



Austina De Bonte

president@nwgca.org (community volunteering)

austinad@hotmail.com (for hire)

425-503-4990 (voice or text)

I am an advocate who is passionate about speaking to parents and educators about the unique social and emotional development of highly capable (HiCap) or "gifted" children. There is a large and growing body of research that will forever change how you think about the HiCap population.

POSITIONS

President, NW Gifted Child Association (NWGCA), www.nwgca.org (2012 – present)

WA statewide non-profit organization for families with gifted children. Membership of 2500 families.

President, Northshore HiCap Parents Council, www.nwgca.org (2008 – present)

Northshore school district non-profit for parents of highly capable children. Membership of 2400 families.

Member, NAGC Parent Editorial Content & Advisory Board (2016 – present)

Reviewing articles for publication in the Parenting for High Potential Magazine, as well as authoring content.

Advisor, Untapped Potential Project, www.powerupp.org (2017 – present)

Nationwide non-profit to advance public policy that optimizes educational outcomes for children with unique abilities.

Advisor, The G Word Film, www.thegwordfilm.com (2017 – present)

Member of advisory board to groundbreaking documentary about Gifted individuals.

AWARDS

PTA Outstanding Advocate Award, June 2015

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AUDIENCES

Dates before 2016 available upon request

Scheduled

Lake Washington School District, BK Play Academy (Bellevue), Northshore School District

November 2016: Renton School District

October 2016: Northshore School District, Mount Vernon School District, Kelso School District, Bear Creek Elementary PTA, Lake Washington School District, Shoreline School District

Completed

October 2017: Shoreline School District
October 2017: Leavenworth School District
September 2017: Mount Vernon School District
May 2017: Federal Way School District
March 2017: Seabury School in Tacoma
February 2017: Highline School District
January 2017: Edmonds School District

June 2016: Highline School District

May 2016: Lynden School District

April 2016: Centered in Wellness, Kirkland

April 2016: Mukilteo School District

March 2016: Issaquah School District

January 2016: Lake Stevens School District

January 2016: Mount Vernon School District

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR EDUCATORS

Scheduled

October 2017: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), 3-hour keynote presenter, plus breakout session

Completed

October 2017: Leavenworth School District, 2-hour PD for All Staff, Cascade School District

September 2017: Mount Vernon School District, PD for elementary and middle cluster group teachers

August 2017: Mount Vernon School District, PD for Jefferson Elementary, all staff

June 2107: Seattle School Board, presentation on Equity in HiCap for school board study session

March 2017: Mount Vernon School District, 3-hour PD session for Elementary PD Day

March 2017: Lake Stevens School District, 2-hour PD session for Lake Stevens Middle School, all staff

January 2017: Federal Way School District, 2-hour PD session for Highly Capable staff

October 2016: Leota Junior High School, Science Department

August 2016: Lake Stevens School District, 3-Hour PD session for Highly Capable staff

March 2016: King County Juvenile Court, 2-hour PD session for King County truancy officers

January 2016: Madison Middle School, PD session Madison Middle School, all staff

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS GIVEN

Scheduled

November 2017: National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), Full concurrent session (Charlotte, NC)

Completed

October 2017: WAETAG 2017 Conference, Breakout presenter x2 (Tacoma, WA)

August 2017: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), Breakout presenter (Naperville, IL)

April 2017: WA State PTA Convention, Breakout presenter (Seatac, WA)

November 2016: NAGC 2016 Conference, Full concurrent session (Orlando, FL)

November 2016: NW Gifted Child Association (NWGCA) Workshop, (Washougal/Vancouver, WA),
Keynote speaker

October 2016: Washington Association of Educators of the Talented and Gifted (WAETAG) 2016
Conference, Breakout presenter (Tacoma, WA)

October 2016: Oregon Association for Talented and Gifted (OATAG) 2016 Conference,
Breakout presenter (Portland, OR)

October 2015, WAETAG 2015 Conference, Breakout presenter (Tacoma, WA)

November 2014, NWGCA Regional Workshop, Keynote speaker (Woodinville, WA)

October 2014, WAETAG 2014 Conference, Breakout presenter (Tacoma, WA)

March 2014, NWGCA Connections Conference 2014, Breakout presenter (Seattle, WA)

November 2013, NWGCA Regional Workshop, Keynote speaker (Woodinville, WA)

February 2013, NWGCA Connections Conference 2013, Breakout presenter (Puyallup, WA)

CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Scheduled

November 2017: NAGC 2017 (Charlotte, NC), including pre-convention program:

“Evidence Based Programs & Strategies for Identifying and Serving Gifted Children Living in Poverty”

Completed

October 2017: WAETAG 2017 Conference (Tacoma, WA)

August 2017: SENG 2017 (Naperville, IL), including Pre-conference “Continuing Education” sessions:

“Misdiagnosis and Dual Diagnosis of Gifted Children,”

“Asynchronous Development: A Concept Born from Experience and Nurtured by Research”

February 2017, UW Equity Summit on Gifted Education (Seattle, WA)

November 2016, NAGC 2016 (Orlando, FL), including pre-convention full day program:

“Identifying and Serving Gifted and Talented African American and Hispanic/Latino Students”

October 2016: WAETAG 2016 Conference (Tacoma, WA)

October 2016: OATAG 2016 Conference (Portland, OR)

October 2015, WAETAG 2015 Conference (Tacoma, WA)

October 2014, WAETAG 2014 Conference (Tacoma, WA)

October 2013, WAETAG 2013 Conference (Tacoma, WA)

March 2014, NWGCA Connections Conference 2014 (Seattle, WA)

October 2013, SENG Model Parent Group Facilitator Training (Tacoma, WA)

February 2013, NWGCA Connections Conference 2013 (Puyallup, WA)

November 2012, NAGC Annual Convention 2012 (Denver, CO)

October 2012, WAETAG 2012 (Tacoma, WA)

February 2012, NWGCA Connections Conference 2012 (Edmonds, WA)

July 2011, SENG Conference 2011 (Seattle, WA)

January 2011, NWGCA Connections Conference 2011 (Redmond, WA)

October 2009, WAETAG 2009 Conference (Lynnwood, WA)

PUBLICATIONS

James and Susie: An Allegory about Smart Kids and Grit (2015), <http://tinyurl.com/nwgcaJamesAndSusie>

Peeling the Onion: Equity in HiCap (2017), <http://tinyurl.com/PeelingTheOnion>

Peeling the Onion: Equity in HiCap – Abridged for Educators (2017), <http://tinyurl.com/PeelingTheOnionA>

EDUCATION

M.Eng., S.B., Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), 1998

Masters thesis completed in the MIT Media Lab, Epistemology and Learning Group, on the topic of constructionist learning environments for elementary age students to learn computer programming.

Thesis advisor: Mitchell Resnick.

BIO

Austina De Bonte is the current President of the Northwest Gifted Child Association (www.nwgca.org), the Washington State support and advocacy organization for families with gifted children. Founded in 1963, NWGCA is the oldest gifted organization in Washington state. A dynamic and engaging presenter, Austina speaks regularly at conferences, as well as conducts parent education talks and professional development workshops for educators. She is an advocate who is passionate about speaking about the unique social and emotional development of highly capable (HiCap) or "gifted" children. Austina's signature style combines her experience as a parent and parent coach along with synthesized research and cutting edge neuroscience. Austina is a certified SENG Model Parent Group facilitator.