

Keynote Speaker: Alexander Kimmel, "The Self-Determinator"

Session Title: Moving From Awareness to Acceptance: Celebrate Neurodiversity

Speaker Bio:

Alexander Kimmel is not just a national speaker, he is an individual with first hand, lived experience as an individual who navigates his daily through the lens of an autistic individual. As an experienced trainer and presenter on key issues such as inclusion, disability acceptance, neurodiversity, the culture of gentleness, self-direction, and autism since 2006, Alex has educated students, professionals, and communities locally, nationally, and internationally.

Alex is the recipient of the 2023 Jane Vermeullen Leadership State Award from the Michigan Developmental Disabilities Institute, at Wayne State University, for his outstanding work in self-determination and advocacy.

Alex is honored to have been selected as the featured presenter for the By, With and For Autistic Adults "LAUNCH You!" Life Leadership course. Alex lays the foundation for attendees in this course for an autistic-led think-tank on development of self-determination skills and goal attainment through an autistic lens.

Session Description: Moving From Awareness to Acceptance: Celebrate Neurodiversity!

Awareness campaigns are passe. Acceptance is where trust is present and success can thrive! Moving away from awareness to acceptance moves us from talk to actions. Neurodiversity is the acceptance and celebration of those that operate other than what most of the world considers to be "normal". Recognizing and prioritizing individuals and their personalized needs allow for self-determination to take root and grow.

This session focuses on moving beyond awareness to true acceptance of neurodiversity, embracing and celebrating individual differences. Alexander Kimmel will engage participants with interactive discussions on identity-first language, self-determination, personalized needs, social norms, and neurodiversity, all through the lens of autism. The workshop incorporates humor, video clips, and participant involvement, making it an engaging and impactful experience.

Join Alex, aka "The Self-Determinator" in this workshop suitable for all levels of experience. Time is embedded in the session for self-reflection and discussion on the role of norms, acceptance, autistic neurology and, of course, self-determination. The workshop is interactive with participant involvement, humor, video clips and take homes you can put into practice on day one after the conference!

Alex has also graciously agreed to provide this breakout session in addition to being our Keynote.

Objectives:

1. Audience will compare and contrast their definition of self-determination with other attendees
2. Attendees will name the 4 Pillars of Culture of Gentleness Philosophy

3. Participants will differentiate between person-first and identity first language

Alex's accomplishments far exceed this limited space. You can learn more about his impactful work below.

Website: www.alexkimmel.com

Learn More: [By, With and For Autistic Adults](#)