



2022 Gentle Teaching International Conference Frequently Asked Questions

What is Gentle Teaching?

Gentle Teaching incorporates compassion as an alternative to the reactive and restrictive practices commonplace in working with those who present with complex needs. Its central purpose is to nurture; teach; and sustain a sense of companionship, connectedness, and community for those who have repeatedly experienced an existence of disconnectedness, isolation and loneliness.

The premise of Gentle Teaching is that all individuals have a right to feel safe and valued in their homes; with their families and caregivers; and at their job, school or other forms of meaningful day activities. Those who are most vulnerable require predictability and structure in their day. They also need to experience interactions from others that are overwhelmingly positive and uplifting (vs. critical and demanding). This is truly a cultural shift to principles that provide a solid base for helping individuals experience companionship and connectedness and serves as a foundation for other models of treatment specific to the needs of the individual.

What is Gentle Teaching International?

Gentle Teaching International is a coalition of 29 agencies throughout the United States, Canada and Europe dedicated to implementing and teaching the concepts of Gentle Teaching.

What is the Gentle Teaching International Conference?

The Gentle Teaching International Conference is a premiere gathering of people from around the world committed to providing positive and proactive supports. This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the conference! The conference presents a unique opportunity to share the research, best practices, case studies and lessons learned on creating and sustaining a culture of support for vulnerable populations in varying environments. The conference rotates its location among its members each year with Michigan hosting for the first time since 2011.

The conference features dynamic speakers who offer attendees innovative, out-of-the-box thinking to provide the highest quality of supports and services for people of ALL abilities to thrive as active, valued, contributing members of our communities, while navigating a complex regulatory environment, limited funding, and workforce recruitment and retention challenges.



Who attends the conference?

Conference attendees are approximately 75% female, 25% male and consist primarily of individuals in various disciplines from around the globe who work for organizations providing services and supports to individuals with physical or intellectual disabilities, mental illness, the elderly and/or other populations with complex needs. Past attendees include:

- Advocates
- Family members
- People who receive supports
- Executive leaders
- Service providers
- Program directors & program managers
- Frontline supervisors
- Direct support professionals
- Care coordinators & support coordinators
- Clinical staff
- Human Resources
- Board members
- Trainers/Educators
- School Personnel
- Policymakers & regulators

What business opportunities are available at the conference?

With approximately 400 attendees expected, the conference offers a variety of opportunities for businesses, including:

- Gaining name recognition on a global scale among organizations serving individuals with physical and developmental disabilities, mental illness, and others with complex needs.
- Networking with prominent leaders and professionals in the field.
- Marketing products and services to potential clients and organizational decision-makers.

Please see attached sponsorship options for more detail on available opportunities during the conference.