EIGHTH ANNUAL

# THE NATIONAL DOG SHOW THERAPY DOG SYMPOSIUM OF ROWAN UNIVERSITY

Chamberlain Student Center, Eynon Ballroom

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2026**
**10AM - 4:30PM EST**

Rowan University
SHREIBER FAMILY PET THERAPY PROGRAM

## Hosts

**Michele Pich, PhD, MS, CAIS, C-AAIS**
Shreiber Family Pet Therapy Program of Rowan University

**David Frei, BS**
The National Dog Show Presented by Purina on NBC



**9:30am - Breakfast/Registration**

**10am - Opening Remarks**

**10:30am - Keynote Speaker**

**Amy Johnson Binder, EdD, LPC, CPDT-KA**
"Right Dog, Right Person, Right Moment"



**12pm - 12:30pm - Lunch**

**12:30pm - Afternoon Presentations**

12:30p-12:55p
**Kate Buhrmaster, BA, MFA, C-AAIS**
*"Before the Moment: Designing Animal-Assisted Services with Intention"*

1:40p-2:05p
**Jen VonLintel, MS, MBA**
*"Right Dog, Right Student, Right Intervention: A 30-Year Blueprint for Sustainable School-Based AAI"*

2:50p-3:20p
**Whitney Romine, MPH, C-AAIS, KPA-CTP**
*"Healthcare Employees as Therapy Dog Handlers: Program Development at a Large, Complex Academic Medical Center and Early Insights"*

1:05p-1:30p
**Rachel Rachlinski, PhD, LPC-S**
*"A Practitioner's Framework for Matching, Readiness, and Supervision in Animal Assisted Therapy"*

2:15p-2:40p
**Christi Dudzik, LMHC, MC, CPP-AAPT**
*"Working with Clients Living with Cynophobia"*

3:30p-4:00p
**Panel/ Q&A**
**Diane Pekarek, CAIS, C-AAIS, CPDT-KA -** *"Recognizing Sentience: Advancing Ethics and Justice in Animal-Assisted Services"*
***Carlene Taylor, EdD -*** *"Campus Canines and Scholars with Collars: A Comprehensive Model for Visiting and Embedded Dogs in Higher Education"*

## 4pm - 4:30p - Closing

**Aubrey Fine, EdD; David Frei, BS; Michele Pich, PhD**
**Thank you to our sponsors!**

**Speaker Bios & Presentation Abstracts:**

**go.rowan.edu/TherapyDogSymposium**

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