



## We Change Lives

Linda Silverman

Did you know that GDC/ISAD:

- Has unique methods of assessing twice-exceptional children that illuminate their gifts, rather than just revealing their weaknesses? Director Linda Silverman holds a Ph.D. in Special Education (Learning Disabilities) from USC and has studied the gifted for over 60 years.
- Produces the only professional journal on adult giftedness? *Advanced Development*, the official journal of the Institute for the Study of Advanced Development since 1989, launched the discipline of counseling gifted adults. Advanced development in adults involves the deepening of one's values, broadening of one's scope of responsibility, consciousness of the meaning of one's existence, concern for others and commitment to service. We organized the first symposium on adult giftedness.
- Is a research center as well as a testing center? We have amassed data from 6,400+ children tested over the last 41 years. We have the largest data bank

on highly/ exceptionally/profoundly gifted children, as well as on twice exceptional children, with parental permission for research to be conducted anonymously. We maintain an archive consisting of the journals in gifted education; books and articles by Leta Stetter Hollingworth, the founder of gifted education; publications on Dabrowski's theory of positive disintegration; and several extensive personal libraries on giftedness.

- Developed the construct of the visual-spatial learner? We wrote the first articles and books on this population (*Upside-Down Brilliance: The Visual-Spatial Learner*), as well as creating and validating the *Visual-Spatial Identifier* (VSI) for teachers and parents. Visual-spatial learners include the twice exceptional, indigenous groups, mathematicians, artists, musicians, designers, empaths—all those with strong right hemispheric gifts.
- Introduced the concept of giftedness as *asynchronous development* through The Columbus Group? This construct is now embedded in the fabric of gifted education.
- Enables twice exceptional children to obtain Section 504 plans, which allow them to receive accommodations on college board exams.
- Has led the development of national policies for the assessment of gifted and twice exceptional children since 2006? We spearheaded NAGC's Position Statements, *Use of the WISC-IV for Gifted Identification* and *Use of the WISC-V for Gifted and Twice Exceptional Identification*.
- Advises the constructors of intelligence scales on the development of effective methods of assessing the gifted? We developed test items and the Expanded General Ability Index for the WISC-V. Linda Silverman served on the Advisory Panel of the *Stanford-Binet Intelligence Scale*, Fifth Edition (SB-5) and the *Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale*, Fifth Edition (WAIS-V). We orchestrated national studies for the development of extended norms on the WISC-IV and WISC-V. Bobbie Gilman and Linda Silverman co-authored 2 technical reports from Pearson Assessments. We designed symposia, summits and signature sessions for IQ test constructors on assessment of giftedness in Colorado, California, Texas, Louisiana, and Georgia.

- Developed 42 instruments, including measures of overexcitability, characteristics of giftedness, visual-spatial learning style, introversion, and gifted development, as well as the *Checklist for Recognizing Twice Exceptional Children* and the *Giftedness in Adults Rating Scale*? We offer certification courses in the administration and interpretation of overexcitability instruments. Our instruments are used all over the world.
- Has award-winning books on parent advocacy for the gifted? Bobbie Gilman's latest book, *Gifted Minds Empowered: Advocacy to Develop Gifted Children's Strengths*, just won The Legacy Award, as did her first edition. We offer courses and consultations on parent advocacy.
- Contributed *Counseling the Gifted & Talented*, the major text in the field for 2 decades, adopted at more than 50 colleges and universities? In 2013, Linda Silverman wrote *Giftedness 101*, which has been translated into Swedish and Korean.
- Guides homeschooling families in developing programs tailored to the interests and pace of learning of their children? We support families considering homeschooling as an option for their gifted children.
- Attracts clients from all over the world? We are internationally recognized as the standard of excellence in assessment of giftedness and twice exceptionality.
- Offers both psychological testing and Gifted Qualitative Assessment in person and virtually? We have championed Qualitative Assessment, assisting Annemarie Roeper, Anne Beneventi and Linda Leviton in developing training programs for its continuation.
- Supports educators of gifted students? We established the Colorado Consortium of Schools for the Gifted, the National Consortium of Schools for the Gifted, the International Consortium of Schools for the gifted, and Child-Centered Gifted Education Leaders. We have designed admission requirements for low-income gifted children at Hope Academy.
- Has provided presentations and other services in 43 states and 11 countries? Linda Silverman has delivered keynote addresses in 36 states, Puerto Rico, and 11 countries.

- Organized the Dabrowski Study Groups and the Tenth International Dabrowski Congress? From 1980 to 1986, our first Dabrowski Study Group produced 13 published articles, 3 chapters, 5 doctoral dissertations, 3 masters theses, 7 instruments, 7 unpublished studies, 22 presentations, 1 video, 1 audiotape, and 1 grant proposal.
- Created an international network of professionals who support child-centeredness in gifted education and psychology? We planned a four-day event in April, 2020, which has been postponed due to the pandemic, including a Child-Centered World Symposium, an evening presentation for parents, the first Gifted Adult Summit, the inaugural meeting of the International Consortium of Schools for the Gifted, and a Gathering of Guiding Lights for mental health professionals working with the gifted.
- Created a weekly international meditation group virtually for leaders in gifted education from the U. S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Jamaica?
- Writes a monthly newsletter, including a book review by Dr. Jerry Flack of an award-winning children's book? Jerry Flack, an expert on creativity, also constructs Fun Family Activities that are posted on our website.
- Advocates for gifted parents, grandparents and gifted women? We hosted a Gifted Women Symposium, a Gifted Mamas Retreat, Virtues Project workshop, and conferences on parenting the gifted. We also have website posts on "Are You an Unrecognized Gifted Adult?" and "Gifted Grandparents."
- Founded PG Retreat, a support group and summer gathering of exceptionally and profoundly gifted children and their families?
- In 2019, our team contributed 13 articles, gave 55 presentations, and won 3 awards?
- Offers scholarships for assessment to families in need?

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