

TOOLS FOR THE JOURNEY



Saturday, February 28, 2026

9:00AM-5:00PM

Registration/breakfast begins at 8:30am



Location: 539 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101
(Pasadena Covenant Church)

- **Check in/breakfast: 8:30AM**
- **Keynote Speaker, Savanna Flakes: 9:00AM**

Cost:

- Member (1 day)= \$350
- Non-member (1 day)= \$450

This conference is open to ALL, and is NOT disability specific.



Join educators and families at the 2026 Tools for the Journey Conference where attendees will receive education and tools for supporting individuals with Down syndrome and other disabilities following best practice methods for the classroom, community, and beyond. We will host presenters from all over the country and they will share their expertise and innovative, research-based strategies on a variety of topics across all ages and stages.

*Register
here:*



**This conference is
VENDORED:
#PD2655**

*Come enjoy breakfast at 8:30AM before sessions begin.
Catered by Geschenk Fare (Vegetarian & Gluten Free Option available)*



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Keynote
Speaker

Savanna Flakes

9:00-10:00AM



Session 1: 10:15 - 11:30AM

	Advocacy	Education	Inclusion	Beyond School	Dual Diagnosis
Kelly Kulzer & Cindy Liu- "State of the State"- Small action steps & include how to access your representatives (SANCTUARY)					
Dr. Destiny Huff- Advocating for Disabled Learners as an Educator (GATHERING PLACE)					
Marisol Martinez, EdD- Dissertation inclusion research- What Parents Need to Learn to be Inclusion Advocates for their Child (GYM)					

Session 2: 11:45AM - 1:00PM

Vivian Do- Understanding Supported Decision Making (SANCTUARY)					
Liv Meriano- Uniquely Our Own: The Communication Profile of Autism and Down Syndrome (GATHERING PLACE)					
Dr. Katie Frank- Use of Visuals to Support Independence (GYM)					

LUNCH: 1:00 - 2:00PM

THEMES:

-  - Advocacy: Featuring speakers and topics that will help you enhance and develop you and your child's advocacy skills
-  - Education: Featuring speakers and topics that will support your skills as an educator supporting students
-  - Inclusion: Featuring speakers and topics that will highlight inclusive efforts in schools and the community
-  - Beyond School: Featuring speakers and topics that will support you and your child now and in the future
-  - Dual Diagnosis: Featuring speakers and topics that will address the profile of individuals with dual diagnoses of autism and Down syndrome/ Intellectual/Developmental Disability

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Session 3: 2:00 - 3:15PM

	Advocacy	Education	Inclusion	Beyond School	Dual Diagnosis
Dr. Destiny Huff- <i>Managing Caregiver Mental Wellness During the IEP Process</i> (SANCTUARY)					
Breea Rosas- <i>Elevating Support: Integrating Neurodiversity Affirming Practices as the New Best Practice</i> (GATHERING PLACE)					
Audry & Jeremy- <i>Life by Design: Creating the Future You Imagine</i> (GYM)					

TEA TIME: 3:15 - 3:45PM

Session 4: 3:45 - 5:00PM

Dr. Katie Frank- <i>Cultivating Effective Social Skills for Successful Community Participation</i> (SANCTUARY)					
Liv Meriano- <i>Dual Diagnosis Facilitated Parent Forum</i> (GATHERING PLACE)					
Dr. Annika Soderfelt- <i>Not Always Happy: The Mental Health and Wellness of Individuals with Down Syndrome</i> (GYM)					

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