

Employment & Inclusion Conference 2026:

The Power of Expectations

March 24, 2026

11:30 AM

Breakout Session B-3

Future Ready - High Expectations in Employment for Individuals with Disabilities

This session will explore the importance of family high expectations throughout the formative years of individuals with disabilities that have successfully supported employment and career preparation. Real life impact and stories will be shared, including strategies and supports that resulted in achievement in this area. In addition, the session will have recommendations and takeaways for families and professionals alike



Natasha Burningham

**Statewide Parent Education Coordinator & Transition University Coordinator
Utah Parent Center**

Natasha Burningham is a Parent Consultant and Education Coordinator at the Utah Parent Center, where she supports families of children with disabilities through individual consultations, workshops, and technical assistance. As a parent of two children on the autism spectrum with diverse behavioral, sensory, and educational needs, she brings both lived experience and professional expertise to her work. She specializes in guiding families through IEPs, 504 plans, and transition services, with a strong focus on equity, inclusion, and family empowerment.



Michelle Murphey

**Parent Consultant, Transition University
Utah Parent Center**

Michelle Murphey has more than 25 years of experience working in the nonprofit sector, supporting individuals and families through advocacy, education, and direct services. She has served as a Parent Consultant with the Utah Parent Center for over 14 years within the Granite School District and currently works with the Utah Parent Center's Transition University Project. Michelle's professional background also includes roles as a Case Manager at The Road Home and Family Promise of Ogden, as well as a Pre-ETS Trainer at the Columbus Community Center. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology.

Michelle also brings lived experience as the parent of two transition-aged sons with disabilities. Her oldest son, who has autism, lives independently with his spouse, who also has autism. Her younger son, who has ADHD and mental health challenges, is currently navigating the transition process as a high school sophomore. This combination of professional expertise and personal insight informs Michelle's collaborative and practical approach to transition planning and family support.



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