

## FRIDAY, AUGUST 5



**Sue Buckley**, OBE, BA (Hons), CPsychol, AFBPsS, Director of Science and Research and Chief Scientist, Down Syndrome Education International; Emeritus Professor of Developmental Disability, Department of Psychology, University of Portsmouth, UK, mother of a daughter with DS.

Sue Buckley is the founder and Chief Scientist for Down Syndrome Education International, and one of the world's leading researchers in the education and development of children with Down syndrome. Sue has also helped establish the Sue Buckley Research Fund to improve education for people with Down syndrome by accelerating progress in scientific research and ensuring widespread access to evidence-based advice and information. Sue's area of expertise is cognitive development, particularly language, literacy and memory development. Sue also has firsthand experience of many of the issues that affect families as the eldest of her three children, Roberta, has Down syndrome and was adopted into Sue's family when a baby. Roberta is now an adult living in a supported living environment with her partner.



**Lauren Potter**, Self-Advocate, Actress on Fox Television's Hit Show, "Glee", Riverside, CA

An inspiration to all, Lauren Potter has proven herself a young woman of strength and of character. Born into a family of three boys, she was blessed to have the playful and gentle guidance of loving brothers. As she grew, their influence stayed with her - making her a social genius and a skilled comedian. Lauren danced before she could walk. At age three, Lauren was in her element from her first dance class. For thirteen years, she loved to dance and craved the stage. She made her acting debut in the film "Mr. Blue Sky", playing the part of young Andra Little. Her acting skills impressed the producers of "Glee" enough that they offered her the part on the hit Fox television program. Playing the recurring role of Becky Jackson continues to open those doors for Lauren, and she hopes these doors will open wider still!

## SATURDAY, AUGUST 6



**Michael Remus**, MS, Director of Student Support Services, Deer Valley Unified School District, Phoenix, AZ

Michael Remus has been a general education teacher, special education teacher, school principal, college instructor, special education director for a school district, state special education director for the State of Kansas, and is also the parent of four children, two of whom have disabilities. Currently he is Director of Student Support Services for Deer Valley Unified School District in Phoenix, AZ. Most of his professional career has been in the classroom and in training parents and educators. He is co-author of seven books for parents on how special education works, two training curricula based his books, two effective practices manuals on special education for schools, a toolkit with the administrative tools needed to make inclusive education successful and a Disability Awareness Activity Packet for teachers.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS (Cont.)

### SATURDAY, AUGUST 6



**Monica Walters Martinez & David Martinez**, Self-Advocates, Stars of HBO Documentary, *Monica & David*, FL & **Alexandra Codina**, Director & Producer

Monica and David are a married couple who star in the documentary that tells the story of two adults with Down syndrome who get married. It is about their courtship and their married life together. But the documentary is also about what it's like to be a parent of someone with an intellectual disability. The film is directed by Monica's cousin, Alexandra Codina. The film uses intimate fly-on-the-wall footage to reveal the complexity of their story. "Ultimately, it's about independence, independence with the support." *Monica & David* won Best Documentary at last year's Tribeca Film Festival. After airing on HBO in October, Monica and David have been traveling with Codina to attend special screenings of the film around the country as well as doing interviews. The Martinezes are now pursuing acting careers.

### SUNDAY, AUGUST 7



**True Confessions of a Bully**, performed by Dionysus Theatre Group, Houston, TX

Written and Directed by Deborah Nowinski, Founding Artistic Director, Dionysus Theatre and the Commissioner of Houston's Commission for People With Disabilities. Dionysus Theatre is a non-profit theater organization that brings actors with and without disabilities together in the theater venue. This seven member inclusive cast touches upon cyber-bullying, name calling and harassment through the eyes of a bully and those he bullied. This powerful performance will enlighten, empower and entertain the whole audience.



**Christopher Scott**, Self-Advocate, Actor, Houston, TX

Christopher, along with Donovan Jennings, are the first African American actors with Down syndrome to star in a feature film, *My Brother*. At the 2006 HBO American Black Film Festival, The Founder's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Independent Cinema was awarded to Christopher Scott for his role in the film. *My Brother* is a film directed by Academy Award nominee Anthony Lover and the story of two impoverished boys, one of whom is developmentally disabled, and the bond of love they have for each other.

Christopher, who is featured in NDSC's "We're More Alike than Different" mini-documentary, is currently employed as a teachers' assistant at the Rise School of Houston.