

**Infant Development Association of California  
Southern California Regional Conference**

**Effective Collaboration: Together We Are Unstoppable**



**Session Description  
Saturday, March 4, 2017  
10:15 am - Noon**

**Partnerships Supporting Inclusion: The HOPE Infant Family Support Program and the Child Development Center at MiraCosta College**

This presentation will provide background information, fundamental principles and applied classroom examples of a community partnership providing early intervention services in an inclusive early care and education setting. Participants will have the opportunity to dialogue and address the pitfalls and promises of such practices within their own communities.

**Mark Whitney, Faculty in Child Development at MiraCosta College**

Mark served as the Director of the Child Development Center at MiraCosta College and is a professor of Child Development at the college, teaching courses in child growth and development, program planning, observation and assessment and adapting curriculum for young children with special needs.

**Debbie Ostrow, Special Education Teacher with the HOPE Infant Family Support Program**

The HOPE Infant Program is a relationship based early intervention program that serves families with children with special needs ages birth-3 years old. Debbie partners with program families to support, coach, and offer strategies on how parents can best help their children grow and learn in the context of both their home and community.

**Janelle Rethwisch, Parent and Advocate**

Janelle's experiences as a parent provide her valuable insights on a wide range of topics, including family-centered early intervention, natural environments, parent/professional partnerships, collaboration and teamwork between general education and special education teachers.