



A division of the Council for Exceptional Children

# NETWORK

Division on Career Development and Transition

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DCDT WEBSITE  
[www.dcdt.org](http://www.dcdt.org)

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Welcome to our DCDT Fall 2018 Newsletter! I am fired up and ready to serve as the new President of DCDT, and I look forward to a great year!

First, I would like to welcome the **newest members of our DCDT Executive Committee and Board:** Vice President John McNaught, Secretary John Schaefer, Northeast Regional Representative Clare Papay, and Northwest Regional Representative Megan Burke-Brunschien. John and Clare have served on the DCDT Board for a number of years, and we are excited they are still a part of our team. Next, I would also like to thank Darlene Unger, Dawn Rowe, and Donna Wandry for their seemingly never-ending service to DCDT.

There are a **number of initiatives** that I will be working on in the coming year for DCDT. First, I am currently coordinating with the Executive Committee to revise the DCDT bylaws to reflect current policies and procedures of DCDT. This will include working with our active state subdivisions to update their bylaws to reflect national DCDT policy and procedures.

Another big initiative of mine for this year is to identify new strategies for increasing membership in DCDT. This has been a priority of mine since I became Vice President and continues to be a goal. Our membership remains strong, but increasing our numbers can only be a positive for DCDT. I will be working closely with John McNaught and our regional representatives to identify innovative ways to encourage new state subdivisions, increase student and early career

scholar membership, and ensure we maintain our members over time.

In addition, it has been three years since DCDT developed our 2015 strategic plan under the direction of then-President Jim Martin. I will be working with President-Elect Karrie Shogren, the Executive Committee, and our Board to update our strategic plan and determine any needed changes and/or additions to ensure that the work we are doing aligns with the mission of DCDT.

Throughout this edition of our newsletter you will find **information from NTACT** about upcoming events, new partnerships, and new products. Pay close attention to details about NTACT's Check and Connect, which will be happening at the DCDT International Conference in Cedar Rapids this October.

You will also read about some great opportunities for **increasing membership** through state mini-grants if you have an active state subdivision. In addition, look for details about a **competitive scholarship fund** for first-time DCDT student and early career attendees, initiated by DCDT Student Representative Jennifer Bumble, the Student and Early Career Committee (SEC), and the Research Committee.

Finally, you will find a number of updates related to what our states are doing to improve transition services and outcomes for students with disabilities. See you in Cedar Rapids!

Valerie Mazzotti  
**President**  
[vmazzott@uoregon.edu](mailto:vmazzott@uoregon.edu)



## UPDATE FROM NTACT

### What's happening with NTACT at DCDT's International Conference?

The National Technical Assistance Center on Transition (NTACT) will host its **mid-year cadre meeting with interdisciplinary state teams from 8:30 am–5:00 pm on Wednesday, October 24**, in Cedar Rapids—just ahead of DCDT's International Conference. Please visit [www.transitionta.org](http://www.transitionta.org) or email [chfowler@uncc.edu](mailto:chfowler@uncc.edu) for more information. Additionally, in January 2018, NTACT convened an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) technical work group (TWG) of national experts in autism to identify effective practices to improve outcomes for students with ASD. They will present their results and resources for the field in a **pre-conference workshop** of DCDT's Conference on Wednesday, October 24, from 1:00–4:00 pm. For registration information, visit the conference page at DCDT's [website](#). NTACT staff will also be presenting several sessions throughout the conference. Come see us!

### What else is NTACT doing?

NTACT is also convening state leadership in transition around special education as well as career and technical education successful partnerships. If you are aware of good models of collaboration—including vocational rehabilitation—in your district, your community, or somewhere else in your state, communicate with us! Email us at [ntactmail@uncc.edu](mailto:ntactmail@uncc.edu) or contact Deanne Unruh at [dkunruh@uoregon.edu](mailto:dkunruh@uoregon.edu).

### What's new from NTACT?

NTACT has a few new resources that may be of interest to DCDT members. Some members were engaged in the develop-

ment of the **Postsecondary Education and Training Preparation Toolkit**. We have also recently posted new and updated **Practice Descriptions and Lesson Plans**. Resources shared in webinars hosted by NTACT, including (a) changes to State Performance Plan Indicator B-14 measurement; (b) a cross-walk of resources for implementing Pre-Employment Transition Services; as well as (c) presentation materials from the Capacity Building Institute, are always available at **NTACT's website under the Events tab**. We'll have a new toolkit on Data Collection for Progress Monitoring coming out in September, as well as updates to the Transition Assessment Toolkit and Competitive Integrated Employment Toolkit. In addition, through our partnership with the Transition Coalition, we will host a new module on Work-Based Learning. Keep an eye out for these new resources and more by **signing up on our listserv** for weekly e-blasts and a quarterly newsletter.

### Where is NTACT?

NTACT is funded through a grant from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) to the University of North Carolina at Charlotte (UNC Charlotte). UNC Charlotte partners with the University of Oregon, the University of Central Florida, the University of Kansas, TransCen, Inc., Western Michigan University, and Cornell University to implement the grant's knowledge development, technical assistance and dissemination, and evaluation activities. So, we're all over! Our staff hails from Oregon, Idaho, Kansas, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, and Florida.

## MEMBERSHIP UPDATE



**John McNaught**  
*Vice President and Membership Chair*  
[mcnaught@jmu.edu](mailto:mcnaught@jmu.edu)

First, I would like to welcome our **new Regional Representative, Megan Brunscheen**. Megan will be serving as our new Northwest Regional Representative. We are super excited to have her as part of the DCDT Board and Membership Committee!

Did you know that there are perks for starting a DCDT state chapter? DCDT offers SEED grants of up to \$1,000 for states to get their DCDT state chapter off the ground. Remember, DCDT has increased the number of dollars going back to active state chapters! Based on the state's submission

of the subdivision status report, the amount of reimbursement for members has been increased to \$10 per member and an additional \$5 per member if state subdivisions increase membership over the year by 5%.

I am also pleased to announce DCDT's mini-grants for active state chapters for the second consecutive year. Be on the lookout for details in our e-blast regarding submission deadlines, and stay tuned for our next call for proposals!

The state chapter mini-grants will be awarded annually to support *active* DCDT state chapters in developing innovative ways to put research into practice and elicit new DCDT members. Examples of projects may be professional development modules, training tools, or materials that help to build

*(continued on page 6)*

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE



**Allison Lombardi**  
*Research Committee Chair*  
[allison.lombardi@uconn.edu](mailto:allison.lombardi@uconn.edu)

### Research Committee Report – Summer/Fall 2018

The DCDT Research Committee has a number of active subcommittees, which are:

- NLTS2 Community of Practice,
- Personnel Prep,
- Postsecondary Education,
- Secondary Transition Fidelity Measure,
- Student and Early Career Scholars, and
- Career and Technical Education and Transition Collaboration.

These subcommittees engage in various research-related activities. To those of you that have already volunteered: THANK YOU! And for those of you who are interested in getting involved, feel free to email me at [allison.lombardi@uconn.edu](mailto:allison.lombardi@uconn.edu) and/or attend our DCDT Research Committee Meeting at the DCDT conference in Cedar Rapids, which will be on Thursday, October 25, at 1:30 pm.

An exciting new opportunity is available for new DCDT members who are graduate students and/or early scholars: the **Student and Early Career (SEC) pre-conference sessions**,

which will be held on the afternoon of Wednesday, October 24. This new event to the conference program has come about in response to requests for more structured opportunities that support graduate students and early career scholars. A special thank you goes out to DCDT Student Rep Jennifer Bumble for coordinating this new opportunity.

In addition, we will hold two graduate student research competitions in the fall. The first will be the Sitlington Emerging Researcher Student Poster competition at the DCDT International Conference in Cedar Rapids. Selected during the proposal review stage, finalists will present at the reception on Thursday evening starting at 5:30 pm. Please be sure to stop by and engage with the researchers! The second competition will be the 2019 Graduate Student Research Scholarship competition. More information will be shared soon on submitting a proposal for the 2019 competition—look for details in our DCDT e-blast and flyers at the conference in Cedar Rapids. We have an anticipated proposal submission deadline of early November 2018. Also, be sure to check out the 2018 Graduate Student Scholarship winners at the Research Showcase session at the conference on Friday, October 26, at 4:00 pm, where winners will give brief updates on their studies. It will be a terrific way to learn about what types of studies DCDT funded last year, which may be particularly useful for 2019 applicants.

## DCDT STUDENT UPDATE



**Jennifer Bumble**  
*Student Representative*  
[jennifer.bumble@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:jennifer.bumble@vanderbilt.edu)

### Student and Early Career Scholars

As the 2018–2019 academic year approaches, we are getting excited for our 2018 DCDT international conference, “River of Dreams.” We hope you can join us as members from across the globe come together in Cedar Rapids, Iowa to network, share information, and learn about ways to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities.

This year, we will have a FREE pre-conference session for student and early career (SEC) scholars. The pre-conference will be held on Wednesday, October 24, from 1:00–4:00 pm, and will cover a range of topics, including conducting an academic job search, developing a line of research for tenure promotion, and translating research into policy and advocacy

efforts. Be sure to sign up when you register for the conference. Following the pre-conference, we will gather for our annual SEC social. The social is a chance for us to break free of the conference hotel and connect in a more relaxed atmosphere. Stay tuned for details on a time and location.

On Friday afternoon, be sure you don’t miss our breakout sessions, featuring established scholars in the field as well as the CDTEI Writing for Publication session.

Finally, we will once again be offering our popular Students Engaging with Transition Scholars (SETS) program this year. The program provides students attending the conference the opportunity to receive one-on-one mentorship from leaders in the field of transition.

An email with details and registration links for these upcoming activities will be in your inbox soon. As always, feel free to reach out if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas. I hope you all have a great start to the school year, and I’ll see you in Cedar Rapids!



## REGIONAL & STATE SUBDIVISION NEWS

### NORTHEAST REGION



**Clare Papay**  
*Northeast Regional Representative*  
[clare.papay@umb.edu](mailto:clare.papay@umb.edu)

Greetings from the Northeast! In this edition of our newsletter, we have updates from two state chapters: Illinois and Wisconsin. If you have any updates you would like to share in future issues of the newsletter, or if you are in the Northeast region and are interested in finding out how to start a chapter of DCDT in your state, send me an email at [clare.papay@umb.edu](mailto:clare.papay@umb.edu).



**ILLINOIS DCDT:** The 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Illinois Statewide Transition Conference will be held October 25–26, 2018, at The Westin Chicago Northwest in Itasca, IL.

“Stepping Stones of Transition” invites participants to imagine the possibilities for students with disabilities in the areas of independent living, education and training, employment, community integration, health care, and self-advocacy. It features 66 breakout sessions with more than 80 speakers to discuss best practices in promoting effective, person-centered transition planning that addresses all aspects of adult life for youth with disabilities.

The conference is aimed at transition-aged youth, parents, caretakers, vocational professionals, healthcare professionals, educators, community advocates, and college students pursuing careers in special education. Participants will come away with valuable tools, resources, and contacts to put transition-aged youth with disabilities on the path to success and achieving their dreams.

To read all about this year’s conference, see the schedule of events, and more, [click here](#) to be directed to the website and online registration page.



**WISCONSIN DCDT:** Announcing a new program for transition-age students! The University of Wisconsin-Whitewater LIFE (Learning is For Everyone) program will provide a complete college experience for young adults between

the ages of 18–28 who have an intellectual disability. With ample supports, specialized instruction, on-campus residential living, and community integration, the program serves a critical need in our region and community. The program will have two components—a 2-year Basic Program and a 2-year Advanced Program—which are designed to facilitate independent living and employment success for persons with significant cognitive limitations.

UW-Whitewater LIFE launches Fall 2019. For more information, or to see if UW-Whitewater LIFE is right for your student, visit <http://www.uww.edu/coeps/departments/life-program>.



### SOUTHEAST REGION



**Joy Ivester**  
*Southeast Regional Representative*  
[joy.ivester@uscmcd.sc.edu](mailto:joy.ivester@uscmcd.sc.edu)

Hello from the southeast corner of DCDT! The states in our region are actively working to engage new and veteran members through a variety of wonderful initiatives and events. In the coming year we are going to be working to share resources, information and activities between the states in our region—a sort of peer-to-peer networking initiative, if you will. There are just too many great minds at work to not share our best work with one another. More on that later... Let’s move on for the moment to highlights from our talented and hard-working state subdivisions.

**FLORIDA DCDT:** Florida DCDT just completed hosting its annual transition conference, **VISIONS 25**, in Daytona Beach. Over 300 transition stakeholders from across the state attended the conference, including many vocational rehabilitation counselors. There were over 60 concurrent sessions available for participants to attend, as well as keynote speakers at the opening session, student speakers at the awards luncheon, and the Florida Department of Education Bureau Chief at the closing session.

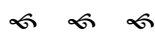
This year, Florida DCDT was able to help educators, parents, and students attend the conference by providing scholarships which paid for registration fees, lodging, and travel expenses. The Florida Department of Education’s Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services and Project 10: Transition Education Network also provided assistance to participants in order to help them attend.

A highlight of the conference was the recognition of the Outstanding Educator and Outstanding High School Student, along with five Making a Difference awards. Many of

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**Subdivision News**, *continued from page 4*

the concurrent sessions focused on the development of Project SEARCH sites and college/university programs for young adults with disabilities.



**GEORGIA DCDT:** Georgia DCDT is reviving their chapter after a long hiatus. They are in the process of finalizing their officers and scheduling a meet and greet for the members. The first week of June, the Institute Designed for Educating All Students (IDEAS) conference was held at St. Simons Island, where transition was a hot topic with more than 15 presentations focusing on advocacy, social skills, e-portfolios, financial independence, and postsecondary options to name a few. These presentations were well-attended (standing room only) by teachers throughout the state of Georgia, and sparked some excellent discussions regarding transition in the state.



**SOUTH CAROLINA DCDT:** South Carolina DCDT recently finalized their new officer list for 2018–2019. Since naming the new officers, they held two very engaged meetings.

A new Employability Credential is being introduced in South Carolina that is changing the face of transition and the future for many students with disabilities. In July, a week-long Research to Practice training institute was held. Many of the attendees found this specific year to be very helpful as they prepare for the changes in their classrooms. Our own Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC) offered relevant topics related to the launch of the new credential in the fall of 2018. Additional topics included Improving Preschool Outcomes, Improving Achievement Outcomes, Improving Social-Emotional Outcomes, Improving Post-Secondary Outcomes, and Technical Guidance.

SCDCDT is continuing their collaboration with the Transition Alliance of South Carolina (TASC) into the new school year. The Statewide Interagency Transition Conference will take place in North Charleston, SC, on October 1–2, 2018. The conference offers content sessions to local interagency team attendees, along with facilitated strategic planning and networking time. SCDCDT will also recognize transition contributors during a statewide transition awards luncheon at the conference.

The National DCDT conference will take place the week of October 22, 2018, in Cedar Rapids, IA, and SCDCDT plans to send a representative on behalf of the organization. Additionally, the subdivision is planning to host a pre-conference training and transition strand at the SC CEC Conference on February 28–March 2, 2019, in Myrtle Beach, SC. As always, we encourage you to seek us out on Facebook at [facebook.com/SCDCDT!](https://www.facebook.com/SCDCDT/)



**VIRGINIA DCDT:** On July 1st **VADCDCDT** officially steps into the 2018–2019 year, and the momentum generated from the June VADCDCDT conference is still palpable. Under the leadership of Kendal Swartzentruber—now VADCDCDT’s “past president”—the subdivision participated in a conference that brought us “back to the basics.” According to conference evaluations, nearly 75% of attendees in Charlottesville were participating in their first VADCDCDT conference. Ideas were shared, accomplishments celebrated, and attendees added to their toolboxes so that they may better serve their communities. During the conference, VADCDCDT acknowledged the following three individuals for their accomplishments and dedication over the past year: Youth of the Year—Troy Carter; Practitioner of the Year—Lena Hippius-Clarke of Lunenburg County Schools; and Employer of the Year—Scott Jones of Delta Hotels.

Excitement is soaring due to the overwhelming response received from parties interested in serving on VADCDCDT committees. In addition, members elected Dr. Jessica Queener to the vice president role, who brings an abundance of valuable experience to the board. She has managed programs, projects, and research that have supported students with disabilities transition to employment, postsecondary education and active community lives.

In the year to come, VADCDCDT hopes to continue growing their membership, and to expand the size of their conference that will take place in March 2019. With this growth they still aim to honor requests for relevant transition-based content that allows participants to continue the high-quality support they provide for students, families and schools. This will include the goal of sharing innovative ideas from across the Commonwealth, including the school-business partnerships developed by the 2018 VADCDCDT mini-grant recipients: Goochland, Harrisonburg, and Rockbridge County high schools.

**SOUTHWEST REGION**

**Kendra Williams-Diehm**  
*Southwest Regional Representative*  
[klwd@ou.edu](mailto:klwd@ou.edu)

Hello from the Great Southwest Region! Here’s a quick update on past events and future conferences.



**FROM THE LONE STAR STATE:** The Texas Transition Conference was held February 21–23, 2018, in Houston, TX. Two national speakers and experts in the field of transition were invited to speak on transition to employment as an intervention and desired outcome and the employment-first policy as it relates to transition.

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**Subdivision News**, *continued from page 5*

In addition, national and state level specialists in transition provided extended information on numerous areas relating to transition for youth with disabilities. All general and breakout sessions were organized under six general strands: (a) student-focused transition planning, (b) family involvement, (c) student development, (d) program structure, (e) interagency collaboration, and (f) assistive technology. 526 secondary educators, transition specialists, service agency personnel, parents, and youth with disabilities attended this year's conference.

The **2019 Texas Transition Conference** will be held February 20–22, 2019, at the Wyndham San Antonio Riverwalk hotel. This is an excellent transition conference with current, cutting-edge presentations. Please contact Dr. Cheryl Grenwedge at [cgrenwedge@tamu.edu](mailto:cgrenwedge@tamu.edu) with any questions.

The Garrett Center on Transition and Disability Studies at Sam Houston State University was created in February 2017 as a practitioner center for educators, students, parents, and community in the state of Texas. The website went live seven months ago, and the Garrett Center staff—all members of national DCDT and TXDCDT—are working to continuously add to each section of the website. To assist with the professional development of teachers and administrators around the state, the Garrett Center provides training and technical assistance for school districts and the 20 regional education service centers in Texas. For those who are interested in reviewing the tools and information on the Garrett Center website, please visit <http://www.shsu.edu/centers/garrettcenter/>.

**OKLAHOMA'S OK!**

The 13th Annual Oklahoma Transition Institute will be held October 15–17, 2018, at the NCED Conference Center in

Norman, OK. The Oklahoma Transition Council consists of 29 teams representing diverse interests, and includes representatives from the Oklahoma State Department of Education, Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services, Oklahoma Family Network, public school educators, Oklahoma Department of Human Services, the Parent Training and Information Center of Oklahoma, and university representatives, to name a few. Registration is now open on the Zarrow Center website at <http://www.ou.edu/education/centers-and-partnerships/zarrow>.

The OKDCDT subdivision hosted their 2nd annual Legislative Summit on March 27–28, 2018, at the State Capitol. The 3rd Annual Legislative Summit will be held in March 2019. Please contact Megan Curry at [mcurry@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:mcurry@norman.k12.ok.us) or Josh Fearing at [jfearing@norman.k12.ok.us](mailto:jfearing@norman.k12.ok.us) for more information.

**ONLY IN ARKANSAS**

The **Arkansas Transition Services Transition Summit** is scheduled for November 5–6, 2018, in Rogers, AR. This is an excellent opportunity for schools to interact with transition consultants and gather valuable information. Please contact your state consultant or visit [www.arkansastransition.com](http://www.arkansastransition.com) for more information.



The Southwest regions consist of California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Hawaii. Please let me know of the amazing things happening in your states so that we can share. If you have any questions regarding the process of becoming a formalized DCDT subdivision, I am here to help. Please send me an email.

**Membership Update**, *continued from page 2*

the capacity of educators to put research into practice. To be considered for the mini-grant, your state chapter must be an *active* DCDT state chapter. DCDT will fund up to five mini-grants for a total of \$15,000 through this competitive grant competition. Therefore, each active chapter may submit a proposal that does not exceed \$3,000. The call for proposals and deadlines will be disseminated through our DCDT e-blast.

If you are not sure whether your state has a chapter, or are interested in starting a state chapter, please contact your DCDT Regional Representative (emails below and found at <http://community.ccc.sped.org/dcdt/subdivisions/dcdt-state-subdivisions>).

**NORTHWEST** (Alaska, Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, Wyoming): contact Megan Brunscheen at [mdbrunscheen@gmail.com](mailto:mdbrunscheen@gmail.com)

**SOUTHWEST** (Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Utah, Guam, Mexico): contact Kendra Williams-Diehm at [klwd@ou.edu](mailto:klwd@ou.edu)

**SOUTHEAST** (Alabama, Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, West Virginia, Puerto Rico): contact Joy Ivester at [joy.ivester@uscmcd.edu](mailto:joy.ivester@uscmcd.edu)

**NORTHEAST** (Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Wisconsin): contact Clare Papay at [clare.papay@umb.edu](mailto:clare.papay@umb.edu)



## Join us October 24–26 in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, for the 2018 DCDT INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Pre-Conference: October 24, 2018 • Conference: October 25–26, 2018

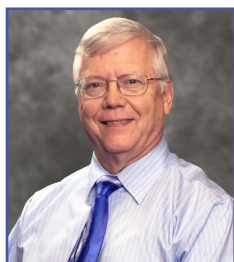
### "River of Dreams"

DoubleTree by Hilton • Cedar Rapids, Iowa



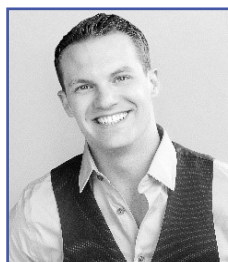
### Meet the Keynote Speakers at "River of Dreams" in Cedar Rapids

#### Thursday Opening Keynote—Dr. Mitch Yell



Mitchell L. Yell, Ph.D., is the Fred and Francis Lester Palmetto Chair in Teacher Education and a Professor in Special Education at the University of South Carolina. His professional interests include special education law, IEP development, progress monitoring, and parent involvement in special education. Dr. Yell has published 112 journal articles, 5 textbooks, and 26 book chapters, and has conducted numerous workshops on various aspects of special education law, progress monitoring, and classroom management. His textbook, *Special Education and the Law*, is in its 5th edition. He also serves as a state-level due process review officer in South Carolina. Prior to working in higher education, Dr. Yell was a special education teacher in Minnesota for 16 years.

#### Friday Luncheon Keynote—Mr. Travis Lloyd



Travis Lloyd is an international motivational speaker and consultant primarily serving organizations and events that focus on creating systemic change within child welfare, juvenile justice, and mental health services. He is the President of the national non-profit Foster Care Alumni of America, and has long been an advocate for at-risk populations. In 2014, he authored the book *Overcoming Emotional Trauma: Life Beyond Survival Mode*, with contributions from the late Dr. Gregory Keck. The book highlights Mr. Lloyd's personal stories and advice for overcoming traumatic experiences, and has been utilized both in clinical practices and educational settings in several U.S. states.

### Conference and Pre-Conference Information

To access information about the conference agenda, registration, and associated fees, and to register for the conference, please visit <http://www.cvent.com/d/8gq1rh>.