



## **Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program**

9-week course

October 2016

Fee: \$850.00

### **BACKGROUND & PHILOSOPHY**

It is estimated that 10 – 15 percent of the general population has a reading based learning disability. Of those individuals, approximately 80% has dyslexia. Yet, many people are misinformed or uninformed about dyslexia, including many school teachers, school staff and parents. Children and adults with dyslexia are often not identified and/or do not receive the appropriate remediation they need to learn to read, write and spell despite the fact they have the intellectual capacity to learn. What is dyslexia? The International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) adopted the following definition of dyslexia:

Dyslexia is characterized by difficulties with accurate and / or fluent word recognition and by poor spelling and decoding abilities. These difficulties typically result from a deficit in the phonological component of language that is often unexpected in relation to other cognitive abilities and the provision of effective classroom instruction. Secondary consequences may include problems in reading comprehension and reduced reading experience that can impede growth of vocabulary and background knowledge.

Benefits of taking this course online as compared to on-site courses:

- Participants have access to the course content 24 hours a day/7 days a week for the duration of the course. Participants fit the course work into their schedule. Coursework is instructor-led so feedback and answers to questions will always be provided on a timely basis.
- Participants can review archived PowerPoint presentations, videos and other course material to be viewed as often as desired

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- Participants have the opportunity to reflect on what they are learning before posting questions and reflections on discussion boards
- Participants are not limited to on-site in class time only to ask questions and interact with instructors and program participants

## **DTI DEVELOPED THE ONLINE DYSLEXIA ADVOCATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM TO:**

Teach Participants about the Individuals with Disabilities and Education Act (IDEA), FAPE, IEPs, 504's, appropriate accommodation, letter-writing, how to request and receive appropriate services and interventions, dispute processes and resolution, as they all relate to a student with dyslexia.

Upon completion participants will have the information they need to effectively work with families and school districts to ensure the laws are respected and that children are receiving the services they need.

## **OPTIONAL TEXT**

Wrightslaw: Special Education Law, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition by Peter W.D. Wright and Pamela Darr Wright

## **TARGET AUDIENCE**

A wide range of individuals may benefit from taking this certification program. The curriculum has been developed to be appropriate both for parents, special education advocates, practitioners and anyone interested in assisting families affected by dyslexia.

## **CERTIFICATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

**\*\*Prerequisite:** All participants are required to complete our *What is Dyslexia* course. Please see [www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org](http://www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org) for a current schedule.

The certificate program consists of: online coursework, midterm, final and a case study assignment. It will take approximately 40-50 hours to complete the certificate.



## **COURSE SCHEDULE**

Week 1: October 10, 2016

- Dyslexia Refresher, Overview of FAPE, 504, Important Terms, the Role of an Advocate

Week 2: October 17, 2016

- Procedures, RTI, SSTs

Week 3: October 24, 2016

- Assessments Part 1, IEEs

Week 4: October 31, 2016

- Assessments, Part 2, midterm

Week 5: November 7, 2016

- IEPs (PLOPs, goals, services)

Week 6: November 14, 2016

- Accommodations, Meetings, Letter-writing

*(Week of November 21, 2016 -Thanksgiving Break and Catch-up week)*

Week 7: November 28, 2016

- Dispute Resolution (Due Process, Mediation, Compensatory Ed)

Week 8: December 5, 2016

- Case studies, final

Week 9: December 12, 2016

- Case studies, Resources, Advocate Policies and Procedures

## **REQUIREMENTS**

Participants will be expected to complete the assigned readings.

Participants will be expected to complete the assigned homework.

Participants will be expected to participate in board discussions.

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Participants will be required to pass the midterm and final before being awarded a Certificate of Completion.

\*\*The Dyslexia Training Institute has the right to withhold a certificate of completion if a participant has not completed the program in full and demonstrates a level of mastery required to complete the program.

## **ADDITIONAL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

### **Duration of Course**

Online course work will take approximately nine weeks to complete. Access to the coursework is available 24 hours/day, 7 days week for the duration of the course.

### **No Warranties**

The Instructor makes no promises or warranties with regards to a Participant's performance as a result of any training provided. *No employee at the Dyslexia Training Institute is an attorney and the content of this course should not be construed as legal advice.*

### **Attendance**

Participants are required to:

- actively participate in all online courses by completing required readings and assignments on a timely basis
- post questions and reflection on discussion boards
- participate in webinars

### **Grading and Tests**

Each participant will be required to complete a pre-test at the beginning of the program, a mid-term and a final at the end of the program.

Participants enrolling in Graduate Level Extension Credits through the University of San Diego will be required to write a paper at the end of the course. Paper guidelines will be given at the beginning of the course.



## Computer and Technology Requirements

Internet access

Your computer must have the ability to view PowerPoint presentations, live streaming (for webinars), download pdf and word documents.

## Enrollment & Fees

Participants must enroll and pay a \$100 non-refundable registration fee at least one week before the first day of the first class or have a purchase order sent to DTI. The first day of the certificate program is October 12, 2015.

### Steps to enrollment:

- Visit [www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org](http://www.dyslexiatraininginstitute.org) to download the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate application or request it at [dyslexiaspec@gmail.com](mailto:dyslexiaspec@gmail.com)
- Complete the application and submit. You can scan the application and email it to [dyslexiaspec@gmail.com](mailto:dyslexiaspec@gmail.com), fax it to 619-342-2643, or mail it to:

Dyslexia Training Institute  
7424 Jackson Drive, Ste 1B  
San Diego, CA 92119

- Your application will be review and you will receive notification of your registration status within one week of the date we receive your application.
- Upon acceptance, registrant must pay a \$100 non-refundable registration fee. This registration fee will be credited towards the \$850.00 program fee.

*Certification Program Fee - \$850.00 – Program fee must be paid in full before the first day of the certification program.*

## Refund Policy

If a participant is not able to complete the Dyslexia Certificate Program, the following is the refund policy:

<b>Drop Date</b>	<b>Amount of Refund</b>
prior to 10/17/16	\$750
prior to 10/31/16	\$350
After 10/31/16	No refund available

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## Graduate Level Extension Credits

Graduate Level Extension Credits are available through the University of San Diego (USD). Registering for Graduate Level Extension Credits is optional and not a requirement for participating in the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program.

USD's fee is \$75 per Graduate Level Extension Credit. The Dyslexia Advocate Certificate is three (3) credits. The fee is paid directly to USD and is not included in the fee paid to the Dyslexia Training Institute to enroll in the Dyslexia Advocate Certificate Program. Information for enrolling for Graduate Level Extension Credits will be available during the certificate program.

Participants enrolling in Graduate Level Extension Credits through the USD will be required to complete all program requirements to receive the credits.

The Graduate Level Extension Credits are generally used for educator's certification requirements, salary enhancement purposes and/or transferred to a degree program. However, it is the responsibility of the participant to consult with their organization requiring the credits for certifications, salary enhancement or degrees to ensure the Graduate Level Extension Credits issued from USD will fulfill the specified requirements.

## Instructors



Dr. Kelli Sandman-Hurley

Kelli is a published author and researcher of dyslexia. She is an adjunct professor of reading, literacy coordinator and a tutor trainer. Kelli served as President of the San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association, as well as a board member of the Southern California Library Literacy Network (SCLLN). She is a professional developer for California Library Literacy Services (CLLS) as well as a Literacy Consultant for the San Diego Council on Literacy. Kelli received Orton-Gillingham training by Fellows of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, has received extensive training in Structured Word Inquiry, has

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been trained in the Lindamood-Bell, Wilson Reading, RAVE-O and Read Naturally programs. She was awarded the Jane Johnson Fellowship and the Commission on Adult Basic Education (COABE) scholarship. Kelli has presented at numerous conferences as well as provided professional development for K-12 teachers. She received her doctorate in Literacy with a specialization in reading and dyslexia from San Diego State University and the University of San Diego. Kelli is a trained Special Education Advocate assisting parents and children through the IEP and 504Plan process.



Tracy Block-Zaretsky

Tracy has tutored children and adults with learning disabilities for the past 20 years and has developed and taught workplace and family literacy programs. She is a trained Special Education Advocate assisting parents and children through the Individual Education Plan (IEP) and 504Plan process. Tracy worked as a trainer on the adult literacy initiative, Equipped for the Future, with the National Institute for Literacy. She served as President of the San Diego Branch of the International Dyslexia Association. Tracy received Orton-Gillingham training by Fellows of the Academy of Orton-Gillingham Practitioners and Educators, has received extensive training in Structured Word Inquiry, has been trained in the Wilson Reading System, Lindamood-Bell programs, Read Naturally, and a variety of reading and writing assessment tests. Tracy has presented at numerous conferences on learning disabilities, phonics, reading and writing instruction, Special Education law and advocacy, as well as provided professional development for K-12 teachers.