

TAGT Research Division

2017 Gifted Plus Conference Recap

This past June, TAGT held the 2017 Gifted Plus Conference in San Antonio which included the organization's first Summit on 2e Education, led by Dr. Susan Baum. Dr. Baum is a leader in the field of twice-exceptional research and serves as the Director of the National Institute for 2e Research and Development at Bridges Academy in Los Angeles. Among other things, participants screened Thomas Ropelewski's documentary 2e: Twice Exceptional and discussed how the film, told from the point of view of students at Bridge's Academy, influenced their perceptions of the strengths of, and the challenges faced by, these twice-exceptional students.

Participants at the conference were able to interact with researchers and practitioners in the field who shared their own experiences working with gifted, underserved populations. Steven C. Smith, an Education Specialist with NASA's Educator Professional Development Collaborative, presented the opening keynote, sharing his own personal struggles as a gifted youth who experienced homelessness and abuse during his childhood. Dr. Nielsen Pereira, Assistant Professor in Gifted, Creative, and Talented Studies at Purdue University, discussed the need for more focused identification of gifted students within the ELL population. In addition to these notable speakers, practitioners chose from a variety of breakout sessions focused on students from a range of underserved populations including, twice exceptional, minority, and LGBTQ students.