Tom coordinates the Virginia Tiered System of Supports (VTSS), Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS of Virginia, Content Literacy Continuum™-CLC, Strategic Instruction Model™-SIM, Instructional Consultation Team™-ICT, and Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CEIS). If the program is known by an acronym, Tom probably coordinates it. Tom is the proud father of two sons. Luke is a student at Albert Hill Middle School in Richmond City and Aidan is a student at Appomattox Regional Governor’s School.

Samantha Marsh Hollins, Ph.D. is a Licensed Counselor, Neil McNerney is also a graduate and holds degrees in non-profit leadership and a master of science in education with a focus on this widespread epidemic. Dana Yarbrough from Virginia Department of Education and VCU Partnership for People with Disabilities.

Hank Millward is the VDOE Coordinator of Complaints and Family Involvement where he provides technical assistance and training on federal and state special education laws and regulations to individuals and school divisions throughout the Commonwealth; investigates complaints filed by parents alleging that their school division failed to comply with some aspect of Virginia laws and regulations; and oversees activities related to family involvement.

Prior to coming to the VDOE, Hank served in the Army for 24 years, then held various positions within the public school, private school, and correctional education settings, most notably as a special education teacher, special education director, Assistant Principal and Principal. He is a sibling, a parent, and a grandparent of individuals with a disability. Hank holds an advanced degree in school administration and a master of science in education with a concentration in special education.

Artina Norris serves as the Family Engagement Specialist at PEATC where she is passionate about serving others through volunteering and outreach. As a parent who has guided her own children through the elaborate education system, Tina believes that family engagement is essential for the success of ALL children. Establishing collaborative relationships with schools, communities and advocacy organizations is vital to strengthening family engagement within our communities and schools. Tina has over 21 years of expertise in administrative and project development of programs and services. She also worked in the domestic violence arena as an advocate for seven years and conducted trainings and workshops on spreading awareness on this widespread epidemic.

Patricia A. Popp, Ph.D. is the state coordinator for the education of homeless children and youth in Virginia and a clinical associate professor in the Curriculum and Instruction Area at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg. Prior to joining The College in 1999, Pat was a teacher in Hanover and Henrico Public Schools. Her research interests include children and youth experiencing homelessness and other forms of mobility, students with disabilities, and teacher quality.

Among her publications, she has co-authored Students on the Move: Reaching and Teaching Highly Mobile Children and Youth, Reading on the Go, and Effective Teaching and AT-Risk/Highly Mobile Students for the National Center for Homeless Education, and West Meets East for ASCD. Pat is a past president of the Virginia Council for Learning Disabilities, past president of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAECHY), and past LeTendre chair, and currently serves on the committee for the LeTendre Education Fund with NAECHY.

Dana Yarbrough is the mother of a 20 year old daughter, Brooke, who has significant physical, intellectual and sensory disabilities. In 2012, she supported Brooke in opening her own business, Brooke’s Happy Tail Dog Boarding. Dana directs the Center for Family Involvement and other transition-focused projects at the Partnership for People with Disabilities, Virginia’s University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities located at VCU. In addition, she is the executive director of Parent to Parent of Virginia and serves as Past President of Parent to Parent USA. Dana has certification as a special education transition specialist, holds a bachelor degree in criminal justice and masters degree in non-profit leadership and secondary transition special education transition.
Who Are Our Presenters?

Nancy Anderson is a Coordinator for VDOE Region 4 TATC at GWU where she works on several VDOE state-directed projects and networks including I’ve Determined, Family Involvement Network VA, and Virginia Network of Consultants for Professionals who work with Students Who are Deaf and Hard of Hearing (NDHO). Nancy serves on several statewide conference planning committees and provides technical assistance to schools and families in the Region 4 school district.

Catherine Cook began her career in education as a classroom teacher for Waynesboro Public Schools. During the last two years of teaching, she joined a cohort from Shenandoah University for a master’s degree in administration. Before beginning at a trainer five years ago, Catherine was the Education/Disabilities Coordinator for the Shenandoah Valley Head Start Commission. Currently, she is an education coordinator for the VDOE TTTC in Region 5 at JMU.

Gloria Dalton works for VDOE as an educational specialist providing statewide leadership for parent involvement activities and technical assistance and support to the Parent Resource Centers in local school divisions. Gloria is also the Ombudsman providing parents with the necessary tools, strategies and resources to advocate for their children with individualized education plans on behalf of their disabilities. She has worked over 30 years with individuals with disabilities and their families. Among her professional experiences are classroom teacher, department chair, dropout prevention coordinator, and compliance specialist for children with intellectual disabilities. She believes that family, school and community collaboration has positive outcomes for student success and achievement.

John Eisenberg is the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services at the VDOE. John graduated from New York University and received his Master’s in Special Education and Deaf-Blindness at City University of New York – Hunter College. John started his career as a special education teacher and vocational coordinator. He has previously served as the director of Virginia’s Deafblind Program at VCU and as a federal grant project director and as Director of Instructional Supports and Related Services at VDOE. John serves on numerous national groups, sharing his expertise and representing Virginia.

Susan Gerometta has been the PRC Coordinator for the Frederick County Public Schools for 14 years. She also owned and operated a preschool in Strasburg, Virginia and worked in Fairfax County Special Education. In 2014, Susan was awarded the Provider of the year from the ARC of Northern Shenandoah Valley and she also received the Access Independence Advocate of the Year Award in 2008. She resides in Winchester, VA; a son, Justin, who works in social services as a supervisor and a son, Mike, who owns his own business, is an athletic trainer. Their two sons both had IEP’s, one for learning disabilities and the other was born with a profound hearing loss.

Christine Gernerey is the Executive Director for the First Night Winchfield. She was recently elected as the Chair of the Frederick County Public Schools SEAC. In 2008, Christine founded the Parent-Teacher Organization for the Northwestern Regional Educational Programs in Winchester. She resides in Cross Junction, Virginia with her husband of 22 years, Jay. Together, they have five children, three of them with special needs. Prior to moving to Virginia in 2005, Christine resided in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where she opened The Mobility Center for Birth to Women’s Health. She enjoys spending time with her family, watching the Pittsburgh Steelers and helping others.

Elizabeth Evans Getzel is the Director of the Center on Transition Innovations (CTI) at VCU’s Rehabilitation Research & Training Center. The CTI is the centralized portal for information and resources on youth transition for the state of Virginia. In her role, Liz conducts data analysis and develops reports for the state on indicator 4 data; directs projects on supported education in postsecondary education for college students with disabilities, collaborative career planning for college students with autism, supported education for veterans with TBI and SCI in college, Project SEARCH for youth with ID/DD (employer-based internship programs) and Start on Success (employer-based internship programs for youth with LD, ED, and OHI). Liz has authored or co-authored journal articles and book chapters on transition, career development, postsecondary education and employment and is a co-editor of the book Going to College: Expiring Opportunities for People with Disabilities.

John Hammer has served since 2009 as the School Liaison Officer at Naval Air Station Oceana in Virginia Beach which covers the Virginia Beach City Public School District. John spent 14 years with the Child and Youth Programs (CYP) as the CYP Resource and Referral Director for Mid-Atlantic Region. John also served as the Secretary to the CYP Special Needs Review Board and supervised a pilot program, Parents as Teachers – Heroes at Home, a partnership with Parents As Teachers, Incorporated. John retired from the United States Navy, in August 1994, after a 24 years of service. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Human Resources Administration, and a minor in Management from Saint Leo University. He and his wife, Patricia, have six children and fourteen grandchildren.

Cheryl Henderson is the co-director of the VDOE Region 5 TATC at JMU. Prior to coming to the TTAC in 1991, Cheryl was the early childhood special education coordinator and diagnostic prescriptive teacher for a western Maryland school division, where all her students were fully included. She also was a special education teacher, working with elementary- and middle-school-aged students with mild and significant disabilities. Cheryl holds dual degrees in elementary education and special education from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania and early childhood special education from JMU. A native of Pittsburgh, she bleeds black and gold. In her personal life, she works with her husband in Harrisonburg.

Sharon Jones is a Program Specialist for the VDOE TTTC at VCU. Sharon’s primary areas of work include providing support to professionals, families and programs in the benefit of use of assistive technology and developing AT services in educational programs. She also supports assessments and programs in working with children and adolescents with low incidence disabilities and their families. Other interests include infant intervention and early childhood special education with an emphasis on involving families in educational programs. As a program specialist at the TTAC, Sharon provides coaching, consultation and training and systems planning to professionals working with students with disabilities and their families.

Tom Manthey, Ph.D. is focused on evidence-based practices, data-based decision making and coordinated systems. He directs projects at the VDOE within special education, schools, and teachers to meet the instructional and behavioral needs of all students to achieve meaningful outcomes. Supported by grants from the US DOE,