

CALL FOR PAPERS

37th National NRCP Conference



PARAEDUCATORS

Where the Magic Happens!



February 21-23, 2025

Virtual on Zoom

Because of your passion and work in the field, we invite you to submit a proposal to present at our 37th National NRCP Conference. The theme of this year's conference is *Paraeducators: Where the Magic Happens!* and is scheduled to be held virtually on February 21-23, 2025. The NRCP will also be organizing and offering a Leadership Meeting to be held the day before the conference on February 20, 2025.

This year we are looking for sessions that address:

Research Initiatives focusing on paraeducator effectiveness, training and supervision, one-on-one use of paraeducators, or other pertinent topics.

National, Statewide, or Local Initiatives to set standards and parameters for:

- Hierarchies of skill and knowledge competencies required to work in different levels of paraeducator positions.
- Training and professional development opportunities for paraeducators.
- Development of effective partnerships among provider agencies, 2- and 4-year colleges, unions, etc.

Hands on Sessions specifically designed to strengthen on-the-job performance of paraeducators working in Title I programs, inclusive classrooms or one-on-one job assignments, home-based and center-based early childhood programs, ELL/bilingual education, after school programs, and vocational/transitional services.

Incentives for Retaining and Recruiting a Skilled and Qualified Paraeducator Work Force (e.g., para to teacher pathways, certification, paraeducation as a career, and collaborative articulated systems between provider agencies and 2- and 4-year colleges).

Standards and Professionally Developed Models for preparing teachers, administrators, and other educators to work effectively with paraeducators and to direct service providers in education and other human services.

Emerging Roles for Paraeducators, Interveners, and Related Service Providers in occupational, speech/language, physical therapy, and other disciplines.

Suggested Topics

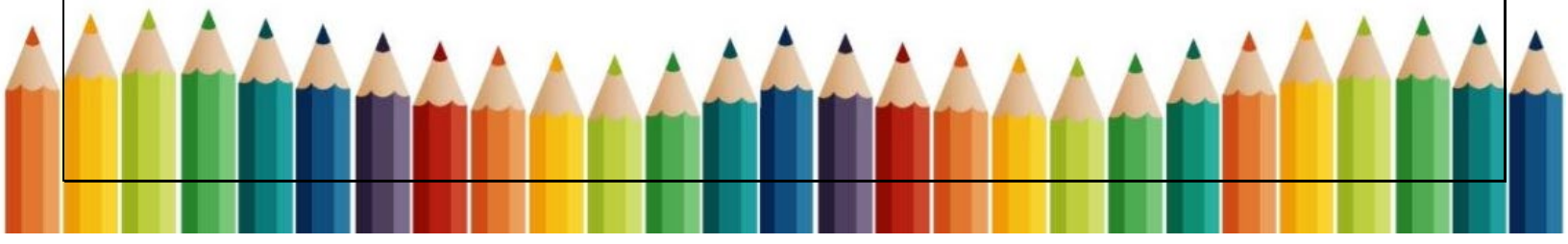
We welcome submissions on the following topics but encourage proposals that expand our horizons.

- Behavior, De-escalation
- Disability Advocacy and Experience
- Inclusion
 - Focusing on Cultural and Multi Language Inclusion
 - Paraeducator and Teacher Roles (Special Ed and General Ed) Relating To Inclusion
- Overuse/Misuse of Paraeducators
 - Roles and Responsibilities
- Paraeducators and Artificial Intelligence
- Social Media and Technology
- State And Federal Legislation Involving Paraeducators
 - How To Make a Difference
 - How To Find Information
 - Resource Page
- Building & Funding Career Pathways for Paraeducators
 - Politics Of Education and Understanding Funding
- Building State Infrastructures for Paraeducators That Endure
 - Maintaining Systems After Personnel Transitions
- Understanding LGBTQ+ In Education
 - Paraeducator Roles, Information and Resources
 - National Perspective, Provide Balance, Protect Students and Selves
- Implicit Bias
- Career And Professional Development Pathways for Paraeducators
- IDEA And Other Federal Legislation
- Self-Care And Wellness
- Supporting Teacher/Paraeducator Teams: Administrator Needs
- Trauma Informed Practice

We believe by holding this conference virtually and varying the times the sessions are offered, we will see an increase in attendance across all key constituents of Paraeducators, Teachers, State and Local Administrators, Directors, representatives from Unions, colleges & universities, and various professional organizations.

Proposal Format

If you are interested in giving a presentation, please submit your workshop/session title and a **brief abstract of 150-200 words** about the proposed workshop/session. If accepted, your workshop title and abstract will be used in the conference program.



Proposals Must Also Include:

- **Target Audience** (e.g., general; paraeducators in education, early childhood, adult services, and related/support services; policymakers and administrators; higher education personnel, teacher educators, and personnel developers; or other stakeholders).
- **Names, addresses (including zip codes), telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for ALL presenters** (since we will be sending confirmation information to all presenters, this information is vital).
- Dates you are **NOT** available during the conference.

Session Length

Typically, the length of a session is 60-90 minutes. Tell us the time you need for your presentation, and we will try to accommodate your request.

Audiovisual Requirements

A computer and microphone in good working order with the latest updated Zoom application with a strong internet connection. You will be presenting virtually, so please clear your space of distractions, barking dogs, other people, etc.

SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY September 30, 2024!

You can submit your proposal online by going to this [call for papers submission link](#). You may also email the attached completed form to Laura Lema at laura.lema@usu.edu.

**Due to the virtual nature of this conference, our session blocks are limited.
If your proposal is selected, you will be notified by October 15, 2024.**

General Information

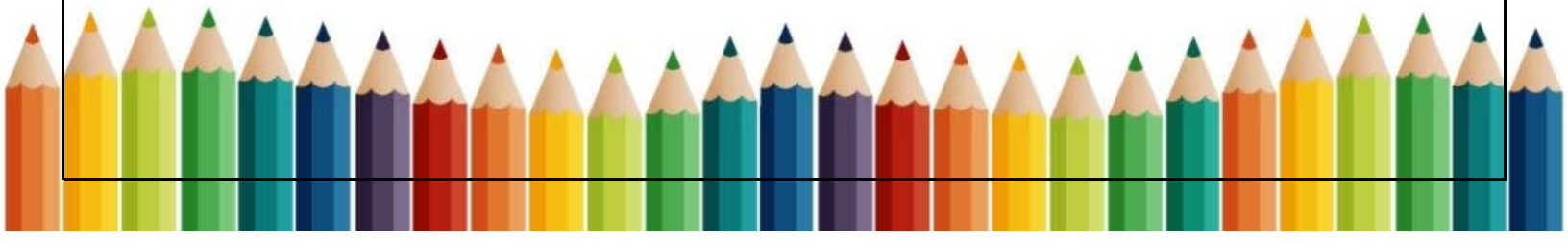
This conference is virtual, and all presenters must attend a dress rehearsal/tech check meeting to test their computer settings, camera, lighting, internet connection, etc. **All presentations will be recorded and shared with registered participants.**

Fee Structure

- \$250 conference registration fee.
- \$100 reduced conference fee for paraeducators, interveners, education support professionals, and family members or guardians.
- 10% group discount for 3 or more participants.
 - NOTE: Teachers and paraeducator teams can register together for a discount.

Should your proposal be accepted, your registration fee will be waived for you and your co-presenters to attend the conference and view recordings. If you, or your organization, would like to sponsor the conference or donate registration fees to the NRCP to support our ongoing non-profit training efforts please reach out to Laura Lema.

Getting the word out is sometimes difficult, so please SHARE this Call for Papers with other interested colleagues.



LEADERSHIP SESSION

The **6th Annual National Paraeducator Leadership Networking Session** will be held **Thursday, February 20th from 4-6 p.m. Mountain Standard Time**. This session is open to *State/National Paraeducator Leaders* (people who are engaged in activities to promote paraeducator leadership at a variety of levels within their respective states or on a national level). For example, this session is available to state staff; state or regional training and TA staff; higher education personnel; and persons promoting leadership through involvement in various state activities, labor organizations, committees, advisory groups; etc. **All interested parties may attend.**

During this session, representatives from each state or organization will be asked to highlight one major state level accomplishment from which others may benefit. Time permitting, attendees will also discuss issues they are dealing with and on which they want input from others. This session will give people a chance to meet others in similar roles at the beginning of the conference.

If you are interested in joining the National Paraeducator Leadership Group, please email Marilyn Likins at marilyn.likins@usu.edu.

[More Conference Information Here](#)

T A E S E

Technical Assistance for Excellence in Special Education



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