



World Autism Awareness Day

Inclusive Quality Education for All

Global Virtual Event: Friday, 8 April 2022, 10 - 11:15 am EST

Biography



Claire Barnett is a neurodiversity and disability advocate with a focus on how businesses promote disability empowerment.

Barnett is #ActuallyAutistic, ADHD, and a service dog handler. She is currently a Forte Fellow at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler Business School, where she is pursuing her MBA full-time. After graduation from business school, she plans to join Boston Consulting Group in Washington, D.C.

She has written on disability topics for the HuffPost and USA Today, and has spoken at dozens of conferences. In her TEDx Talk on "[Why Autistic Unemployment is So High](#)," she presents the current state of autistic unemployment, lends a personal perspective on the hiring process, and shares insights that will help any business recruit and employ neurodivergent talent.

Barnett is a 2019 cum laude graduate of Vanderbilt's Peabody School, with a Bachelor of Science in Human and Organizational Development. She is the Visiting Fellow at Vanderbilt's Frist Center for Autism and Innovation.

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Prof. David established the

Diana Ringe Krogh joined the [LEGO Foundation](#) in 2014 driven by the desire to make an impact on the lives of children. She has held various positions in the LEGO Foundation and is currently the Head of LEGO Collaboration & Social Ventures.

In her role, she leads the Foundation's partnership with the LEGO Group and other entities in the LEGO branded ecosystem to unlock the potential of the LEGO Brand to, through a collaborative approach, make a positive impact on children and to become a Global Force for Learning through Play by 2032.

Through [Social Ventures](#), she leads the Foundation's work to accelerate bold social innovations with Learning through Play based methodologies, such as LEGO Braille Bricks, that shine a positive light on children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and that focus on uplifting and supporting children with SEND and their families.

Prior to joining the Foundation, Diana established organizations to deliver on EU projects through strategic partnerships with universities and university hospitals as well as private/public partnerships.

Gerardo Gaya Real is the Founder and CEO of [Iluminemos por el Autismo](#), Member of the Presidents Assembly of the COAMEX (Mexican Coalition for Disability Rights),

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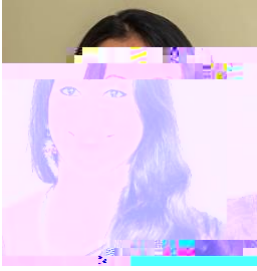
Founding Director, [Alcnzando Inc.](#), Peru/U.S.

Current project: [We are Alcnzando!](#)

Social media: [IG](#)

Dr. Mapy Chavez Askins holds a Ph.D. from Teachers College Columbia University (New York) in Applied Behavior Analysis and the Education of Students with Autism. She is currently the Founding Director of Alcnzando, a nonprofit organization that works with children with autism and their families in Spanish-speaking communities.

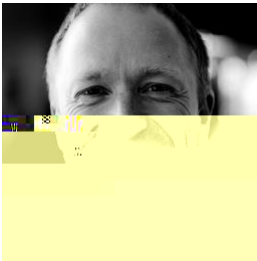
Dr. Chavez Askins has spent the last 27 years studying, working and conducting research in the Autism field. For the last 15 years she has been successfully disseminating awareness and knowledge about Autism and Applied Behavior Analysis in Spanish-speaking countries.



Founder and Director, [Ishanya India Foundation, India](#)

Swathi Vellal Raghunandan is the Founder and Director of Ishanya India Foundation, a not-for-profit organization working with Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) in Bangalore. Apart from special education, Swathi works very closely with parents, counselling them on various aspects of the diagnosis, caregiving a child with disability, empowering them by bringing in the importance of self-compassion while caregiving. Swathi has done several podcasts on mental health.

Swathi Vellal holds a Master's degree in Special Educational Needs and Inclusion from University of Northampton, U.K. and a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Christ University, Bangalore. She is a very keen researcher and has presented papers in various national and international seminars and has published a paper on 'Autism and echolalia' in the Good Autism Practice Journal of the British Institute of Learning Disabilities. She also has a chapter named 'Inclusion of Young People with Autism Spectrum Disorder at Workplace: Challenges & Strategies' published in the book "Disability and Inclusion: from rationale to reality".



Founder, [Specialisterne Foundation, Denmark](#)
Social media: [FB](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Thorkil Sonne became a social entrepreneur after his youngest son was diagnosed as autistic at the age of three. He founded Specialisterne Denmark in 2004 and Specialisterne Foundation in 2008 to solve the social challenge of lack of inclusion for autistic and neurodivergent persons. The vision is a world where people are given equal opportunities in the labour market and the goal is to enable one million jobs by 2030.

Specialisterne Foundation is a NGO associated with the UN Department of Global Communications and works in particular according to Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 8 "Decent Jobs and Economic Growth" in the framework of SDG 17 "Partnerships for the Goals".

Thorkil Sonne is chairman of Specialisterne Foundation. He is a World Economic Forum Schwab Foundation Social Entrepreneur and an Ashoka Globalizer Fellow. Thorkil has contributed to a number of books and articles, such as Harvard Business Review " [The Case for Hiring Outlier Employees](#)" and "[The Dandelion Principle: Redesigning Work for the Innovation Economy](#)".

Chief Executive, [Global Governance Group](#)
Founder, [Institute of Neurodiversity \[ION\]](#)

_____ [M.Ed]

Director of Professional Development, [The Nora Project, U.S.](#)

_____, Ph.D.

Researcher and Psychologist, [Atma Jaya Catholic University of Indonesia, Indonesia](#)

Principal and Founder, [Shelanti Private School, South Africa](#)
Social media: [FB](#), [LinkedIn](#)

Special Educator, [Academy for Severe Handicaps and Autism \[ASHA\]](#), India
Social media: [IG](#), [FB](#), [Twitter](#)

_____ [M. Ed, BCBA]

Educational Consultant, [Bearded Behaviorist, U.S.](#)
Social media: [FB](#)

_____ [BCBA/QBA/DBH-C]

Founder and Director,

Father and son, Indonesia

Media: [FB UNICEF Indonesia story](#), [Media Indonesia](#)