OCALICON 2018 seeks proposals from professionals, scholars, family members, self-advocates, researchers, service providers, educators, and leaders in the fields of autism, sensory disabilities, low-incidence, and other disabilities.

OCALICON will select proposals and build a 3-day program of breakout sessions that are interactive and comprehensive, focusing on topics of national significance and targeted toward an experienced audience. The best proposals typically highlight the implementation of session content through engaging discussions, real world examples, new perspectives or various points of view, new technologies/innovations, and/or interactive manipulatives. OCALICON attendees are eager to engage and want to learn principles and strategies they can take back to apply and implement in their own work, home, school, or community setting.

Breakout sessions address different population targets and diverse topics across the lifespan. They are presented in a variety of session formats designed to best meet the needs and interests of adult learners. Content is categorized by session level which ranges from introductory to expert level.

Submissions are welcomed as research posters, facilitated discussions, panel sessions, learning lab sessions, hands-on interactive sessions, and the traditional lecture. New for 2018! Proposals may also be submitted in two new session formats: Strategy Smackdown sessions and MasterMind sessions. Presenter candidates are encouraged to think deeply about how their session content could be best presented in an engaging, relevant, and meaningful format.

OCALICON offers sessions that target a breadth of disabilities including autism spectrum disorder, sensory disabilities, complex and low-incidence disabilities, as well has increased session offerings for intellectual disabilities, developmental disabilities, communication disorders, and learning disabilities across the home, school, community, and workplace.

Sessions cover topics such as models of training, family supports, literacy, mental health, classroom strategies, sensory supports, and many more. They address needs across the lifespan from infant/toddler through older adult.

NEW for 2018! Through the Special Education Leadership Institute, OCALI in partnership with the Ohio Department of Education, Office for Exceptional Children will offer an increase in sessions focused on leadership, school climate, policy and legislation, compliance, federal and state regulations, and more.

Complete details about the Call for Proposals are included on the following pages and the OCALICON website.

OCALICON is committed to providing informative, engaging, applicable, interactive, world-class sessions presented by leaders in the field and content experts from across the nation and around the world.

Thank you for your interest in submitting a proposal for OCALICON 2018.
Adults ages 18 years or older may submit a proposal for OCALICON. Proposals must be submitted online through OCALI Pass, a free online user account. Candidates may submit a maximum of 5 proposals (whether as a primary or co-presenter). Successful candidates will have a maximum of three sessions (whether as a primary or co-presenter) in the final conference program. All sessions will be presented in English.

**Note:** The online proposal form does not automatically save. You must complete the entire form in one sitting. Your login session will time out after 60 minutes of inactivity. We strongly recommend you first complete your proposal in an offline format using a word processing program, then copy and paste your answers into the online proposal form.

## PART 1: REQUIRED CREDENTIALS

Returning candidates must review and update his/her profile, bio, and CV/resume before submitting an OCALICON 2018 proposal. New submitters will first need to create an OCALI Pass account and enter the requested information. Once updated, click **Submit a Proposal** to continue to the proposal form.

### OCALI Pass Account

Create or log in to your existing OCALI Pass account. You will be asked to enter or update your mailing address and other personal details. Email is OCALI’s primary communications tool, so please enter a current and frequently checked email address.

### Bio

A presenter bio must be submitted in third-person language and in paragraph form. It should include professional highlights and milestones such as education, background, publications, and prior presentations. The bio will be published online and in the OCALICON program and is subject to edits at the discretion of the review committee. **Character Limits:** Maximum of 600 characters (includes spaces), approximately 100 words

**Sample Bio:**

*Wendy Szakacs is an OCALI regional consultant for northeast/eastern Ohio. She develops evidence-based materials and provides technical assistance and professional development, leading projects in social competence, bullying, behavior, communication, and executive function. Szakacs collaborates with regional partners, including State Support Teams and Educational Service Centers, in the creation and presentation of professional development to local school district staff and families. Szakacs has held positions as a consultant, adjunct instructor, and intervention specialist.*

**Note:** Each candidate must individually submit his/her own bio. Please do not combine the bios of candidate co-presenters.

### Curriculum Vita (CV)/Resume

A CV or resume of professional work – including but not limited to job titles/descriptions, education, publications, presentations, professional organizations, etc. – must be submitted as a PDF document. CVs/resumes are used by OCALI to obtain Continuing Education Units (CEUs). An abbreviated version is acceptable.

**Note:** Each candidate must individually submit his/her own CV/resume. Please do not combine the CV/resumes of multiple candidate co-presenters.
PART 2: PROPOSAL COMPONENTS

An overview of proposal components is provided below. Please refer to the OCALICON website (http://ocalicon.org) for more details about each proposal component.

Session Type

Select one.

- **Strategy Smackdown** – 1 presenter (OCALI will select the Strategy Smackdown presentation groups. You would be 1 of 5 presenters in a single session.)
- **MasterMind**– 1 presenter (OCALI will select the MasterMind presentation groups. You would present your talk along with 2-3 other presenters in a single session.)
- **Panel** – must have 4 presenters
- **Facilitated Discussion** – 2-3 presenters
- **Hands-on Interactive** – 1-4 presenters
- **Poster** – 1-2 presenters
- **Learning Lab** – 1-2 presenters
- **Lecture** – 1-3 presenters

The OCALICON review committee seeks a balance of content and session types and will select a limited number of each session type for the final program. Note: The session type of an accepted proposal may be changed at the discretion of the review committee.

Number of Presenters

Please indicate the total number of presenters for your session. Note: The number of co-presenters varies by session type. Co-presenters will need to add themselves to your proposal AFTER it has been submitted but BEFORE the proposal deadline of Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Session Title

The title is the “first impression” of your presentation and should reflect overall session content. Note: While creative session titles are welcome, candidates are strongly encouraged to make sure the session title accurately reflects the session content. Please spell out all the words in the title and do not use acronyms or abbreviations.

*Character Limits: Maximum of 90 characters (includes spaces), approximately 10 words*

Abstract

The abstract is the summary of session content. It should include the most important information, strategies, or practices that will be covered. The abstract will be published online and in the OCALICON program and is subject to edits at the discretion of the review committee. Note: Candidates are strongly encouraged to make sure that the session abstract accurately reflects the session content that will be presented or facilitated.

*Character Limits: Maximum of 600 characters (includes spaces), approximately 100 words*

Objectives

Include 3-5 session objectives that complete the following statement:

“At the end of the session, participants will be able to…”

*Character Limits: Maximum of 200 characters per objective (including spaces), approximately 30 words*

Level

Select one.

- **Introductory** – provides baseline information or an initial overview of content to the new or inexperienced attendee
- **Intermediate** – builds on foundational concepts while highlighting next steps and best practices
- **Advanced** – provides in-depth and innovative ideas and practices to attendees who are already very familiar with the content
- **Expert** – provides more specialized concepts or practices to attendees with a significant knowledge, understanding, or mastery
Primary and Secondary Topic Areas

Select one primary topic area which best characterizes the session content. Select up to two additional secondary topics.

- Academic Supports
- Accessibility
- Advocacy
- Assessment, Identification, and Diagnosis
- Assistive Technology
- Behavior
- Biology, Neurology, Physiology, Medical
- Bullying
- Capacity Building
- Classroom and Instructional Strategies
- Collaboration
- Communication
- Community Engagement
- Compliance
- Comprehensive Programming
- Continuity of Transitions
- Continuum of Service Delivery
- Data Collection/Measurement
- Early Intervention/Early Childhood
- Employment/Vocational Training
- Equity and Inclusion
- Family Supports
- Federal and State Regulations
- Higher Education Supports
- Language Development
- Leadership
- Least Restrictive Environment
- Literacy
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Mentoring Programs
- Model of Training
- Paraprofessionals
- Peer Engagement
- Policy/Legislation
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- Preservice Course Development
- School Climate
- Sensory
- Service Delivery Models
- Social-Emotional/Social Skills
- Strategic Management
- Systems Integration
- Transition and Adulthood
- Universal Design for Learning
- University Program Models

Population Target

Select all that apply. Note: Preference will be given to those proposals that actively demonstrate application across a variety of population targets.

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Communication Disorder
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- Deafblind
- Dyslexia
- Emotional Disturbance
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Learning Disabilities
- Multiple Disabilities
- Orthopedic Disabilities
- Other Health Impairments
- Sensory Processing Disorder
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)
- Visual Impairments

Targeted Audiences

Select up to 5 targeted audiences for which your content is most focused or beneficial.

- Adult Support Providers
- Community Members
- Curriculum Directors
- Early Childhood Service Providers
- Employers
- Family Members
- General Educators
- Healthcare Providers
- Higher Education Faculty
- Individuals with Disabilities
- Paraprofessionals
- Principals
- Related Service Providers
- Special Education Directors
- Special Educators
- Superintendents
- Transition Coaches
Targeted Ages

Select all that apply.

- Infant/Toddler
- Preschool
- Elementary
- Middle School
- High School
- Postsecondary/Young Adult
- Older Adults

Session Description

Complete each of the below areas in as much detail as possible. This information allows reviewers to better understand and evaluate the proposal. Vague or insufficient responses will receive a lower score.

*Character Limits for each response: Minimum of 100 characters (includes spaces), approximately 15 words; maximum of 2,000 characters (includes spaces), approximately 250 words*

1. Provide a thorough description of the topic, method, and/or content.

2. In one sentence, summarize the main point you want attendees to take from this session.

3. What specific examples will you highlight in this session?

4. Specify the research, foundational practices, or innovative strategies that support this session.

5. Describe the significance and timeliness to the field. Why is this information important at this time?

6. What have you learned as a result of implementing the ideas and concepts included in this proposal? Include results or data, if applicable.

7. Describe the intended outcome or benefit your session would provide. How might the methods, ideas, and strategies be transferable and applicable to attendees’ work?

8. Explain why the selected session type is the best fit for your content, intended interaction style, and audience. *For example, if you are submitting a facilitated discussion, share a few of the questions you will use to engage the audience. For a learning lab session, explain why each person having a device at their fingertips is beneficial. Or for a hands-on interactive session, describe the manner in which participants are involved and engaged.*

9. What specific experience or expertise qualifies you and your co-presenters to present or facilitate this session? *This is not a repeat of presenter bios, rather an explanation of why you are submitting this proposal. Take advantage of this space to share details about your collective qualifications, provide examples of how you have applied these practices, and/or why you and your co-presenters are best suited to talk about this content. For example, in a panel session, what are the unique perspectives each of the four panelists will contribute to the session?*

Submission

Submit proposal online at [http://ocalicon.org](http://ocalicon.org)

**Submission Deadline:** 11:59 pm EDT | Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

*Late proposals will not be accepted.*