

## November 8, 2014 MCGT Conference Presentation Proposals

### KEYNOTE:

#### **Out of our Minds and Into our Hearts: Nurturing the Social Emotional Needs of Our Gifted Children – Lori Comallie-Caplan**

Let's talk about nurturing our gifted children. Encourage their complex thinking and sensitivity, for one moment they will be pondering the physical properties of the sun and the next they will be shedding silent tears over the beauty of the sunset. Understand their perfectionism and their idealism, for there will be times of confidence and there will be times of self-doubt. Support their intensity, for it will bring great disappointment, but it will also bring great joy. But, most important, listen, listen, listen. And then say, "must instead of mustn't, and do instead of don't, should instead of shouldn't and will instead of won't, then his future he will see, that anything can be!" (adapted from a poem by Shel Silverstein).

**Lori Comallie-Caplan** is a New Mexico Licensed Master Social Worker, a Licensed Educational Diagnostician with a Masters Degree in Psychological Counseling. Additionally she holds Advanced Certification for Mediation from the University of New Mexico School of Law. Mrs. Comallie-Caplan has 30 plus years of experience in the field of counseling, coaching evaluation, mediation and educational consultation. She is best known for her work with gifted individuals through the lifespan and frequently provides professional development for school districts and mental health professionals in the social emotional needs of the gifted. Other areas of expertise include behavioral consultation for Autism Spectrum Disorders and the supporting of positive parenting through behavioral analysis and intervention. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers, National Association of Gifted Children, and SENG (Supporting Emotional Needs of the Gifted). She served on the Executive Board of SENG as Secretary, President-Elect and President. Mrs. Comallie Caplan's additional certifications include: Discovering Your Sacred Gifts Facilitator and Guide, Frasier Talent Assessment Profile Evaluator, SENG Model Parent Group Master Facilitator, SENG Model Parent Group Facilitator Trainer.

### BREAKOUT SESSIONS:

#### **A Cure for the Common Core – Stephen Schroeder-Davis**

In this session we will critique the current educational mantras of "college and career ready," "the world's best work force", and the "common core." We will then contrast the assumptions underlying these dictates with what (gifted) children actually need to thrive in school and beyond.

**Dr. Stephen Schroeder-Davis** has coordinated gifted programs for Elk River Schools for 34 years and teaches gifted certification courses for Saint Mary's University.

#### **A Parent's Guide to Service Models for Gifted Kids – Wendy Behrens**

Pull-out programs, once the main stay of gifted education services, are no longer the predominant or preferred method for providing services to gifted learners. Research indicates that service models relying solely on student assignment to a resource room once or twice a week rarely provide the level of support required to motivate and engage students for the remainder of the school week. Cluster grouping, push-in services, accelerated classes, online learning, total school-wide cluster grouping, talent development and full-time options are growing in popularity. In this session we'll take a look at several models and their potential to gifted learners 24/7.

**Wendy Behrens** serves as the Gifted and Talented Education Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education, providing leadership and consultation services for educators, administrators, and parents. She provides technical assistance to and collaborates with institutions of higher education, professional organizations, educator networks, and others interested in promoting rigorous educational opportunities.

#### **Attentional Needs through the Years: Student Reflections on their Progress and Remaining Challenges – Terry Friedrichs, Tristan Witthuhn, and Matt Mortensen**

As they look back on their schooling, gifted students with ADHD often are astute observers along several

fronts: a) how their skills improved, b) how educators, parents, and the students themselves helped improve their performance, and c) what competencies that the youth still must improve. In this session, Dr. Friedrichs reports research on such reflections from gifted ADHD elementary students, while Tristan Witthuhn and Matt Mortensen, respectively, offer their own insights from senior-high and middle-school perspectives.

**Terry Friedrichs**, Ph.D., Ed.D., for nearly four decades has taught a wide range of gifted and twice-exceptional pupils in kindergarten through graduate school, including those with attentional needs and a wide range of skills such as the mechanics, grammar, and composition of writing. He has also instructed parents and educators of his students on how to improve those skill competencies.

**Tristan Witthuhn**, a grade 12 PSEO student, excels at science, leadership, and lacrosse.

**Matt Mortensen** is a ninth grader skilled at math and fishing.

### **Conversation with Lori Comallie-Caplan**

Join Lori Comallie-Caplan for an informal question and answer session. This will be an opportunity to seek additional information on topics from earlier presentations or to ask other pertinent questions of our keynoter.

### **Different and Underserved: How Can We Support ALL of Our Gifted Youth? – Teresa Manzella**

Gifted youth come from all backgrounds, but they don't all get identified or get the services they need to make the most of their potential. This session is intended to start a conversation and do some brainstorming on what we, as individuals and as members of this organization, can do to expand our reach and welcome diverse gifted kids. Underserved groups (2E, GLBTQ, children of color, lower SES, and others) and common advocacy strategies will be discussed. Come prepared to share ideas and resources!

**Teresa Manzella** is Gifted Youth Coordinator for MN Mensa, a founding member of the NAGC GLBTQ Special Interest Group, a member of the American Mensa National Gifted Youth Committee, and she works on addressing needs of underserved youth within MCGT. She holds a Master of Liberal Studies degree, which focuses on advocating for typically underserved gifted youth.

### **Expanding Educational Options: Individual Advocacy – Joe Wenc**

Being an effective advocate for your gifted child is often challenging, and typically requires significant planning, time and effort. The work, however, is worth it. This breakout session will focus on identifying your child's educational priorities, effective strategies for collaborating with the school, successful communication techniques and tips on how to overcome obstacles to advocacy. There will be time for discussion, exchange of practical ideas and problem solving.

**Joe Wenc** is former President (2009-2012) and current Leadership Team member of the Eden Prairie Parent Group of MCGT. As a parent, he has successfully advocated for subject and grade acceleration for his children. He has also advocated for district level changes by serving on multiple committees in the Eden Prairie school district (Strategic Planning Committee, GT Services Review Task Force, Full Time GT Program Committee).

### **From Bud to Bloom: Nurturing the Social Emotional Needs of Gifted Adults – Lori Comallie-Caplan**

Some adults, who were identified as gifted children, now believe their special abilities have somehow expired. Some gifted adults were never appropriately identified as gifted or educated about what giftedness means. These adults may suffer from anxiety, depression or relationship problems that are unknowingly related to lack of information and support as a gifted person. Learn about the traits of gifted adults, find sources of personal power and love your new self-awareness.

### **Gifted Children and Sensory Processing What's the connection and how do we help? – Sarah Biers**

This presentation will help parents and professionals gain a better understanding of Sensory Processing Disorders and their correlation with gifted children. Attendees will gain strategies they can use to help children dealing with Sensory Processing Disorders manage their sensory worlds and modify the behaviors that can result from inefficient sensory processing.

**Sarah Biers** is the lead occupational therapist with Family Speech & Therapy Services. Sarah has been working in the pediatric field for over 11 years specializing in the treatment of children with Sensory Processing Disorders. Sarah is passionate about helping families through their journey of raising children who process

sensory information differently.

### **Grade Level Acceleration: When, Why and How? – Wendy Behrens**

Acceleration is an intervention that allows students to move through the K-12 educational system at a faster or earlier rate than typical. Research documents the potential academic benefits and positive outcomes of all forms of appropriately implemented acceleration strategies for intellectually gifted and academically talented learners. Minnesota is one of several states that provide acceleration options at each stage of development in a child's educational program from early entrance to kindergarten through early college entry. In this session we'll review relevant legislation and discuss factors that may influence timing and grade-level acceleration decisions for Minnesota schools and families.

**Wendy Behrens** serves as the Gifted and Talented Education Specialist for the Minnesota Department of Education, providing leadership and consultation services for educators, administrators, and parents. She provides technical assistance to and collaborates with institutions of higher education, professional organizations, educator networks, and others interested in promoting rigorous educational opportunities.

### **Helping Gifted Girls Grow Up: Tools to Navigate Adolescence and Beyond – Megan Bearce**

This session will explore the influence of giftedness on the life experiences of teenage girls and women including: perfectionism, self-esteem, hiding talents, feeling different, "should's", and relationships with family and friends. Discussion will include tips on navigating stressors, taming perfectionism, and finding school or work/life balance. Giftedness doesn't go away when one turns 18 and those same unique issues often continue into adulthood. The goal of the session is to provide tools to support both parents and their children.

**Megan Bearce**, MA, LMFT specializes in working with overwhelmed career women, stressed out "supermoms", gifted girls and super commuter couples. Megan authored *Super Commuter Couples: Staying Together When a Job Keeps You Apart*, a Midwest Book Awards finalist. She is a sought-after speaker and writer and has been quoted as an expert source for stories in many media outlets. Find more information at [meganbearce.com](http://meganbearce.com) and [supercommutercouples.com](http://supercommutercouples.com).

### **Homeschool Options and Ideas – Question & Answer Panel – Members of the Homeschoolers Chapter**

A panel of current MCGT Homeschoolers will answer general questions about homeschooling in a relaxed question and answer format. They will present the many options one has for full-time, part-time and pull-out homeschooling. They will also present a variety of general options and ideas for day to day homeschooling, such as curriculum, co-ops, field trips, activities, and yes, "socialization"! :) If you're thinking of homeschooling but still not sure, just starting to homeschool and desperately looking for a life-line, or a veteran homeschooler looking for fresh ideas, then this is the place for you! We're here to help!

#### **Panel of current MCGT Homeschooling Parents**

### **Live Brain Feedback that Controls Music Volume to Enhance Calm, Attention and Performance – Peter Meilahn**

A demonstration of why neurological biofeedback teaches clients to regulate their brains for lasting change and performance. Home tools that do biofeedback like MyndPlay will be discussed. It is used by astronauts, Olympic athletes, musicians, students, creatives and business people to increase calm attention which allows them to overcome anxiety, depression, migraines or other problems. Research studies have proven better performance and self-regulation. People can see it done or volunteer and do it themselves in this demonstration. People are encouraged since biofeedback tells them when they self regulate in enjoyable ways.

**Peter Meilahn**, MA does individual and family counseling at The Minnesota Biofeedback Clinic as well as technology consultation and art interaction development for gallery use. He works on program development for new emerging technology and clinical use, and has done research on interactive education applications as well as developing new human development models for our era.

### **Mindful Parenting Secrets: How to stop the yelling and raise good listeners**

Do power struggles and tantrums rule your family life? Learn the top 3 mindful parenting strategies from the innovative 5 Polka Dot Potion™ for less stress and more fun at home. In this interactive presentation you will discover how to avoid the triggers of tantrums and eliminate explosive behavior, motivate your gifted child for

increased cooperation and independence, and create peace at home so that being together as a family is actually fun.

**Samantha Moe**, M.A. SLP, as owner of Brightening Connections, is known for pioneering the holistic and innovative 5 Polka Dot Potion to create peace at home. She has a passion for teaching caregivers fun and practical ways to decrease stress. As a Certified Parent Coach she elevates parents to their innately expert status by teaching them how to naturally eliminate power struggles and reveal their child's happy side.

### **Mindfulness for Full Minds – Heather Boorman**

Gifted individuals regularly have multiple thoughts, plans, activities, and intensities running through their minds and bodies at any given moment. This can be a great asset, but can also lead to anxiety, existential depression, difficulty focusing, and feeling overwhelmed. In this session, we will consider common socio-emotional characteristics of gifted individuals, and the ways in which mindfulness (the art of being in the moment) can be particularly helpful to address the potential downside of these traits to bring greater acceptance, regulation, and contentment. The session will include presentation of information as well as experiential practice of mindfulness.

**Heather Boorman**, LCSW, works with children and adults in her private practice, Boorman Counseling, located in Western Wisconsin. With over 15 years experience, Heather has been particularly honored to help gifted individuals and families embrace the upsides and potential downsides of being gifted. More information at [www.boormancounseling.com](http://www.boormancounseling.com).

### **Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of the Gifted Child – Lori Comallie-Caplan**

Many gifted and talented children (and adults) are being mis-diagnosed by psychologists, psychiatrists, pediatricians, and other health care professionals. The most common mis-diagnoses are: Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Oppositional Defiant Disorder (OD), Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), and Mood Disorders such as Cyclothymic Disorder, Dysthymic Disorder, Depression, and Bi-Polar Disorder. This workshop will educate about these common mis-diagnoses and the role that specific social and emotional characteristics of gifted children play in misdiagnosis.

### **Missed Behavior and Intellectual Giftedness: When Behavior Gets in the Way – Wendi Schirvar**

Often times children are misdiagnosed as having socio-emotional or behavioral problems without knowledge of their advanced intellectual development. This session is geared to administrators and practitioners to discuss common "missed" behaviors and typical scenarios resulting when intellectual stimulation is missing. Presentation of myths that prohibit understanding this population and make serving their needs more difficult. Strategies discussed for teacher training.

**Wendi M. Schirvar**, PhD, NCSP, is a licensed and nationally certified school psychologist and the MN liaison to SENG. She has dedicated her work to understanding and supporting the emotional development of students with advanced intellect and specializes in assessment and educational consulting with gifted children and their families. She is a favorite presenter to many organizations as she grounds her light wit in current research to assist parents and practitioners.

### **Neuroscience of Learning : Helping Gifted Kids With Executive Functioning Skills – Anne Tyler**

This session will discuss the importance of developing executive functioning skills to improve the learning process for gifted kids who may lag in skills such as emotional control, impulsivity, flexible thinking, attention, working memory, organization or metacognition. The neuroscience of learning and research findings will be presented to illustrate strategies that can improve learning and executive functioning skills in daily life and school. Examples, exercises, practices, games and technology apps will be presented that can boost executive functioning skills.

**Anne Tyler (Rinkenberger)**, MS, LMFT is a family therapist practicing in St. Louis Park. She specializes in gifted children, adolescents, adults and families. She helps gifted kids with anxiety, depression, difficult life transitions, school problems, social issues, grief, executive functioning skills, family relationships and behavioral challenges. She also provides clinical pediatric self-hypnosis training and canine therapy with Sushi and Frodo.

### **New Measures of Intelligence for Gifted Children and Adults – Stuart Dansinger**

A child's IQ has been thought to be the best predictor of how well that person will do in life. However, there seem to be more critical factors than the IQ that will influence success in school, work, personal relationships, and the general activities of daily living. Tests that are considered more valuable than the IQ Test include assessments of skills in social and emotional maturity, executive function, motivation, insight and self awareness, mood and stress management, problem solving, decision making, and creative thinking. I will describe these tests and show why they should also be used to assess gifted children. Case studies will be presented and a question and answer session will follow the presentation.

**Stuart Dansinger** is a licensed psychologist and licensed school psychologist who has worked with the gifted since 1965 and has been a member of MCGT since 1968. He received MCGT awards of recognition in 1972 and 1985 and was the recipient the MCGT Friend of the Gifted in 2009.

### **Nurturing a Mathematical Gift into a Passion – Ed Zaccaro**

Research shows that thousands of hours of meaningful practice are the key to excellence in mathematics. Because of this, children who are talented in mathematics must not only progress through their curriculum at the proper pace, but also must be exposed to material that lights a fire and nurtures their gift. A failure to find mathematics challenging, interesting, or relevant are significant factors when children lose interest in mathematics. This session will give teachers and parents information that will help them nurture their students' passion for mathematics.

**Ed Zaccaro** is a popular presenter at math and gifted education conferences around the country and has approached gifted education as a parent, teacher, and school board member. His students will testify to his ability to make math fun and challenging for them as well as his unique sense of humor which comes through in his classes and workshops. Ed has taught students of all ages and abilities since 1974 and has a Masters degree in Gifted Education.

### **Parenting Preschool-Aged Gifted Children: The Facts, Fun & Fury – Wendi Schirvar**

How do you navigate these early years sanely? Learn characteristics for early identification and practical parenting strategies for dealing with emotional meltdowns, "I'm the boss", and will they ever have friends, among many other common concerns of the early years. Guided discussion with other parents to share experiences and learn new ways of working with your children and advocating for your children during early school years.

**Wendi M. Schirvar**, PhD, NCSP, is a licensed and nationally certified school psychologist and the MN liaison to SENG. She has dedicated her work to understanding and supporting the emotional development of students with advanced intellect and specializes in assessment and educational consulting with gifted children and their families. She is a favorite presenter to many organizations as she grounds her light wit in current research to assist parents and practitioners.

### **Perfectionism: Finding the Antidotes – Thomas Greenspon**

How do we encourage kids to "be all they can be," without creating perfectionists? Perfectionism is a self esteem issue, full of anxieties about whether making a mistake means you are flawed and unacceptable to others. An all-out pursuit of excellence can be vitalizing; perfectionism's added anxieties ultimately destroy that vitality. Perfectionism is not part of giftedness, though gifted kids can be vulnerable. Find out what perfectionism is, where it comes from, and how to create an antidote at home or in the classroom.

**Tom Greenspon** is a psychologist, marriage and family therapist, and author of professional articles and books. He is known locally and nationally for his work with G/T individuals, couples, and families. Tom and his wife Barbara are former Co-Presidents of the Minnesota Council for the Gifted and Talented.

### **Powerful Strategies to Enhance the Learning of Gifted and Highly Capable Students – Mitch Maguire**

This workshop explores numerous, proven strategies to reach gifted learners in challenging ways. The objective is to have participants leave with a variety of new strategies and specific ideas to help pupils become better creative and critical thinkers. A variety of successful teaching and parenting techniques will be shared. Bring your thinking caps and your funny bones.

**Mitch Maguire** is an Education Consultant who presents workshops on enhancing critical and creative thought among children of all abilities, allowing them to succeed in any arena. As a former staffer at The Late Show

with David Letterman, Mitch has seen the importance of being a creative, critical thinker in everyday life.

### **Practical Ideas for Improving Writing and Critical Thinking – Mitch Maguire**

This workshop will help teachers and parents assist their children in developing fluency in writing and thinking. Practical activities will be demonstrated that provide options for problem-solving and critical thinking. Come prepared to participate and have fun!

**Mitch Maguire** is an Education Consultant who presents workshops on enhancing critical and creative thought among children of all abilities, allowing them to succeed in any arena. As a former staffer at The Late Show with David Letterman, Mitch has seen the importance of being a creative, critical thinker in everyday life.

### **Psychological and Emotional Disorders and Gifted Children – Teresa Boatman**

Understanding psychological distress and clinical disorders has become important as more youth are identified with mental health disorders. We will look at the components of anxiety and depression and how these diagnoses relate to gifted children. Learn identification of symptoms, how to assist your child, and when is the time to refer to a professional.

**Teresa Boatman** is a licensed Psychologist specializing in gifted children and adults. Her work focuses on helping children, adults, and families find solutions in their real world situations. She is a former president of MCGT.

### **School District Level Advocacy: Lessons Learned – Joe Wenc**

Advocating for changes to gifted services at the school or district level can seem like an uphill battle. There is no silver bullet to advocacy success. Dead ends, brick walls and “the myths of giftedness” are present every step of the way. Each school district also has its own nuances and personalities. But lessons learned from other districts and communities can help to focus your efforts and avoid some pitfalls. Lessons learned from over five years of advocacy in the Eden Prairie school district will be shared.

**Joe Wenc** is former President (2009-2012) and current Leadership Team member of the Eden Prairie Parent Group of MCGT. As a parent, he has successfully advocated for subject and grade acceleration for his children. He has also advocated for district level changes by serving on multiple committees in the Eden Prairie school district (Strategic Planning Committee, GT Services Review Task Force, Full Time GT Program Committee).

### **Shaping Gifted Youth for Success: The Adults’ Role – Richard Cash**

Significant research on school and life performance suggests that just being intelligent isn’t enough to ensure success in this ever changing world. What matters more than intelligence and ability is a set of qualities such as persistence, self-control, curiosity, self-confidence, determination and resilience. These qualities, generally referred to as self-regulation, have a substantial effect on how motivated, engaged and focused the learner is toward achieving meaningful goals. This session will explain the foundations of self-regulation and how it is developed. A menu of useful and practical strategies that should be taught, reinforced and applied daily will be shared.

**Richard M. Cash**, Ed.D., is an internationally recognized expert in gifted education. As the Director of Gifted Education for the Bloomington Public Schools, he and his team developed the highly successful Elements and Dimensions Academy for Highly/Profoundly Gifted Students. Currently, Dr. Cash consults with schools throughout the US and internationally.

### **Teaching Life Skills to Gifted Children – Stuart Dansinger**

Although gifted children attend school for many years, very little time is actually devoted to actually teaching important everyday living skills that will be used their entire life. Skills such as developing relationships, relaxation, planning, stress awareness, assertiveness, communication, and goal attainment are rarely taught directly. Some parents and teachers will focus on these skills when a “teachable moment” exists, but others do not do so. As a result, most gifted students may have some life skills but lack others. In this presentation, I will discuss teaching the processes of starting at a point where the child is essentially out of touch with a certain skill until the child incorporates that skill into their regular routine. Gifted children may start out by saying they don't know anything or know only a little bit about the skill and end by valuing it highly and using it regularly. Case studies will be used and a question and answer session will follow the presentation.

**Stuart Dansinger** is a licensed psychologist and licensed school psychologist who has worked with the gifted since 1965 and has been a member of MCGT since 1968. He received MCGT awards of recognition in 1972 and 1985 and was the recipient the MCGT Friend of the Gifted in 2009.

### **The Visual-Spatial Learner: Underdog of the Gifted World – Catherine Baier**

Do you know a child that is smart, maybe even brilliant, but wonder why they can't read, write, or spell well, or why they aren't better listeners? Like Albert Einstein and Thomas Edison, they may be a Visual-Spatial Learner (VSL). We will identify characteristics of VSLs along with how special "exceptions" make these children a little more exciting to teach. Whether your child is homeschooled or in a school setting, we will talk about teaching and parenting techniques for this Upside-Down Brilliant\* child. This talk is based on the book *Upside-Down Brilliance: The Visual-Spatial Learner* by Linda Kreger Silverman, Ph. D. as well as Cathie's experience growing up as a VSL and teaching six VSLs at home.

**Catherine Baier**, speaker at numerous homeschool conferences and small groups, has home educated her six children since 2003. She develops curricula, teaches co-op classes, organizes book clubs and has a special place in her heart for home educating both gifted children and those with special needs. Additionally, Cathie developed curricula and taught classes for adults around the world on a variety of topics in the computer industry.

### **Visually-Based Approaches for Teaching Writing Skills to Elementary-Age 2E Students – Terry Friedrichs**

Several groups of twice-exceptional students benefit from learning visually-based strategies, as they strive to acquire skills in mechanics, grammar, and composition. Through pupil work samples, see how high-potential elementary-age youth with ADHD, learning disabilities, and autism spectrum disorders have all benefitted from visually-centered, research-supported practices in these writing competencies. Learn how to use circles, underlines, and color-coding to make writing simpler for, and to enhance the achievement of, these groups!

**Terry Friedrichs**, Ph.D., Ed.D., for nearly four decades has taught a wide range of gifted and twice-exceptional pupils in kindergarten through graduate school, including those with attentional needs and a wide range of skills such as the mechanics, grammar, and composition of writing. He has also instructed parents and educators of his students on how to improve those skill competencies.

### **What if Schools Valued Creativity as Much as Literacy? (And Why They Should) – Stephen Schroeder-Davis**

The drive to utilize the K-12 educational system and its "outputs" (i.e. students) to maintain global economic superiority has resulted in an imbalanced focus on literacy and numeracy. In this session we will examine how the fine arts (even though they may not lead students to lucrative careers) are equally important, and why creativity is as important as literacy.

**Dr. Stephen Schroeder-Davis** has coordinated gifted programs for Elk River Schools for 34 years and teaches gifted certification courses for Saint Mary's University.

### **What To Do When Gifted Kids Explode – Anne Tyler**

Some gifted kids explode frequently, which can disrupt family life, peer relationships and school performance. Learn about several reasons some gifted kids may be emotionally reactive and act impulsively when they are frustrated or stressed. Leave with tools to use immediately to practice strategies in the home and classroom to improve the ability of gifted children to regulate their emotions and behavior.

**Anne Tyler (Rinkenberger)**, MS, LMFT is a family therapist practicing in St. Louis Park. She specializes in gifted children, adolescents, adults and families. She helps gifted kids with anxiety, depression, difficult life transitions, school problems, social issues, grief, executive functioning skills, family relationships and behavioral challenges. She also provides clinical pediatric self-hypnosis training and canine therapy with Sushi and Frodo.

### **What's Motivation Got to Do With It? – Cindy Lea**

Many gifted people find that they are exceptional at applying themselves when they are passionate or really interested but struggle greatly to get motivated when they aren't. This can have a huge negative effect on success in life. Using humor, videos, and stories of success, we will explore exciting new findings and effective strategies. Learn to understand yourself and your child better, feel less frustrated, and get better results.

**Cindy Lea**, MA, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and ADHD Coach. She helps individuals and

families learn to manage ADHD and create lives that are joyful and fulfilling. She presents at regional and national conferences and is known for her humor, accessible style and her boundless enthusiasm.

**When, How and What of Assessments for Gifted Children – Teresa Boatman, Sandy Sondell & Mary Wandrei**

This panel of assessment experts, two psychologists and one neuropsychologist, will discuss the assessment process with gifted children. Understanding what tests are used to provide information, when to get more than an IQ test, and how to use the data provided in an assessment will be discussed by the panel.

**Teresa Boatman** is a licensed Psychologist specializing in gifted children and adults. Her work focuses on helping children, adults, and families find solutions in their real world situations. She is a former president of MCGT.

**Sandy Sondell**, Ph.D., L.P specializes in comprehensive cognitive, neuropsychological, and social-emotional evaluations to address neurobehavioral concerns, including attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), giftedness, learning disabilities, and other emotional and behavioral difficulties.

**Mary L. Wandrei**, PhD, L.P is a psychotherapist in Shoreview, MN. She specializes in assessment, coaching, and therapy for gifted and talented children and adults; autism spectrum screening/consultation; school adjustment and educational planning; and consultation around executive functioning, anxiety, depression, sensory processing, and temperament issues.