



Ready. Set. Grow

2022 LRA/ LAAPSE CONFERENCE

December 14, 2022

10:30-11:30

**I Get by With a Little Help from My Friends –
Panel of Individuals on the Autism Spectrum
- Moderated by Carole Montgomery, Whole Person Baton Rouge**

This presentation will include the testimony of three individuals on the Autism Spectrum that have gained employment with the assistance of Whole Person Baton Rouge. They will share their initial concerns and doubts about working in Competitive Employment, interacting in the community, and using their skills and personal interests to achieve their personal goals. While each participant has a unique story, the issues common to all persons on the spectrum will be revealed in this session. Panel Participants will answer questions on how preparing for and being employed has impacted their social life, self-sufficiency, self-confidence, communication, self-esteem, and ability to assert themselves.

Panelists:

Craig Allen, GIS Analyst, Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development (DOTD)

Craig works for state DOTD as an analyst and in Arial Imagery. He recently began participating in drone arial collection for small areas that planes can't access. Craig's dream was to work with airplanes. He was to "do anything." He went back to school in graphics using his graphics background. He also has an engineering degree. Whole Person Baton Rouge found him a job combining airplanes and graphics. He also recently obtained his UAV (unmanned aerial vehicle) Pilot License.

Markeith Bailey, Help Desk Operations, LSU

Markeith has progressed rapidly in his career (as did the other panelists). Markeith began with a job at the Help Desk, but his job duties were increased to add Interviewing and most recently Training LSU Staff.

Nanda Ramanujam, Full Stack Application Developer, IBM

Since placement at IBM, Nanda has received several promotions.