



Austina De Bonte - Smart is Not Easy

austina@smartisnoteasy.com (for hire)

president@nwgca.org (community volunteering)

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, and how to identify HiCap students with attention to equity. There is a large and growing body of research that will forever change how you think about the HiCap population.

POSITIONS

Consultant, Smart is not Easy, LLC, www.smartisnoteasy.com (2017 – present)

Private consultant providing consulting for school district teams, professional development for educators, parent education, and individual parent consulting. UBI: 604-172-702 EIN: 82-2801469

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

WA statewide non-profit organization for families with gifted children. Membership of 2,500 families.

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

Non-profit for parents of highly capable children in Northshore School District. Membership of 3,100 families.

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

Member of advisory board to groundbreaking documentary about gifted individuals.

Member, NAGC Parent Editorial Content & Advisory Board, www.nagc.org (2016 – 2019)

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

AWARDS

PTA Outstanding Advocate Award, June 2015 (Bear Creek Elementary PTA)

PTA Outstanding Advocate Award, June 2018 (Northshore Council PTA)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS FOR COMMUNITY AUDIENCES

Dates before 2016 available upon request

January 2020: Central Kitsap School District

November 2019: MIT Splash Parent Program

November 2019: Seabury School, Tacoma

October 2019: Edmonds Challenge Parents Assoc.

May 2019: Sumner School District

March 2019: Shoreline School District

January 2019: Edmonds School District

December 2018: Seattle Schools, Thornton Elem

October 2018: Riverview School Dist, Carnation

October 2018: Marysville School District

April 2018: International School, Kirkland

April 2018: Seabury School, Tacoma

March 2018: Snohomish Public Library

January 2018: Camas School District

November 2017: Lake Washington School District

November 2017: BK Play Academy (Bellevue)

November 2017: Northshore School District

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
November 2016: Renton School District
October 2016: Northshore School District
October 2016: Mount Vernon School District
October 2016: Kelso School District
October 2016: Bear Creek Elementary PTA

October 2016: Lake Washington School District
October 2016: Shoreline 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

March 2020: Blaine School District, Half day consult on equitable identification
February 2020: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), Full day PD for Hi-Cap Cooperative (Districts across the ESD)
January 2020: Central Kitsap School District, 2-hour PD session plus parent evening
January 2020: Lynden School District, 3-hour PD for HiCap specialists, 1.5-hour PD for superintendent leadership team, plus parent evening
November 2019: Multicare Behavioral Health, Puyallup, PD session
August 2019: Central Kitsap School District, Three 90-minute PD sessions
June 2019: Central Kitsap School District, Two 3-hour PD sessions
May 2019: Sumner School District, 2-hour PD session
January 2019: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), Full day PD for Hi-Cap Cooperative (Districts across the ESD)
January 2019: Arlington School District, 3-hour PD, all elementary staff; 2-hour consult, HiCap Committee
December 2018 – February 2019: Central Kitsap School District, Two consultation site visits, phone consultation, data analysis for HiCap administrators & HiCap Committee
August 2018: Mount Vernon School District, 1.5 hour PD session, LaVenture middle school staff
August 2018: Kent School District, Full day PD for all school counselors
February 2018: ESD 113 (Olympia/Tumwater), 3-hour PD session
January 2018: Camas School District, 2-hour PD session for all staff
January 2018: Shoreline School District, 2-hour PD session for elementary staff
January 2018: Burlington-Edison School District, 2-hour PD session, district offices
October 2017: NW ESD 189 (Anacortes), 3-hour keynote presenter, plus breakout session
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 2017: 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

June 2020: NWGCA Online Webinar, Keynote presenter
April 2020: NWGCA Online Webinar, Keynote presenter
March 2020: Rehab Seminars, Full Day Seminar presenter (Seattle, WA)
February 2020: Whitworth University Gifted Education Institute, Breakout presenter (Spokane, WA)
May 2019: SENG Regional Conference, Breakout presenter (Olympia, WA)
March 2019: WA School Counselor's Association, Breakout presenter (Seattle, WA)
December 2018: NW ESD Social Emotional Learning Summit, Breakout presenter (Anacortes, WA)
November 2018: SENGinar Series, Webinar presenter (online) – sold out!
November 2018: National Association for Gifted Children, Full concurrent session (Minneapolis, MN)
October 2018: WAETAG 2018 Conference, Breakout presenter x2 (Bellevue, WA)
July 2018: Supporting the Emotional Needs of the Gifted (SENG), Breakout presenter (San Diego, CA)
March 2018: WA School Counselor's Association, Breakout presenter (Seattle, WA)
November 2017: National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC), Full concurrent session (Charlotte, NC)
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

January 2020: Whitworth University Gifted Education Institute (Spokane, WA)
May 2019: SENG Regional Conference (Olympia, WA)
November 2018: National Association for Gifted Children (NAGC) 2018 Convention (Minneapolis, MN)
October 2018: WAETAG 2018 Conference (Bellevue, WA)
July 2018: SENG 2018 Conference (San Diego, CA), including Continuing Education sessions:
"Turning Worriers into Warriors!: Anxiety in Gifted and 2e Youth," "If you're So Smart...: Executive
Function Coaching For Gifted Folks who Struggle to Get Things Done"
November 2017: NAGC 2017 (Charlotte, NC), including pre-convention program:
"Evidence Based Programs & Strategies for Identifying and Serving Gifted Children Living in Poverty"

October 2017: WAETAG 2017 Conference (Tacoma, WA)
August 2017: SENG 2017 (Naperville, IL), including 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

Highly Capable short film, The G Word (2020), <https://vimeo.com/414816589>
Accelerated Learning and Enhanced Instruction (2020), <http://tinyurl.com/acceleratedinstruction>
Beyond the Neuropsychological Evaluation, NAGC Parenting for High Potential Magazine (2019)
<https://tinyurl.com/phpdebonte>
What do Seattle and NYC Have in Common?, Joint publication with WAETAG (2019)
<http://tinyurl.com/seattlenyc>
NAGC Parent TIP Sheet: Making Friends (2017),
<http://www.nagc.org/resources-publications/resources-parents/parent-tip-sheets>
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>
James and Susie: An Allegory about Smart Kids and Grit (2015), <http://tinyurl.com/nwgcaJamesAndSusie>

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, Mentor: Amy Bruckman

BIO

Austina De Bonte is a family and school district consultant at Smart is not Easy, LLC (www.smartisnoteasy.com). Since 2012, Austina has also served as the President of the Northwest Gifted Child Association (www.nwgca.org), the Washington State support and advocacy non-profit for families with gifted children. A dynamic and engaging presenter, Austina speaks regularly at conferences, as well as conducts parent education talks and professional development workshops for educators about the unique social and emotional development of highly capable (HiCap) or “gifted” children. She also works with school district teams to develop and fine-tune their HiCap program models, especially concerning equitable identification strategies. Austina's signature style combines her experience as a parent and parent coach along with synthesized research, current district practices across Washington State, and cutting edge neuroscience. She has a Masters degree from MIT, and did her thesis work in the MIT Media Lab's Epistemology and Learning Group, where Lego Mindstorms was invented. Austina is a certified SENG Model Parent Group facilitator. Contact Austina at austina@smartisnoteasy.com