



**AAC-CVI**  
project

# **The Bridge School Summer Institute: CVI/AAC**

June 2022



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# Reminders

Materials and handouts can be accessed in our Website

For CEU's, daily sign in is necessary

Video recordings or photos of presentations are not allowed.

Accessible bathrooms in The Bridge School.

# Vicki Casella

Dr. Vicki Casella has been involved in the education of children and adults with special needs for over 55 years. Her professional experience includes classroom and clinical teaching, public and private school administration, and university teaching and administration. She has taught at the University of Alabama, the University of Nevada, Reno, and San Francisco State University. While a professor in the Special Education Department at San Francisco State University, Dr. Casella initiated the first adaptive technology academic courses in the United States. Her areas of expertise were focused on teacher preparation in deaf/hard of hearing, learning and multiple disabilities and she was the Director of the Deaf and Hearing-Impaired Program. For the past 19 years she has served as the Executive Director of The Bridge School, a special school dedicated to ensuring that children with severe physical impairments and complex communication needs develop the education and communication the skills they need to become active participants in their communities and that the effective strategies employed at The Bridge School are disseminated throughout the national and international community.



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# Christine Roman-Lantzy

Christine Roman Lantzy is The former Director of Pediatric View in Pittsburgh Pennsylvania. She was the first CVI Project Leader for The American Printing House for the Blind. Christine provides workshops and consultations through CVI Resources and has had the honor to be invited to all parts of The United States and many countries outside The U.S. She is the author of *Cortical Visual Impairment: An Approach to Assessment and Intervention (2007, 2018)* which won The Bledsoe Award in 2008, and *Cortical Visual Impairment: Advanced Principles (2019)*. She taught at The University of Pittsburgh and Marshall University Graduate College for a total of 17 years.



## Sarah Blackstone

World recognized SLP and AAC specialist.  
Past president and fellow of ISAAC (The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication).  
Member of the Board of Directors of The Bridge School.  
Director, CVI/AAC Project at The Bridge School.  
Author: *Social Networks: A Communication Inventory for Individuals with CCN and their Community Partners*, *Patient Provider Communication: Roles for SLPs and other Health-care professionals*. “Retired”:  
Augmentative Communication Inc., AAC-RERC, Berkeley Unified School District, Kennedy Institute/Johns Hopkins Medical School, Pittsburgh Rehabilitation Center.



# Christine Wright Ott

Christine Wright-Ott is an internationally known Occupational Therapist who specializes in research and development of assistive technology for children with complex communication needs and severe physical disabilities. She has been a consultant at The Bridge School for over 15 years where she integrated self-initiated mobility into the educational curriculum. Christine was the principal investigator and designer of the KidWalk, Gobot and MiniBot Projects, while working at the former Rehabilitation Engineering Center at Stanford. She has worked at California Children's Service, Children's Hospital at Stanford and West Valley College High Tech Center. She is a frequent lecturer at international and national conferences and local universities. She has authored the chapter "Mobility" in previous and now the 7th Edition of the book, Occupational Therapy for Children.



# Elisa Kingsbury

Speech and language pathologist with over 25 years of experience providing school-based AAC services. Collaborated with and learned from children, families, and professionals at The Bridge School and in Berkeley, Alameda and Mt Diablo Unified School Districts. In her 19 years at Bridge School, she worked in the Elementary, Transition and Research programs and helped to develop the Preschool program adapting the Language-Focused Curriculum from the Language Acquisition Preschool at the University of Kansas.

Providing children with access to play, movement and language has been a joy for her. Working with a team to improve a child's communication outcomes and enhance their quality of life has been the most meaningful work she could imagine.





# Aileen Arai

Aileen has been a Special Educator for 27 years. She has been designing and supporting staff in implementing strategies that support students, parents, districts, and all members of a student's educational team in the development of curriculum within the Common Core State Standards for students with significant physical impairments who use AAC systems. Since 2012 she has been addressing intervention strategies and assessments as they relate to Cortical Visual Impairment protocols and tools developed by Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy. She received The Perkins-Roman CVI Range Endorsement from The Perkins School for the Blind, an authorization that supports her evaluating a student's CVI for purposes of ongoing intervention.





# Rebecca Matthews

Speech Language Pathologist at The Bridge School. Received her M.S. In Speech Language and Hearing Sciences from San Francisco State University where she was a member of the Project Building Bridges grant specializing in AAC.

Did her school internship at The Bridge School and continued as a Clinical Fellow and eventually fully licensed SLP. She works in the elementary classroom where she is a member of an interdisciplinary team and co teaches alongside the special educator.



# Gabriela Berlanga

Gabriela Berlanga, is a Speech and Language Pathologist and is the founder and consultor for CATIC in Mexico city, current Associate Executive Director at the Bridge School and Vice-President for Conferences at ISAAC (The International Society for Augmentative and Alternative Communication). Founder and member of the North American Alliance for Communication Access.

Consultant for the Special Education Technology Department @prende of the Ministry of Education in Mexico.

She has collaborated with Dr. Christine Roman-Lantzy since 2011 as part of CATIC's International Collaboration Program run by Dr. Sarah Blackstone.



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# Tara McCarty

Tara McCarty is a licensed speech language pathologist who worked in school-based settings for 7 years before returning to Penn State University to pursue doctoral studies. Tara's current research focuses on augmentative and alternative communication (AAC) design and intervention solutions for children with communication needs and cortical visual impairment (CVI).



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# Matt Tietjen, MEd

Matt is a certified teacher of students with visual impairments and an education consultant for the Bureau of Education and Services for the Blind (BESB).

He is a CVI specialist who has completed the 2-year CVI Leadership Institute as well as the Perkins-Roman CVI Endorsement. He is a nationally and internationally recognized speaker.



# Lynn Elko

Lynn is first and foremost a Mom. Her daughter, Emma, 20, began to benefit from CVI adaptations and interventions at age 15. After learning how profoundly CVI impacts everything in a child's world and witnessing Emma's life change after implanting intentional, strategic CVI interventions, Lynn became a fierce advocate for children with CVI and supporting their needs. In previous iterations of her life, she was a VP of Production for an educational professional development company, working with organizations such as NASSP, NAESP and the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation, and a social entrepreneur for which she received her Chamber's Businessperson of the Year award. She, along with 2 other CVI Moms, was honored with the Hall of Fame award in 2019 from the Pediatric Cortical Visual Impairment Society for spearheading the development of the PCVIS.vision website.

When Emma's life and medical needs are not shifting their family's axis, Emma and Lynn's collaborative efforts to make learning, life and communication accessible to her through a CVI adapted, custom AAC system can be found at See CVI, Speak AAC (@seeCVIspeakAAC).



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# Joey and Anna

Joey and Anna are the proud parents of Sammy, whose story you will hear during one of the presentations.

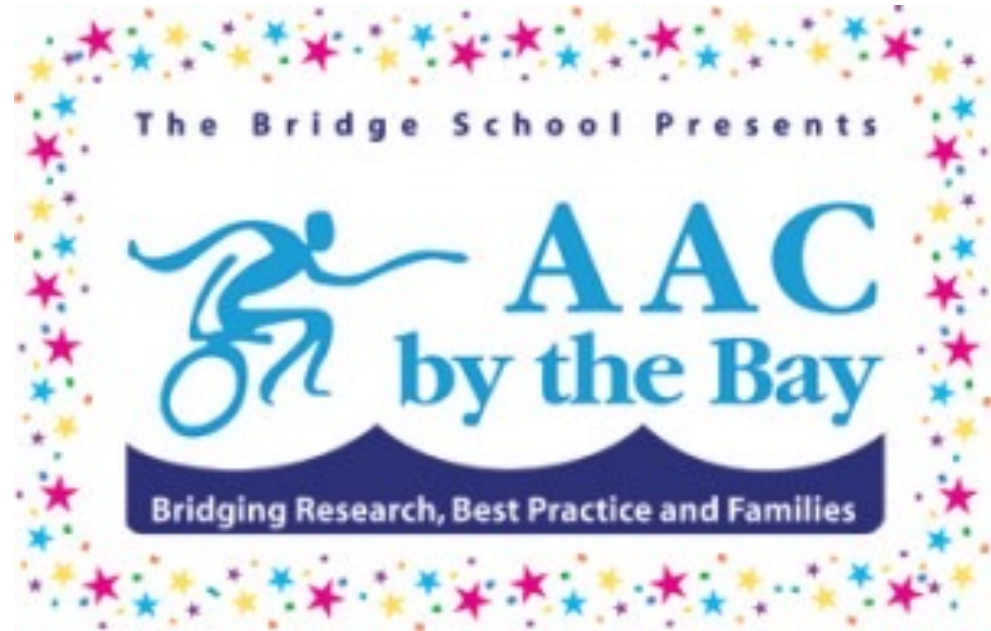
They are leaders in our parent group and are actively involved in ensuring that Sammy have a full and experience-rich life by being engaged with our staff in planning and implementing strategies to help him develop in all areas.



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**See you soon!**



Watch for our Save the Date announcement when details are final!

# Join us in Mexico!



July 23-27, 2023

A smaller version of the ISAAC Cancún México logo is centered on a green background with a subtle gradient. The logo text and colorful shapes are clearly visible against the green backdrop.

**ISAAC** se complace en anunciar que el próximo XIX congreso de la Sociedad Internacional de Comunicación Aumentativa y Alternativa se ha sido reprogramado para 2023. Según lo planeado originalmente, la Conferencia se llevará a cabo en el Centro Internacional de Convenciones (ICC) de la bella ciudad de **CANCÚN**, contigua a la Riviera Maya de la costa del caribe mexicano.

**23 - 27 DE JULIO, 2023**

Rodeado por la cultura maya y con fácil acceso a playas hermosas, tiendas, restaurants y tours tanto de Cancún como de la Riviera Maya, el congreso de ISAAC contará con eventos de CAA, perspectivas, lo último en investigaciones e innovaciones clínicas, talleres, seminarios, exposiciones de las compañías más importantes, eventos sociales y entretenimiento. Todo en un sitio culturalmente único.

**¡Anótalo en tu calendario y aparta la fecha para ISAAC CANCÚN en México!**

Para mayor información, consulta nuestro sitio web [www.isaac-online.org](http://www.isaac-online.org) y síguenos en Twitter **#ISAACcancun**

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