing psychological assessment and services. Additionally, she teaches a beginning and advanced course on classroom and behavior management to graduate School Psychology students at Alliant University. Previously, Rebecca worked for WCCUSD as an autism and behavior specialist for twelve years in which she established and maintained the district's thirteen ASD programs. She provided monthly training for the ASD teachers and paraprofessionals in the area of autism and behavior management. Rebecca has worked privately as an autism consultant and provided seminars as well as guest lectured at SF State and CSU East Bay on the topic of ASD and behavior management. Rebecca continues to provide ongoing Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Trainings, CPI, for the district.



Cindy Wong, M.S., BCBA

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Cindy Wong received her Masters in School Psychology from CSULA in 2003. She has worked in LAUSD as a classroom teacher in both special and general education programs. Through her work as a consultant with LACOE she helped develop *Teaching Alternative Behaviors Schoolwide: A Resource Guide To Prevent Discipline Problems*, and provided training on behavior and classroom management. Cindy is a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and Board Certified Behavior Analyst. Cindy worked at the Diagnostic Center in Southern California where her skills in behavior analysis and psychological assessment were used to assess students, consult with parents, and help school districts better understand the needs of diverse learners. Currently, Cindy is working in South Pasadena Unified as the School Psychologist for the intensive SELPA program for students with an emotional disturbance.