

**PROFESSIONAL FELLOWS PROGRAM  
SUMMER 2018  
PARTICIPANT BIOS**

**TERESE BRENNAN  
MAY INSTITUTE, RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS**



**Terese Brennan** is the May Institute's senior vice president of quality improvement and compliance; she is responsible for the development and implementation of organization-wide performance improvement and quality management programs.

She provides leadership and guidance for all May Institute locations, working with each program's management team to ensure that all programs meet organizational and professional standards. This includes state and federal guidelines, and requirements of the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities, as well as other accrediting and licensing organizations.

In addition, Ms. Brennan oversees the corporate compliance program. In this role, she reviews and evaluates compliance issues across the organization. She has developed and conducted performance improvement processes in a variety of areas and has also overseen the development and implementation of effective outcome measurement systems and standardization of safety systems and operations.

She has served the May Institute in various capacities over the past 25+ years, beginning as a behavior specialist at the organization's first school in Chatham, Massachusetts. Ms. Brennan joined the quality improvement department in 1995.

Ms. Brennan received her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, and her master's degree in total quality management systems from Anna Maria College.

Ms. Brennan will be hosted by the Beijing Stars and Rain Education Institute for Autism in Beijing.

**SHEILA FESKO  
SCHOOL FOR GLOBAL INCLUSION AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT  
UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, BOSTON**



**Sheila L. Fesko** is assistant dean at the School of Global Inclusion and Social Development and a senior research fellow at the Institute for Community Inclusion (ICI) of the University of Massachusetts, Boston. Dr. Fesko has 35 years of experience working on the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in the workplace. She is the project director for the ICI's online curriculum, the College of Employment Services.

Her areas of research include employment outcomes for individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities, disclosure of HIV status in the workplace, the aging workforce and

universal strategies to support inclusion of all employees in the workplace. In her academic work, Dr. Fesko is the graduate program director for the University of Massachusetts, Boston's rehabilitation counseling program, which prepares students to work with individuals with disabilities in finding employment.

Dr. Fesko participated in the development of Situation Analysis of Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Bangladesh in 2015 and provided technical assistance in developing the National Strategy and Action Plan for Autism and Neurodevelopmental Disorders in Bangladesh the following year. She was a guest speaker at the Autism Around the World: Enabling with Technology conference in Dubai in 2016. From 2011 to 2015, Dr. Fesko served as a consultant in Saudi Arabia in conjunction with the Human Resource Development Fund; her work included policy development related to workforce development and training of employment staff and human resources personnel.

Dr. Fesko has a Ph.D. from Boston College in rehabilitation administration; she received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Boston University, and is a certified rehabilitation counselor.

Dr. Fesko will be hosted by Easy Inclusion in Beijing.

## **ASHTON GIESE**

### **OUTRIGHT ACTION INTERNATIONAL**



Ashton Giese works in development at OutRight Action International. He serves to advance and maintain relationships with critical individuals and organizations to fund OutRight, an organization dedicated to global LGBTIQ equality. In prior roles, he worked at the U.S. State Department, served as communications director on the campaign to elect the second openly gay member of Congress from Madison, Wisconsin (Representative Mark Pocan), and arranged LGBTIQ tours for travelers.

Ashton dates his efforts in public service to winning the presidency in a mock election at his high school in Minnesota. He has received accolades for his work combining knowledge of international affairs and communications, from volunteer roles while in college at the George Washington University in Washington, D.C., and public affairs work in government, to founding a business and building an LGBTIQ travel platform. Along with his work at OutRight, he continues to publish *GAYography*, a weekly news brief and blog, which offers travelers timely travel insights, includes news regarding communities in different parts of the world, and provides opportunities to attend LGBTIQ-related events.

Ashton will be hosted by the Beijing LGBT Center in Beijing.



The Professional Fellows Program is funded by the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, and managed by the National Committee on United States-China Relations.

