

# NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

# 2026 Neurodiversity & Disability SYMPOSIUM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2026 • CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, CHICO • REGISTER TODAY!

**JOIN US** for the **Northern California Neurodiversity & Disability Symposium** at California State University, Chico! In its seventh year, the Symposium amplifies the voices of neurodivergent and disabled individuals, while providing education for families, educators, and service providers in our region and beyond. With a commitment to inclusivity, we bring together a diverse range of topics and speakers to support all members of our community—ensuring that everyone has access to the knowledge and resources they need. Visit the website for the event schedule, our lineup of keynote and concurrent session speakers, and registration information.

## Keynote Speaker (Virtual)

### Kaelynn Partlow

Diagnosed with autism at age 10, Kaelynn Partlow brings lived experience and clinical expertise to her work as an autism advocate. She began her journey at Project Hope Foundation, where she was first a student, then hired in 2015 as a Registered Behavior Technician.



In 2022, Kaelynn reached a global audience as a featured cast member on Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum US*. She's now a published author and

social media creator with a following of millions. Her content blends advocacy, education, and humor to challenge misconceptions about autism and create a more inclusive world. Through her speaking engagements, Kaelynn offers practical strategies, personal storytelling, and hard-earned insight into how we can better support autistic individuals across all ages and environments.

## Keynote Speaker

### Joey Travolta

Joey is the Creator, Co-Producer and Director of Lights, Camera, Friendship on the Spectrum. Born into a show business family, Joey began his career



as a recording artist and film actor, and has directed and produced over 20 films. Prior to singing, acting, and directing, Joey worked as a special education teacher in New Jersey.

In 2005, Joey produced the documentary *Normal People Scare Me*, while mentoring a fifteen year

old boy with autism who directed the film. Inspired by that experience, Joey developed the curriculum for Inclusion Films, a program that has served hundreds of aspiring neurodivergent filmmakers. Inclusion Films has a mission of inclusion—to train people with different abilities in the art of filmmaking—helping to create a shift in employment opportunities for individuals with developmental disabilities.

## Schedule at a Glance\*

- 8:15AM Welcome
- 8:30—9:30AM Keynote: Kaelynn Partlow
- 9:45—10:45AM Concurrent Sessions
  - Virginia Spielmann
  - Emily Raclaw
- 11:00AM—Noon Concurrent Sessions
  - Christine Romeo
  - Nicole Sparapani, Ph.D.
- 1:30—2:30PM Concurrent Sessions
  - Dr. Blake Warner
  - Student Disability Panel
- 2:45—3:45PM Concurrent Sessions
  - Hari Srinivasan, Ph.D.
  - Dena Gassner
- 4—5PM Closing Keynote: Joey Travolta

\*Schedule subject to change

## Fees

- General Registration: \$195
- Chico State Students, Staff, and Faculty: \$50

## Register Today!

**Online Registration:** Register up to 3 people at a time online if you wish to pay by credit card. If you need to pay by purchase order, select PO as the form of payment, and our team will reach out to you.

**Far Northern Regional Center Registration:** FNRC clients can use our FNRC online form to register up to 3 approved attendees.

**Group Registration:** For group discounts, or groups from the same org with more than 3 people, use our group registration form.

For more info and registration, visit

[rce.csuchico.edu/nds](https://rce.csuchico.edu/nds)



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