

**PRESS RELEASE**  
05/18/2016

**For Immediate Release**  
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## APSE PRESS RELEASE

### **Cincinnati to Host 27th Annual APSE National Conference Focused on Integrated Employment for All Individuals with Disabilities**

**ROCKVILLE, MD** - APSE (Association of People Supporting Employment First) will hold its 27th Annual National Conference: "Soaring to Employment First" from June 21-23 in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Founded in 1988, the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) is the only national membership organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

The 27th Annual APSE National Conference - the only one of its kind - will be held in Cincinnati, OH from June 20-23, 2016. The event is the largest gathering of its kind and is expected to draw more than 1,000 professionals, businesses, individuals with disabilities and community leaders from across the country and around the world to network and discuss state-of-the-art strategies to ensure equitable, integrated employment for citizens with disabilities. The [General Conference](#) will feature more than 100 sessions and events, keynote presentations, acknowledgement of the "best of the best" in advancing [Employment First](#) practices through 11 prestigious National APSE 2016 awards presented throughout the event, dozens of exhibitors, a [PreConference](#) event and [Students for APSE](#), a free event designed for high school students with disabilities, teachers and parents/families.

#### **Keynote Speakers Announced**



##### **Day One Keynote: Stephen Shedletzky**

As the founder of his company, InspirAction, and Head Engagement Officer with Simon Sinek's team at Start With Why, Mr. Shedletzky serves those in the movement to inspire and live in service to others. He speaks, leads workshops, consults and coaches to help leaders and organizations discover, articulate and live their "Why": their driving purpose, cause or belief. Mr. Shedletzky also co-hosts and co-produces the Start With Why Podcast and has worked with leaders internationally.



##### **Day Two Keynote: David Michael Mank, Ph.D.**

Dr. Mank is the Director of the Indiana Institute on Disability and Community (IIDC) at Indiana University, Indiana's University Center for Excellence on Disabilities, and Full Professor in the School of Education. He was also appointed by DOL Secretary Thomas Perez as the Chair of the Advisory Committee on Increasing Competitive, Integrated Employment of Individuals with Disabilities (ACICIEID), as mandated in the Workforce and Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).



### Day Three Keynote: Kathy Martinez

Ms. Martinez is the Senior Vice President, Disability Market Segment & Strategy, Enterprise Marketing at Wells Fargo. She was the former Assistant Secretary of the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), US Department of Labor (DOL) and also held the position of Executive Director of the World Institute on Disability, Berkley, CA.

Special thanks to our business and community sponsors:

- [Diversity Partners, Yang-Tan Institute at Cornell University](#)
- [Anthem, Inc.](#)
- [Kessler Foundation](#)
- [Manuel D. and Rhoda Mayerson Foundation](#)
- [Ohio Department of Developmental Disabilities](#)
- [St. John's Community Services](#)

The 27th Annual APSE National Conference will feature more than [100 sessions by renowned national and international experts](#) and events (including breakout sessions focused on state-of-the-art practices in integrated employment in the areas of Public Policy and Funding, Organizational & Systems Change, Leadership, Transition, Family & Self Advocacy.)

A variety of sessions styles will be offered this year including:

#### WHAT:

- Traditional Topical Breakout sessions
- Different States, Common Issues (interactive, facilitated dialogues and in-depth conversations)
- APSE Talks (following the model of the TED Talks (concise, light on presentation slides and delivered with "style." Goal is to deliver one idea, clearly and persuasively)
- Power of 5 (based on the Lightning Talk concept, these presentations are 5 minutes, with a maximum of 5 slides, and no more than 5 words per slide)
- Conversations that Matter (an open discussion, facilitated by one or more discussion leaders)
- Open space for networking

#### WHEN:

Tues, June 21 - Thurs, June 23; [Pre-conference events](#) on Monday, June 20, [Students for APSE](#) event on Sunday, June 19 - Monday, June 20

#### WHERE:

Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza, 35 West 5th St, Cincinnati, OH 45202

For more information and press passes please contact Lise Bram at: [lise@apse.org](mailto:lise@apse.org).

## About APSE

Founded in 1988, the Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE) is a growing national non-profit membership organization with an exclusive focus on integrated employment and career advancement opportunities for individuals with disabilities. APSE has chapters in 38 states (including the District of Columbia.) APSE members come from all 50 states and Puerto Rico, as well as several foreign countries. For more information, please visit our website: [www.apse.org](http://www.apse.org)

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