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BOOST CONFERENCE
APRIL 22-25, 2009
Palm Spings Convention Center
Palm Spings, California



CONFERENCE UPDATES

Dear BOOST Friends,

We are pleased to bring back Jonathan Mooney to the BOOST Conference. Jonathan wowed the crowd last year during his keynote address and book signing. Jonathan shared his story, and the story of so many others, who are "labeled" yet continue to use humor, resiliency and imagination to create satisfying lives beyond "normal."

We are excited that he will be facilitating a pre-conference session on Wednesday, April 22nd from 11am until 5pm. Lunch and materials included. Don't miss this opportunity to spend 6 incredible hours with Jonathan. Please click on the BOOST Buddy of the week to learn more about Jonathan Mooney!

Sincerely,

Tia Quinn
Executive Director
BOOST Collaborative





BOOST BUDDY OF THE WEEK



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We surveyed participants who attended the 2008 BOOST Conference and received amazing feedback! [Click here](#) to see the ages, job responsibilities, youth population served by BOOST participants, as well as years of experience.



Redrawing the Lines: Neurodiversity: A Compass to the Changing World

Jonathan Mooney, Author, Public Speaker, Different



Welcome to a new world, where the good kid doesn't sit still. A world where some of the smartest kids in the class don't read well or don't read at all. A world where the popular kids don't make eye contact, don't shake hands, and definitely don't back slap.

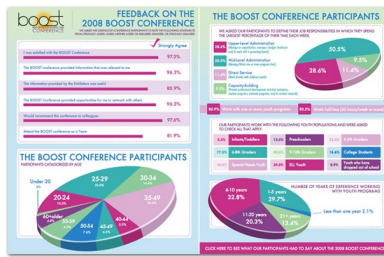
In this world, these kids enjoy academic success and personal fulfillment at places like the MIT Media Lab and MET High School in Providence, Rhode Island, one of the top charter schools in the country. Then, they go on to run companies in Silicon Valley, New York and Tokyo.

Unlike ever before, this century proves their cognitive differences are more than "quirks" - they are the groundwork for innovative ideas and skills to solve problems most of us wouldn't anticipate. Think Google. Jet Blue. Apple.

By embracing the beautiful, bizarre realities of neuro-diversity - the idea that we are all special snowflakes - as essential components of a healthy vibrant culture, we can propel students not only to better participate in, but seize the changing world where the digital brain rivals the text-oriented and a design oriented economy replaces a manufacturing base.

Renowned writer, neuro-diversity activist and author Jonathan Mooney vividly, humorously and passionately brings to life this wonderful world of neuro-diversity: the research behind it, the people who live in it, and the lessons it has for all of us who care about the future of education.

Explaining the latest theories, Jonathan helps redefine what it is for students in the 21st century to think and to learn and to be successful. He provides concrete examples of how to prepare students and implement frameworks that best support their academic and professional pursuits.



In this lecture, Jonathan takes the audience to life in high schools organized around the principles of video gaming and visual culture. He transports the audience to snow-bound strip malls in Sweden where a software design company has decided to only hire people with Asperger's syndrome-not as charity, but because this company believes programmers with Asperger's make superior employees.

As with Jonathan's other lectures, the audience will leave this talk fundamentally changed and empowered. "Re-drawing the lines" blends research and human interest stories with concrete tips that parents, students, teachers, and administrators can follow to transform learning environments and create a world that truly celebrates cognitive diversity.

www.jonathanmooney.com

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