



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Schlessman Family YMCA Designated First Certified Autism Center in Colorado

DENVER, CO (July 28, 2016) – The Schlessman Family YMCA is undergoing training to earn its certification of autism care from the International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards (IBCCES). As a Certified Autism Center, at least 80% of the the Schlessman Family YMCA staff is completing a rigorous training process that will prepare them to work with individuals with autism.

The Schlessman Family YMCA is the first organization to become a Certified Autism Center (CAC) in Colorado. Since current studies indicate that up to 96% of children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) demonstrate sensory difficulties, it is imperative to address these underlying issues. The prevalence of autism has increased by over 600% over the past two decades.

"The Schlessman Family YMCA is excited to become a Certified Autism Center through IBCCES," said Claire Eades, Youth & Family Programs Coordinator. "We are committed to staying up-to-date in the field of autism by training our staff on how to best meet the needs of those affected by autism while also supporting their families."

IBCCES Certified Autism Centers must have 14 continuing education hours in autism training, pass a comprehensive autism competency exam and meet IBCCES Board approval.

"I strongly believe that creating professional partnerships that help care for those with autism and other sensory processing disorders improves the quality of care," Myron Pincomb, IBCCES Board Chairman, said. "Disparities in patient-provider communication lower patient self-efficacy and usage of preventive services. This training can help eliminate that."

IBCCES trains and certifies professionals who work in therapy centers, schools and specialized-service centers for greater autism awareness in 10 Areas of Autism Competency. On-site and online interactive training affords centers and schools knowledge and strategies for boosting access and exceeding physical, occupational, and educational goals for children and adults on the autism spectrum.

IBCCES was formed in 2001 and is the leading credentialing organization for professionals in the field of Autism. IBCCES currently offers the Certified Autism Specialist®, Autism Certificate and the Certified Autism Center designations. IBCCES additionally released the Advanced Autism Certifications, which focus on ABA (Applied Behavior Analysis) Therapy. Autism, commonly known as ASD, is a neurodevelopmental disorder with a wide range of symptoms and impairment

levels. According to a 2010 study conducted by the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 68 children in the US have been diagnosed with ASD. It is five times more common among boys than girls.

For more information regarding Schlessman Family YMCA, please contact Claire Eades at [720-524-2750](tel:720-524-2750), visit their website at <http://denverymca.org/schlessman-family-ymca>. For more information regarding IBCCES or the Certified Autism Center program, contact Kristin Chambers at [877-717-6543](tel:877-717-6543).

About the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver

A leading non-profit, the YMCA of Metropolitan Denver brings together over 71,000 children, teens, members, and volunteers in a shared commitment to strengthen community. Through a variety of programs and services, we promote youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility throughout Denver and at our five locations in Arvada, Littleton, Southwest Denver, University Hills, and downtown. We are one of 2,700 YMCA organizations nationwide, collectively helping more than 21 million people learn, grow, and thrive. To join, donate, or get more information, visit www.denverymca.org.

About IBCCES

The International Board of Credentialing and Continuing Education Standards ([IBCCES](http://www.ibcces.org)) was established in 2001 to meet the training and credentialing needs of professionals who work with individuals with special needs. IBCCES has since expanded into over 40 different countries with training centers and members across the globe.

Our Certified Autism Specialist, Board Certified Cognitive Specialist, and Certified Autism Center credentials were established with the highest standards in the industry. As a result, our programs have become the benchmark for those who work with cognitive disorders around the globe.

IBCCES created and hosts the annual International Symposium on Cognitive Research & Disorders. This global event brings together top neurologists, education leaders, and healthcare experts with a focus on research, innovation and collaboration.

CONTACT:

IBCCES

Email: kristin@ibcces.org

URL: <http://www.ibcces.org>
