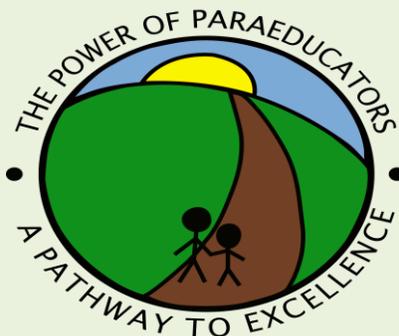


# CALL FOR PAPERS

## 32nd National Conference for Paraeducators & Related Service Providers

*The Power of Paraeducators: A Pathway to Excellence*



April 16th – April 18th, 2015

Hilton Hartford, Hartford

[www.Hilton.com/Hartford](http://www.Hilton.com/Hartford)

### SUGGESTED TOPICS

This year we are especially interested in the topics listed below, but as always, we encourage proposals that expand horizons.

**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, and other stakeholders.

**Growing need for early childhood paraeducators** as states expand early childhood and early childhood intervention programs

**Hands on Sessions** specifically designed to strengthen the on-the-job performance of paraeducators working in Title I programs, inclusive classrooms or one-on-one job assignments, home- and center-based early childhood programs, ELL/bilingual education, after school programs and vocational/transitional services. Possible topics may include “Strategies to De-escalate Challenging Behaviors,” “Common Core State Standards,” “Assistive Technology to Support Student Learning,” “Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports,” “Improving Students Outcomes through Proactive Team Building & Communication” and “Instructional Strategies.”

**Incentives for Retaining a Skilled Paraeducator Work Force** (e.g. career pathways, certification, and collaborative articulated systems between provider agencies and 2- and 4-year colleges).

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

**Emerging Roles for Paraeducators** in occupational, speech/language, physical therapy and other disciplines.

**NOTE: Because the conference is self-sustaining, it is necessary for ALL presenters to register and pay the fee.**

#### PROPOSAL FORMAT

If you are interested in making a presentation, please submit your workshop title and a brief abstract of 50-75 words. Should your proposal be accepted, your workshop title and abstract will be used in the conference program.

#### Proposals must also include:

- A **150-200** word description of the proposed session.
- **Target Audience** (e.g. general; paraeducators in education, early childhood, adult services, related/support services; policymakers and administrators; higher education personnel, teacher educators, personnel developers; or other stakeholders).
- **Names, addresses (including zip codes), telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses for ALL presenters.** As we will be sending confirmation information to all presenters, this information is vital.

**Session Length:** Typically, the length of a session is 1-1/2 hours. However, if you require more time, please indicate your time preference and we will try to accommodate your request.

**Audiovisual Requirements:** Screens, carts and electrical switch plates will be provided in all rooms. Please notify Connie Beck at 435-797-PARA or [connie.beck@usu.edu](mailto:connie.beck@usu.edu) if you require an LCD projector.

#### **SUBMIT PROPOSALS BY FRIDAY, September 19th, 2014**

You can submit your proposal online by going to <http://www.nrpara.org/conference/> and look for the “Call for Papers” link.

If you prefer to mail it in, please mail 2 hard copies to:  
National Resource Center for Paraeducators  
Utah State University  
6526 Old Main Hill  
Logan, UT 84322-6526

**If your proposal is selected, you will be notified by October 17th.**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

On site conference registration and packet pick up begins Wednesday afternoon, April 15th at 4:00 p.m. The conference starts the morning of Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>, and continues through 12:30 p.m. Saturday, April 18th, 2015.

**REGISTRATION FEES:** Don't miss the **Early Bird Registration Fee** of \$200, with a special rate of \$100 for paraeducators, which is available until **Friday, November 7, 2014.**

**Following November 7<sup>th</sup>, the regular conference registration fee will be \$250, with a special rate of \$125 for paraeducators.** Hotel and registration information are available at [www.nrpara.org](http://www.nrpara.org). If you have any questions or experience difficulty downloading materials, please contact Marilyn Likins at 435-797-PARA or [marilyn@nrpara.org](mailto:marilyn@nrpara.org)

**NOTE:** Proposals that promote commercially available products, services, or programs will not be selected. Such products can be displayed in our Exhibitor space. See **exhibitor application** on our website.

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

**PLEASE NOTE - Pre Session Meeting:**

The **5th Annual National Paraeducator Leadership Networking Session** will be held *Wednesday, April 15th from 4-7 p.m.* This session is open to "State/National Paraeducator Leaders", that is, 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, state staff; state or regional training and TA staff; higher education personnel; persons promoting leadership through involvement in various state activities, labor organizations, committees, advisory groups; etc. All interested parties may attend.

During our session, representatives from each state or organization will be asked to highlight one major state level accomplishment from which others may benefit. Time permitting, we will also discuss issues with which we are dealing and on which we want input from others. This session will give us 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 e-mail Marilyn Likins at [marilyn@nrpara.org](mailto:marilyn@nrpara.org)

**CO-SPONSORS**

