



Please join us for a 2-day conference on the MSUB Campus to explore issues our community faces in dealing with autism, especially as we work through complex transitions from childhood to adulthood.

Save the Date

August 1-2, 2013

8:30am—4:00pm

**on the main campus
at MSUB (in the Library)**

Studies indicate that 1 in every 50 children born in the United States will be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

Early Bird Conference Fee: \$125

After July 1, the fee will be \$150

(Conference Fee includes breakfast and lunch both days)

Educators can earn one graduate or undergraduate college credit for \$199.

Contact MSUB Extended Studies Campus at 406-896-5890.

OPI renewal units also available.

For more info on scholarships or the conference call Dr. Cheryl Young-Pelton at 406-657-2195

**To register for the conference go to:
<http://www.msubillings.edu/autism/>**

The 2013 Autism Conference is presented by:



Autism ²⁰¹³ Conference

Connecting the dots through transition

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) is a neurodevelopmental disorder that represents a range of symptoms from mild to severe and affects overall developmental status—in social communication and other relevant cognitive and motor behaviors. In 2013, a study released by the CDC found the number of children affected by ASD to be roughly 2% of the population, or 1 in 50.

Communities of support for individuals with ASD are necessary in order to bring about effective treatment, education, and inclusion. This conference is open to all interested persons (teachers, therapists, counselors, medical professionals, parents, and community members).



VIP speaker: Dr. Peter Gerhardt is the Director of Education, Upper School for the McCarton School and the Founding Chair of the Scientific Council for the Organization for Autism Research (OAR). Dr. Gerhardt has over 30 years experience utilizing the principles of Applied Behavior Analysis in support of adolescents and adults with ASD in educational, employment, residential, and community-based settings. He, along with Dr. Daniel Crimmins, is the Editor of the book, *"Social Skills and Adaptive Behavior in ASD"* recently published by Brookes Publishing and is the author or co-author of a variety of articles and book chapters on the needs of adolescents and adults with autism spectrum disorder. Dr. Gerhardt serves on the Editorial Board of Behavior Analysis in Practice and on numerous professional advisory boards. Dr. Gerhardt received his doctorate from Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey Graduate School of Education.

Day 1: VIP Speaker, Dr. Peter Gerhardt

Bridges to Adulthood: Preparing Individuals with Autism for Adult Lives of Competence, Dignity, and Community Inclusion

Day 2: Breakout sessions for parents, educators, and other professionals

This includes the **Parent Panel**, which is one of the most useful sessions, hearing from local parents with children who have just been diagnosed with ASD as well as those who have been living with their diagnoses for many years. Their stories will inspire, educate and bring us closer as a group as we continue to act to improve the lives of individuals with autism.