



MOVING AGENCIES TOWARD EXCELLENCE



16th Annual Conference

MAXimizing Your Potential Through Resilience:

Moving Forward in Challenging Times

Date: March 24, 2021 | 9 am to 3 pm

Cost: \$25

Location: Wherever you are comfortable; Virtual via Zoom

[CLICK HERE](#) to Register Online



MOVING AGENCIES TOWARD EXCELLENCE

A MESSAGE FROM MAX

WELCOME TO THE 16TH ANNUAL MAX ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONFERENCE “MAXimizing Your Potential Through Resilience: Moving Forward in Challenging Times”

Congratulations on surviving 2020. It was a year of serious challenges thrown in the path of each of our lives. Yet, we survived. Now in 2021, we need to do more than just survive – we need to thrive. We need to put the challenges of 2020 in our rearview mirror and make 2021 your “Year of Resilience”. Even if 2020 was not a difficult year for you – hard to imagine – I am sure you have experienced a time in your life that has not been so kind to you. A time that has impacted you as a human being. It is those difficult times and how we handle them that plays a huge part in how we define ourselves.

So, today, MAX brings to you a collections of stories, of both individual and organizational resilience. Each of these stories will leave you with “take away” guiding principles which you can use in your personal and professional lives. And, yes, MAX will leave you with some ideas how you can create your own individual path to resilience. So, let’s come together and celebrate surviving 2020 and make 2021 the “Year of Resilience” for you – all while having some fun and games and honoring our front-line heroes.

This year the conference is virtual, so you can enjoy it from wherever you are comfortable.

Finally, I want to give a big shout out to the MAX Conference Committee who is bringing this conference to you today. The committee overcame our own challenges. We hope you enjoy the results of our resilience.

2021 MAX CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Tina Jorett (Committee Chair), Access Services

Julie Agnew, LifePath

Ben Hartranft, RHD

Barbara Occasion, Access Services – ALTEC Division

Dwayne Gilliland, Indian Creek Foundation

Karen Parenti, Melmark

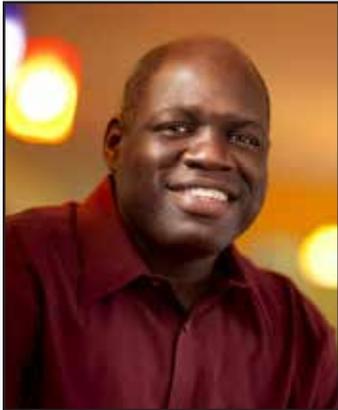
Kayleigh Tizzard, Access Services

Doug Berry, KenCrest

Sincerely,

Diane Conway, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Our 2021 Speakers



OUR 2021 KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

NATHANIEL J. WILLIAMS, DSW, ED.D., MHS, MPA, MBA

Dr. Nathaniel J. Williams is a noted author, lecturer, entrepreneur, and an international motivational and keynote speaker. He is the President/CEO and founder of HumanWorks Affiliates Inc., a cluster of eight organizations that provide direct social services and management support to social service agencies, for the last 28 years. HumanWorks Affiliates employ 300 people caring for 250 individuals with a budget of 25 million. One of the affiliates, ChildFirst Services, Inc., was recognized by the FBI with an award for its work with children involved in child trafficking.

Nathaniel was five years old when he and his 11 siblings lost their mother to a cranial aneurysm. He has never known who his father is. His experience growing up as an orphan and ward of the New York City foster care system left an indelible mark on his life and has shaped his professional career.

He has an MBA from Strayer University, a master's degree in human services from Lincoln University, a master's degree in public administration from Cheyney University and a doctorate degree in education from Fielding Graduate University. Dr. Williams was awarded a Doctor of Humane Letters from Lackawanna College in May, 2018. In December, 2020 he received his Doctorate in Social Work (DSW) from the University of Southern California's Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work.

Dr. Williams and his wife, Tade, have eight children, of which one child has autism and another is adopted.



GENE CASSIDY

Gene Cassidy always wanted to be a police officer. He realized his dream when he began his career as a Police Agent in Baltimore after completing his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice at York College in Pennsylvania in 1983. On October 22, 1987, Agent Gene Cassidy was shot and blinded in the line of duty. During his recovery, Mr. Cassidy decided that a traumatic event cannot stop a person from achieving the universal goals of education, professional success, friendship, and love. He chose not to be a victim, but a victor.

Mr. Cassidy has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education with a minor in Psychology from York College of Pennsylvania. He also has a Master of Science in Management from Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Cassidy has been an Adjunct Professor at the University of Baltimore and an Advisor and Instructor in the Education and Training for the Baltimore Police Department. He currently works as a General Instructor for the Maryland Police Corrections Training Commission and as an Administrative Specialist for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.



BEN HARTRANFT

Ben Hartranft is a 22 year old man who was diagnosed with Autism at the age of two. At that time, he knew only 20 words and everything was a safety issue. Ben has exceeded all expectations and is strengthened by his faith in God and the people He has placed in Ben's life. He received his diploma from North Penn High School, has several part time jobs (Giant Food Store, Access Services, and Dorney Park) earned his driver's license and treats everyone he meets like a rock star. Ben has had the amazing experience of being the Philadelphia Eagles Autism Challenge Ambassador and the extraordinary opportunity to carry the Lombardi trophy to start the ring ceremony for the Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles. Ben's dream came true in October 2018 when he was invited to be a guest on the Ellen show and promote Autism Awareness and funding for research. Ben loves being an advocate for Autism Awareness and wants to take awareness into action. Ben's latest endeavor is The Ben and J show (they facilitate discussion about autism awareness with special guests).

Our 2021 Speakers



MICHAEL NELSON

Michael Nelson is a Certified Peer Specialist (in PA) and an Advanced Level WRAP Facilitator. Over the years, Michael has trained many in the greater Philadelphia area and the surrounding counties. Upholding a trauma-informed perspective, he also has valuable experience working with individuals involved with the criminal justice system. Michael takes pride in supporting peers into active community roles. Presently, he works at (RHD) Resources for Human Development within the CIC department Creating Increased Connections, Michael Facilitates community support groups and workshops on various recovery topics. Michael's mantra simply states, "The only way I can be my best if I can help you be your best".



CHRISTOPHER WHITE

Christopher White's experience includes over 30 years in the social services industry as a leader, administrator, educator and management consultant. In 2013, after a 21 year career at Melmark, the last 13 as Executive Director, Christopher left Melmark and formed Forefront Business Services LLC, a for profit business services consulting firm that provides a broad range of valued services for small to medium sized not for profit and for profit companies. Forefront Business Services LLC, with a foundation of servant leadership, is dedicated to individualized attention to each customer's strategic development, offering CEO/President advisory support as he recognizes it can be very "lonely at the top" for small and medium sized business owners.

Christopher is currently an adjunct Instructor of Business and Management at Penn State University Brandywine/Great Valley.

Christopher has his BA in Political Science from the University of Delaware, his Masters in Clinical Psychology from West Chester University and his MBA from Regis University. He also completed the Lean Six Sigma Certificate program with Villanova University.

Conference Schedule

- 9:00 – 9:15Log on and networking
- 9:15 – 9:30 Welcome and Announcements
- 9:30 – 10:15**KEYNOTE: GENE CASSIDY**
“Be the Victor, Not the Victim”
Gene will relate his devastating, life-altering experience and his captivating path back to resilience.
- 10:15 – 10:30.....Break, Fun and Games
- 10:30 – 11:00.....Individual Story of Resilience: **BEN HARTRANFT**
- 11:00 – 11:30.....Individual Story of Resilience: **MICHAEL NELSON**
- 11:30 – 11:45Break to get lunch, Fun and Games
- 11:45 – 1:00.....Lunch and Awards Ceremony
- 1:00 – 1:45**KEYNOTE: DR. NATHANIEL WILLIAMS**
“A Complete Package for Organizational Resilience”
Dr. Williams will give organizational leaders a comprehensive package to give their organization the “legs” to not only survive, but thrive even in challenging times. These principals can be also used for personal resilience.
- 1:45 – 2:00Fun and Games
- 2:00 – 3:00**CHRIS WHITE**
Path to Make Your Own Resilience Plan
So now you have heard different perspectives and stories of resilience. Let Chris give you some tools to make your own organizational or personal path to resilience.