

Equity Camp

The Strength of Our Stories

November 15th-16th, 2024



Foreword



Dear Partners,

Welcome to Equity Camp! It is an honor to have you join us for this important gathering of educators, leaders, and advocates dedicated to fostering equity within our schools and communities.

As the CEO of the Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP), I am proud to represent an organization committed to transforming education through collaboration, innovation, and a relentless focus on equity. Since our founding, we have worked alongside schools, community organizations, and families to ensure that every child has access to high-quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. Our mission is driven by the belief that education is a powerful catalyst for social change and that equity is not just a goal but a necessity for the success of our students and our society.

Why is equity work so critical for educational leaders? In an increasingly diverse society, we must recognize and address the systemic barriers that have historically marginalized certain groups of students. Educational leaders have the unique opportunity—and responsibility—to create inclusive environments that honor and support the diverse experiences of all learners. By prioritizing equity, we can dismantle inequitable practices, promote culturally responsive teaching, and ensure that every student receives the resources and support they need to thrive.

I encourage each of you to take full advantage of the sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities available here. Let's collaborate, challenge one another, and leave inspired to make a lasting impact in our schools and communities.

Thank you for being part of this essential conversation. Together, we can pave the way for a more equitable future in education.

In Partnership,

**Dawn A. Kurtz, Ph.D.
CEO, Los Angeles Education Partnership**

Foreword



It is my absolute honor to welcome you to Equity Camp: The Strength of Our Stories. My name is John Reséndez and I am the Director of C.O.R.E. (Cultivating Organizational Resilience and Empowerment) with the Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP). In this role, I also serve as the Regional Director for the Southern California Region of 21CSLA (21st Century School Leadership Academy). It is in partnership with 21CSLA, LAEP, and a wealth of talented, equity minded leaders that include our attendees, facilitators, collaborators, and coconspirators, that we bring you these two days of learning and community.

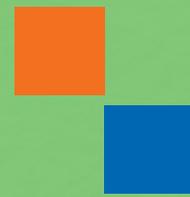
The task of finding a theme or a throughline for a conference typically happens early in the planning process. If it rings true, then the flood gates open wide to all the pathways and possibilities for high quality learning and collaboration that can happen in a space like this. When my team identified the idea of storytelling as that throughline, we knew immediately that we found something that could simultaneously provide structure to the differentiated learning that our region is looking for and carve out a space that might allow people to both offer and receive the passion, knowledge, and vulnerability that comes with being a truly transformational equity leader.

With that in mind, we set out to cultivate a space and an experience that allows everyone to collectively create the equity story of this region. To do so in community, away from the equity silos that so many of us operate in, empowered by time spent with like-minded leaders. While we have been intentional about providing stories that we hope will inspire you, through thoughtfully curated facilitation, an exciting community keynote, liberation library, and countless other experiences, it is important to note that story telling is not a passive experience. For us to maximize this opportunity, we encourage you to engage as both an active listener and as a teller of the critical equity story you are currently writing. Please seek out one of the many platforms available for you to share your learning, your thoughts, and your stories. Throughout this space you will find a video testimonial booth, telephones to record your thoughts, an interactive art wall, and, of course, a few hundred equity leaders whose own stories would be enhanced by adding you as a part of their narrative.

Thank you so much for being here, for being present, and for being your authentic self. As educators, leaders, and as people, our stories are strengthened by having you in them. I hope you enjoy your experience and leave empowered and better prepared to continue the amazing and important work that lies ahead of us.

As always
John Reséndez

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Equity In Action: Ways of Being

PRESENCE: Be here, be now, to the best of your ability.

COMPASSION: Remember everyone is human, including you.

CURIOSITY: Be curious. You can always add to your story or discover more of someone else's.

GROWTH: Recognize that growing can be uncomfortable but it is not dangerous! Failing and stumbling is part of learning. Embrace non-closure-we will not tie things up with a pretty bow by the end.

Our Touchpoints are designed to help you build community and process what we are learning together throughout the conference. Thank you to our Touchpoint Facilitators:

Jose Luis Navarro
Cheryl Tsuyuki
Liza Smith
Karla Rosette Sanchez
Antonia Issa Lahera
Randy Garcia
Alessandra Cascarano
Ingrid Twyman
Austin Williams
Jose Montes
Maritza Lozano



Story Processing

Mind

What is a question you are wrestling with as you think about the story that was shared?

What is a line, moment, or word that stuck with you from this story?

Heart

Share a feeling that came up for you and lingered as you listened to this story.

What is a story of your own that you were reminded of as you listened to this story?

Body

Share a reaction to something you heard in the story.

How did your body feel as you listened to this story?

Throughout **Equity in Action: Rising to the moment**, you will hear many stories and be invited to share your own. We invite you to unpack your experiences as you listen to the stories. These are a few questions to get you started.

Land Acknowledgment

Many call this land we gather upon right now San Diego. It is the very same ground on which terrible crimes took place against the Kumeyaay people.

We Californians are the beneficiaries of genocide.

We suspect few Californians today contextualize their homes as sitting upon stolen land or land gained by bloody force or artful deceptions, nor do they likely consider the social and political questions of present day Native American affairs in this light.

We urge everyone to acknowledge the original stewards of the land we live upon, we work upon, we gather upon. Visit <https://native-land.ca/> to find out which Native peoples were the original stewards of the land you inhabit. During our time together, we urge you to contemplate what it means to live and work on stolen land.

Relationship: What is my relationship to this land? How did I come to be here?

History & Research: What is the Indigenous history of the land? Who are some prominent Indigenous people in my community? What Native nations are closest to me?

Truth: How can I elevate the truth about what happened on these lands and the resulting history?

Forward Momentum: How can the work I do as an educational leader empower Indigenous peoples today and lead to healing and justice for all people?

STICKERS FOR ALL



Equity Camp

The Strength of Our
Stories



San Diego, CA

Amazing Person

Amazing Title

Amazing Organization



Building Southern California's Equity Future
Together

The Key



I'm here on my own!



I was at the Gathering of
Giants Conference in March



I'm getting 1:1
coaching from LAEP



I'm an educational leader
for equity

**Go ahead! Personalize your badge
to share part of your story.**



The 21st Century School Leadership Academy (21CSLA) is a statewide initiative dedicated to developing equity-centered educational leaders who are equipped to create inclusive, supportive environments for all students. Through comprehensive professional development, coaching, and resources, 21CSLA empowers school and district leaders to champion equity-driven practices and culturally responsive leadership.

As the designated Regional Academy for Southern California, the Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP) leads 21CSLA's work across five counties: Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Ventura. LAEP, a nonprofit dedicated to educational equity and community well-being, collaborates closely with 21CSLA to provide tailored support that addresses the unique needs of diverse communities.

Together, they deliver leadership development that promotes trauma-informed, inclusive practices, ensuring that educational leaders across Southern California have the tools to foster thriving, equitable learning environments



The Agenda: Friday

4:00 p.m.

Location: Paradise Point Lobby/Foyer

Event: Check-in to Hotel

4:30 pm - 6:00 p.m.

Location: Paradise Ballroom

Event: Optional Immersive Activities

Amazing Race

Speculative Design

6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Location: Your Touchpoint Room

Event: Touchpoint #1

6:30 p.m.

Location: Paradise Terrace

Event: Dinner Stations Open

Sister Stone welcomes everyone with music!

7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Paradise Terrace

Event: Solidarity Hour -

Dinner, Live Music, Community Keynote, Part 1

8:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Location: Paradise Terrace

Event: Optional S'Mores



The Agenda: Saturday

Saturday Morning

7:00 - 7:30 a.m (Optional)

Location: Dockside Room

Event: Sunrise Grounding & Leadership Reflection with Sister Stone

7:00 - 8:30 a.m.

Location: Paradise Terrace

Event: Breakfast Buffet Open

8:30 - 9:50 a.m.

Location: Paradise Ballroom

Event: Community Keynote

9:50 - 10:00 a.m.

Event: Transition

10:00 - 10:20 a.m.

Location: Your Touchpoint Room

Event: Touchpoint #2 (Body)

10:20 - 10:30 a.m.

Event: Transition

10:30 - 11:50 a.m.

Location: Your Workshop Room

Event: Workshops, Round 1

11:50 am - 12:50 p.m.

Location: Paradise Terrace

Saturday Afternoon

12:50 - 1:00 p.m.

Location: Paradise Terrace

Event: Group Photo!

1:00 - 1:10 pm

Event: Transition

1:10 - 2:30 p.m.

Location: Your Workshop Room

Event: Workshops, Round 2

2:30 - 2:40 p.m.

Event: Transition

2:40 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Your Workshop Room

Event: Workshops, Round 3

4:00 - 4:10 pm

Event: Transition

4:10 - 4:30 pm

Location: Your Touchpoint Room

Event: Touchpoint #3 (Mind)

4:30 pm

Event: Conference End

Workshop Rooms

Palm Room V (Capacity: 20)

Critical Consciousness. Embodiment. Leadership.

Facilitator: Abdul-Rehman Issa

Touchpoint Coach: Jose Luis Navarro

Palm Room IV (Capacity: 20)

Systems Coherence: A Deep Dive into the Science of Relationships & Networks

Facilitator: Dr. Alan Daly

Touchpoint Coach: Cheryl Tsuyuki

Garden Room (Capacity: 50)

When Leadership Meets Science & Ancestral Practices: Navigating Pushback to Decolonizing Education Initiatives

Facilitator: Dr. Mark N. Kabban

Touchpoint Coach: Liza Smith

Royal Room II (Capacity: 20)

Unpacking Bias: Empowering Educators and School Leaders for Inclusive Schools and Systems

Facilitator: Jordan Harrison

Touchpoint Coach: Karla Rosette Sanchez

Palm Room II (Capacity: 20)

Decolonizing Equity in Schools

Facilitator: Cereescia Sandoval

Touchpoint Coach: Antonia Issa Lahera

Palm Room I (Capacity: 20)

Leveraging Student Voice Data to Lead for Equity

Facilitator: Kimberly Tsai Cawkwell

Touchpoint Coach: Randy Garcia

Royal Room III (Capacity: 20)

Equity Stances for Liberatory Leadership

Facilitator: Nikki Hinostro

Touchpoint Coach: Maritza Lozano

Royal Room IV (Capacity: 20)

Rhetoric to Reality: Neurodiversity-Affirming Practices in Today's Schools

Facilitator: Justin H. Dove

Touchpoint Coach: Alessandra Cascarano

Dockside Room (Capacity: 40)

Centering Students, Centering Equity in an Era of Loss, Recovery, and Discovery

Facilitators: Maruth Figueroa and David Ruitter

Touchpoint Coach: Ingrid Twyman

Paradise Ballroom (Capacity: 60)

What Did You Just Say?! Using Compassionate Dialogue to Interrupt Implicit Bias and Tackle Tough Topics

Facilitators: Myeshia Whigham and Dr. Jordy Sparks

Touchpoint Coach: Austin Williams

Palm Room III (Capacity: 20)

Budgeting for Equity

Facilitator: Dr. Cathy Belcher

Touchpoint Coach: Jose Montes

Additional Rooms

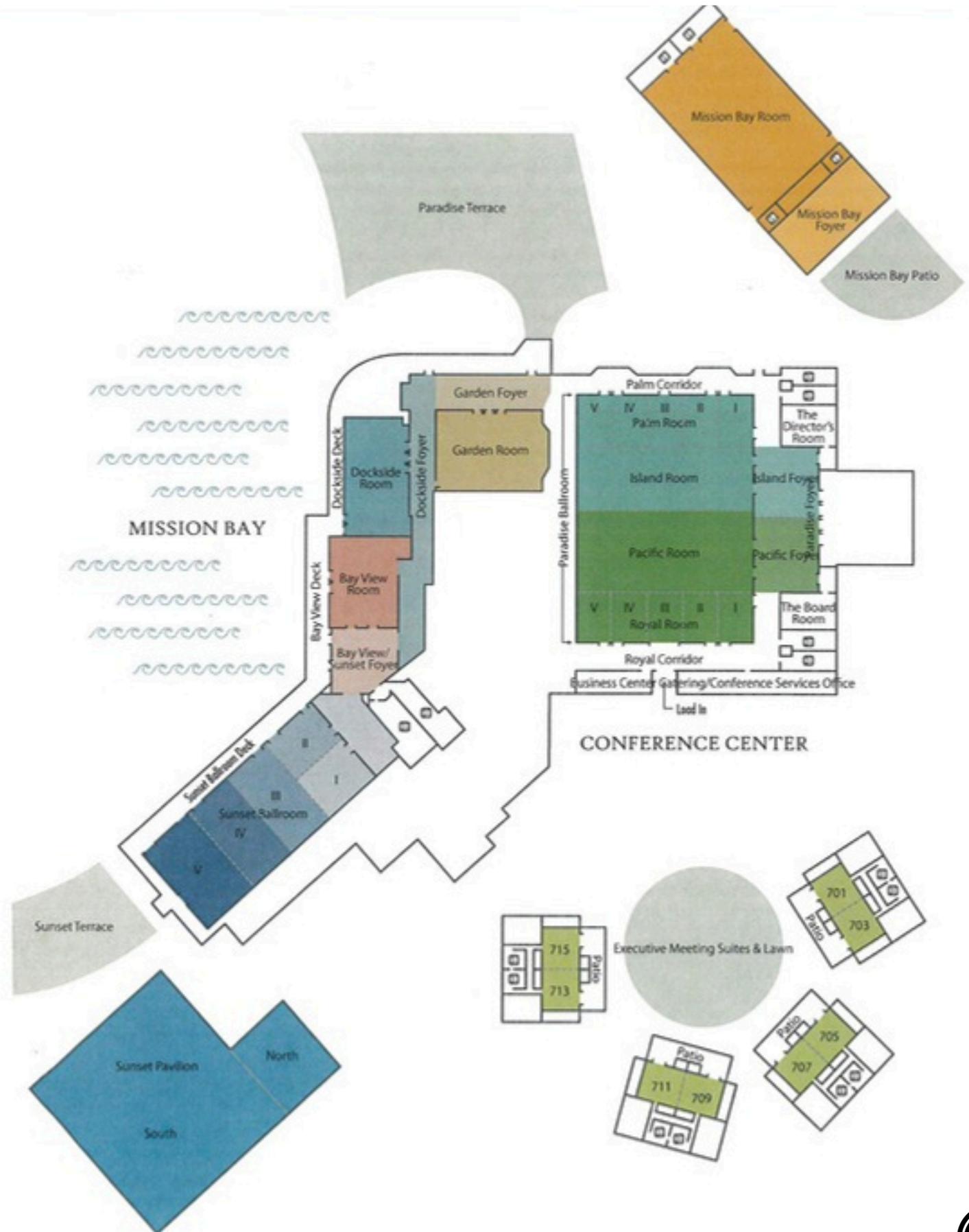
Royal Room I

Participatory Methods + Liberation Library

Royal Room V

Nursing Space

Meeting Spaces



VISIT OUR LIBERATION LIBRARY

We invite you to explore our collection of books. The only requirement for a book to be in our collection is that the text has shifted someone's consciousness as we dream up and build a future that works better for all people. The collection has non-fiction books, fiction books, and even children's books for you to explore!



Visit our phones and leave us a message about what you're learning!



- Shout-out a new colleague you connected with today!
- How do you plan to incorporate what you've learned at Equity Camp so far into your daily practice?
- Share a wow moment from the breakout sessions you attended!

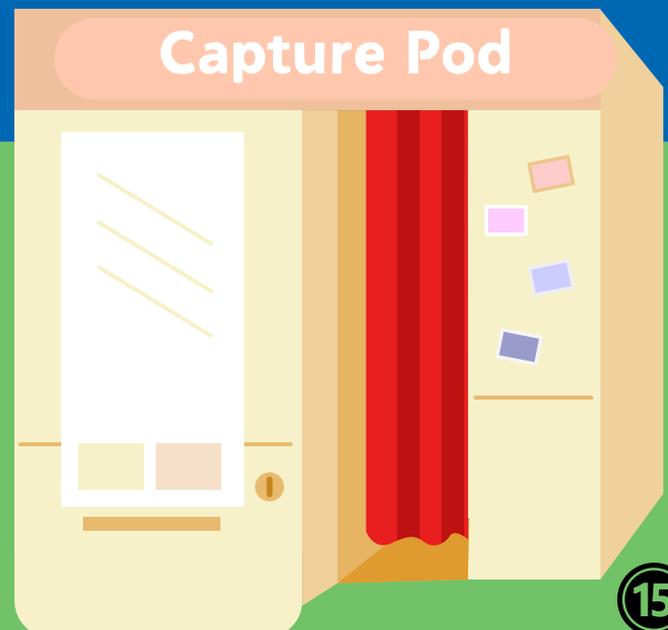
Equity Camp's Participatory Methods

Why Participatory Methods?

We're collecting your stories. Share them in our Capture Pod.

Some questions you can answer:

- What's the story that brought you to Equity Camp?
- What do you want to be true about Southern California schools generations into the future? What can you do now to plant the seeds?
- What new learnings are you taking from Equity Camp, and how do you plan to weave them into your work





Equity Camp's Participatory Methods

Why Participatory Methods?

We know there's an artist in you! Come and sketch and doodle on our collective art wall.

Some questions to consider when designing your expression

- What would schools look like if all educators felt safe, supported, and were thriving?
- Write a phrase or word, or draw a symbol, that inspired you from the community keynote.
- What new tools are you adding to your equity toolkit from Equity Camp?
- What is one word, phrase, or symbol that encapsulates your experience at Equity Camp?

Affinity Groups

**Interested in
Joining?**

**Scan the QR code to for
additional information.**

- **Antiracist White Educational Leaders**
- **Healing Space for BIPOC Educational Leaders + Leaders of Mixed Race Heritage**
- **Pride All Year for LGBTQIA+ Educational Leaders**



Beyond the Classroom: Prioritizing Your Wellness

Leadership is more than a job; it's a role that shapes futures and builds communities. But as leaders in your school community, you bear immense responsibility that can often lead to burnout. Whether you're a new teacher, principal or a district veteran, the demands of the role are relentless, and prioritizing your own wellness may feel impossible.

However, true leadership begins with taking care of yourself. When you model self-care and resilience, you inspire your students and fellow educators to see wellness as an integral part of educational success.

Your ability to lead, inspire, and connect with teachers and students is at its strongest when you feel balanced and mentally healthy. Prioritizing mental health and wellness isn't selfish; it's an act of leadership that helps you approach each day with renewed energy and perspective. Building healthy routines, practicing mindfulness, and setting boundaries can make a profound impact—not only on your own well-being but also as an example to your students and colleagues. When leaders thrive, everyone benefits, as each small step toward wellness has a ripple effect that reaches far beyond the classroom.

SCAN ME



Learn about strategies
to prioritize your
wellness.



21 CSLA



LOS ANGELES
EDUCATION
PARTNERSHIP

BE KIND
TO YOUR
MIND

IT'S OKAY TO
ASK FOR HELP

SAFE SPACES
for
EVERYONE

We encourage you to prioritize your wellness while fighting for equity in your community.

This workshop is available at no cost to participants. Prioritizing the following counties: Orange, San Diego, Riverside, San Bernardino, and Imperial [Learn more at UTK_2ICSLA@LAEP.ORG](mailto:UTK_2ICSLA@LAEP.ORG)

INCLUSIVE PRACTICES IN UTK CLASSROOMS

HOW CAN EQUITY-CENTERED LEADERS SUPPORT HIGH-QUALITY UTK CLASSROOMS THAT VALUE INCLUSION OF ALL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES?



**REGISTER
TODAY**



**December 17th, 2024
8:30 pm - 4:00 pm
El Centro, CA
Imperial County**

SPRING CONFERENCE

IT'S TIME FOR YOUR STORY TO BLOOM

21CSLA and Los Angeles Education Partnership (LAEP) are hosting a Spring Equity Conference to push equity efforts forward in the Southern California region, and we would love to reflect with, learn, grow, and build with you. The conference **will be from March 14th to 15th, at The Waterfront in Huntington Beach.**



THE DEADLINE TO COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION IS
FEBRUARY 1, 2025. SCAN TO REGISTER BELOW:



Meet The Facilitators

Systems Coherence: A Deep Dive into the Science of Relationships & Networks **Palm Room IV**



Dr. Alan Daly

Systems coherence from a relational capacity perspective, a deep dive into the science of relationships and networks.

We live in an increasingly connected world where our relationships and interactions are increasingly consequential for success and systemic coherence. This idea is grounded in the fact that most efforts at systems improvement are documented and monitored through plans and reports, but deep change does not necessarily result from these formal plans and blueprints, but rather happens in the relationships between and among individuals as they go about their work.

This 90 minute workshop will explore how those sets of critical connections can be instrumental in moving systems forward in equitable and coherent ways. The workshop will be interactive in nature, applicable to a wide audience, connect theory and practice, and provide for opportunities for reflection, inquiry, and consideration about the power of networks hidden in plain sight .

Biography

Alan J. Daly, Ph. D is a Professor and the Director of Educational Leadership Doctoral Programs in the Department of Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego. Alan's research and teaching are influenced by his 16 years of public school experience in a variety of instructional and leadership roles.

His research primarily focuses on the role of social networks, leadership, and knowledge mobilization and the relationship between those elements on traditionally marginalized student populations in under resourced communities. In support of that effort, Professor Daly has published over 200 peer reviewed journal articles with the vast majority drawing on social network theory and analysis, six books, and over 250 peer reviewed papers at international conferences.

In addition, Professor Daly's work has been widely supported by national, international, and philanthropic sources focused on transforming educational spaces. He was most recently the Chair of the Department of Education Studies and a Fulbright Global Scholar in New Zealand and South Africa.

Meet The Facilitators

**When Leadership Meets Science & Ancestral Practices:
A Workshop on Navigating Pushback to Decolonizing Education Initiatives
Garden Room**



Dr. Mark N. Kabban

Biography

A dedication to applying values of truth and justice to every part of your leadership requires steadfastness, inner resilience, and a commitment to healing and community. In this spirit, we invite you to a storytelling experience with three Indigenous and Chicano education leaders. Together, we will explore the knowledge of ancestral practices, research from cognitive psychology, and developmental tools for cultivating a deep well of emotional resilience—tools that leaders can draw upon as they pursue education as a practice of freedom.

Dr. Mark N. Kabban is a community organizer and educator specializing in leadership development, team dynamics, and deeper learning. He designs experiential learning programs that equip leaders with the cognitive agility, creativity, critical consciousness, and self-awareness necessary to build and lead healthy, innovative, and developmental organizations.

Mark is the CEO of Examined Leadership Collective, an adult development and coaching practice for educators and cross-sector leaders. Mark served as CEO of Yalla SD for nearly a decade, an NGO with the mission to partner with U.S.-based refugee youth to engage in deeper learning and competitive soccer programs. He was recently on faculty at the High Tech High Graduate School of Education, serving as the Director of the Education Leadership Masters. Mark has earned a master's in technology and innovation and a doctorate in education leadership and behavioral psychology from Harvard. He is a visiting professor teaching global leadership and ethics to MBA candidates at the American College of the Mediterranean.

Meet The Facilitators

**Critical Consciousness.
Embodiment. Leadership.**
Palm Room

Please bring a notebook & pen



**Abdul-Rehman
Issa**

This interactive 80-minute session will guide educational leaders through an exploration of critical consciousness, its relationship to embodiment, and leadership. In an era marked by socio-political tensions, educational leaders must understand how their lived experiences, values, and critical awareness shape their interactions with students, staff, and communities. Participants will engage in activities designed to examine their critical consciousness, reflect on moments of alignment and misalignment between beliefs and actions, interrogate real-life scenarios, and practice taking embodied, critically conscious actions that foster equity, justice, and well-being for all.

Biography

Abdul-Rehman Mohammed Issa is a 4th-year PhD student in Education Studies at the University of California, San Diego, and a graduate researcher working on Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) projects centered on student disengagement. A former special education teacher and school administrator, his lived experiences have shaped his deep commitment to confronting societal injustices. With expertise in trauma-informed practices and restorative justice,

Abdul-Rehman also teaches in the School Leadership, and Negotiation, Conflict Resolution and Peacemaking programs at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and is always advancing equitable leadership in education systems.

Meet The Facilitators

Unpacking Bias: Empowering Educators and school leaders for Inclusive schools and systems

Royal Room II

Please bring a notebook & pen



Jordan Harris

This interactive workshop guides educators in recognizing and addressing both personal and institutional biases, equipping them with evidence-based strategies to cultivate more equitable and inclusive learning environments. Participants will critically examine how biases influence educational systems, policies, and pedagogical approaches, deepening their understanding of the impact on student outcomes. By the conclusion, attendees will be empowered with research-backed frameworks to effectively disrupt, mitigate, and challenge bias, positioning them to lead transformative and sustainable change within their schools and broader educational communities.

Biography

Jordan Harrison is an educational leader committed to transforming schools by challenging practices, precedents, and policies that marginalize students. With over 15 years of experience serving students inside and outside the classroom, he focuses on disrupting systems of oppression in education and society that contribute to the over-incarceration of marginalized youth.

As a 4th-year PhD student and educational and societal researcher, Jordan's work centers on fostering inclusive, equitable learning environments where all students can thrive. He holds a B.S. from San Diego State University and a Master's in Education from Harvard University.

Meet The Facilitators

Decolonizing Equity In Schools
Palm Room II
Please bring your laptop



Cereescia Sandoval

At the heart of equity is empathy and compassion. However, our initiatives to promote equity can be unconsciously rooted in colonization and assimilation. Come join our interactive circle, where we will share and reflect on our own stories of equity and colonial harm. Then from these stories we will use the National Equity Project's Liberatory Design Modes to identify one equity challenge and design small moves to decolonize for equity in your school. Engaging in decolonized approaches to equity requires vulnerability so come with an openness to learn in community and connect in new ways.

Biography

JCereescia is a bi-racial American Indian (Katishtya/ Pueblo) educator whose identity is directly tied to her dedication to liberate learning for all. She has been an educator for over 15 years and received her Masters in Ed. at University of Oregon as part of the Sapsik'wala' Indigenous Teacher Education Program. Her experience as a Leading for Equity Fellow, with the National Equity Project, prompted her to pursue a path focused on disrupting educational inequity through adult learning.

She currently works as a designer and facilitator for The Center for Love & Justice out of San Diego. She has recently started her own company, Little Water, dedicated to revitalizing education through reconnecting learners with Indigenous ways of being and knowing..

Meet The Facilitators

**Leveraging Student Voice Data to
Lead for Equity
Palm Room I
*Please bring your laptop***



Kimberly Tsai Cawkwell

The voices of more than 500,000 students from our research confirm what we know from the field: too many K-12 students struggle with their well-being, engagement, and sense of belonging in school. For over 20 years, Challenge Success, a nonprofit affiliated with the Stanford Graduate School of Education, has been leveraging student-centered, community-driven, and evidence-based approaches at systems level to build awareness, shift mindsets, and cultivate equitable outcomes in schools. Join us in this interactive session to engage with our student-voice data and discover new approaches to create sustainable school change.

Biography

A cis-gen first-generation Taiwanese American, mother, educator, and creative, Kimberly Tsai Cawkwell has served fifteen years in the education ecosystem. As the Director of Programs at Challenge Success, Kimberly is honored to be in community with others to advocate for equitable systems and practices that nurture wellbeing, belonging and engagement for all. In addition to her work at Challenge Success, Kimberly currently serves as an Educational Advisor and Improvement Coach at the High Tech High (HTH) Graduate School of Education, and is a Board Member of the Teaching and Learning Collaborative.

Through the opportunities to learn from students in her own classrooms to students from diverse corners of our globe, Kimberly believes deeply in student-driven transformative learning that sparks a common love and joy to seek knowledge. As she continues to support systemic change that lifts up student voices and honors the passions and identities of all students.

Prior to joining CS, Kim was a founder of two High Tech Elementary (HTe) project-based learning schools, a former coach and design specialist at the University of San Diego, New Tech Network, and Center for Love & Justice.. She holds a B.A. from the University of California, Riverside and M.Ed and multiple-subjects credential from the University of California, San Diego. When she's not designing and facilitating learning, Kim might be found spending quality time with her two daughters, loving spouse, and family in Oceanside, San Gabriel, and Taichung. Her core values are family, joy, and equity.

Meet The Facilitators

Rhetoric to Reality: Neurodiversity-Affirming Practices in Today's Schools

Royal Room IV

***Please bring an electronic device,
pen and notebook and your
authentic self***



Justin H. Dove

What comes to mind when you think about autism, ADHD, and dyslexia? For most people, disabilities immediately conjure up perceived weaknesses, challenges, and deficiencies.

What comes to mind when you think about autism, ADHD, and dyslexia? For most people, disabilities immediately conjure up perceived weaknesses, challenges, and deficiencies. "Rhetoric to Reality: Neurodiversity-Affirming Practices in Today's Schools" bridges the gap between theory and practice, highlighting one of our time's most important social justice movements and a tipping point in education. Undergirded by neurodivergent voices, this session will include a historical overview, an examination of relevant language, self-reflection, and space for candid discussion.

Together, we will interrogate the medical model of disability and question the ableist rituals and philosophies that are firmly entrenched in our schools. Equity Camp community members will leave this session empowered to put the tools and perspectives we discuss into practice, fueling their impact as change agents within their respective reaches.

Biography

Justin H. Dove is a proud product of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where helping professions first appealed to him at a young age. He completed undergraduate and graduate school at The Ohio State University before embarking on a career that has allowed him to serve students in Ohio, Georgia, and California for over fourteen years.

The 2024/25 school year is Justin's fourth year at Mirman School, an independent K-8 institution devoted to educating intellectually gifted children in Los Angeles. Also, he has owned and operated PEACE ED as a licensed educational psychologist (LEP) since 2023. Personally and professionally, Justin prioritizes lifelong learning, engaging in self and systems-level reflection, and being of service. Moreover, he endeavors to embody and uplift the words of Dr. Charles A. Barrett, "It's always about the children."

Meet The Facilitators



Maruth Figueroa, Ed.D.



**David Ruiter,
Ph.D**

**Centering Students, Centering
Equity in an Era of Loss, Recovery,
and Discovery
Dockside Room**

***Please bring your reflective and
creative spirit***

When it comes to equity in education, have you had a sense of loss in recent years? A sense of grief? This highly interactive workshop guides participants through a “lost & found” framework to focus on what we can and must recover and discover in this seismic moment in American history, democracy, and education.

While this moment is rife with uncertainty, volatility and loss, and also challenges that go beyond the purview of education, this framework invites recovery and discovery lenses. It provides a forum for recalibration, connection-making, and generative responses that foster and celebrate the resilience, creativity, and commitment of students, teachers, leaders, and communities. It does so by asking us to put students and equity at the center of our responses.

Participants will grapple with big questions—coming from within and without their environments—by focusing on their contexts using the “lost & found” framework. Despite our uncertain moment, participants will leave with concrete guidance on how to adapt and facilitate the framework in their own contexts—and to “find” community, capacity, and potentially joy in our shared striving for equity.

Biography

Dr. Maruth Figueroa serves as the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Retention and Success at UC San Diego. In this role, Dr. Figueroa provides leadership to this cluster, creating a culture of success for UC San Diego's students through educational opportunities that are strengths based, invested in community building, and foster equitable educational experiences for students. A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Figueroa is committed to collaborations and partnerships that put students first. Her research interests include access and equity for underserved student populations, AB 540/undocumented/DACAmented students, leadership and spirituality development on college campuses. Dr. Figueroa earned her B.S. in Business Administration, Marketing and Doctorate in Educational Leadership, Higher Education Administration from the University of Southern California and her M.A. in Communications from California State University, Fullerton.

David Ruiter, Ph.D. As Faculty Director of the Teaching + Learning Commons, Ruiter is a key partner in creating transformative pedagogical advancements at UC San Diego to provide equitable, high-quality, and accessible educational experiences for all students and instructors. In this role, Dr. Ruiter serves as an equity-minded catalyst for collaborations among faculty, departments, and academic leaders to refine and assess student learning outcomes and to move educational innovation opportunities from development to implementation. He is also Associate Professor of Theatre and Dance.

Meet The Facilitators



Myeshia Whigham



Dr. Jordy Sparks

What Did You Just Say?! Using Compassionate Dialogue as a Protocol to Interrupt Implicit Bias and Discuss Tough Topics Paradise Ballroom

Have you ever found yourself at a loss for words when faced with a comment that challenges equity and inclusion in our schools? Implicit (unconscious) bias, subtle racism, and microaggressions are all upheld in our schools and classrooms, affecting the educational experiences of students. Dr. Nancy Dome, founder of Epoch Education, suggests, "We talk about people because we don't talk to people." Her "Compassionate Dialogue" tool helps people with a protocol called "Recognize, Interrupt, Repair." Participants will learn how we've introduced it as a districtwide practice to shift perspectives, interrupt implicit (unconscious) bias, and engage in conversations around tough topics.

Biography

Myeshia Whigham is currently in her 19th year as an educator serving K-12 students and has experience as an assistant principal and teacher at public, charter, and adult schools in San Diego County. She earned her undergraduate degree at California State University, San Marcos, and her Administrative Services Credential from San Diego State University. Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Education for Social Justice at the University of San Diego, Myeshia is passionate about educational equity and preparing students for college and career success. She is dedicated to continuing her transformative leadership in Oceanside Unified School District.

Dr. Jordy Sparks is a systems-level educational leader focused on transformation through interrogating practices, precedents, and policies, in order to cultivate more inclusive and affirming learning and working environments. Currently as the Executive Director of DEI and Student Supports in the Oceanside Unified School District in Oceanside, CA, he drives systems change and leads district efforts in DEI, social emotional learning and wellness, and culturally relevant teaching and learning.

Jordy holds a B.A. from The Ohio State University and an Ed.L.D. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Meet The Facilitators

Budgeting for Equity: Developing Equitable School Spending Goals and Practice

Palm Room III

Please bring a notebook & pen



Dr. Catherine Belcher

Consider your school/district's current budget story. If one can gauge a school's values from its spending, then what are your school's values? Where do you "sit" with these values? Why?

In this workshop, we will look critically at how our budget decisions are made, re-evaluate goals, and reconsider traditional approaches to budget development.

Additional important questions include: Who benefits most from your school's budget priorities? Who are, and who will be, the Decision Makers? Who will provide educational partner feedback and how?

Biography

Catherine is the Executive Director of CHAMPS Charter High School of the Arts in Van Nuys, Calif. A native of Calexico, CA, she earned her PhD in Educational Leadership from the School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania and her MA in Teacher Education, as well as BA in History, at Stanford University.

Her career includes experience as a high school and middle school teacher in both California and Pennsylvania, a dance teacher in several schools and programs, and faculty positions in the School of Education at Loyola Marymount University and Bard College.

Through her administrative work in Los Angeles, she has served as Managing Director of Academics for Equitas Academies, the Founding High School Principal and Head of Secondary School for Larchmont Charter School, and the Director of Teaching and Learning at West Adams Preparatory High School.

Meet The Facilitators

Equity Stances for Liberatory Leadership Royal Room III



Nikki Hinostro

This *Journey Mapping for Liberatory Leadership* workshop is all about tapping into the soul of your story, getting real about your path to leadership with equity at the center. We will build a community of care together in circle as we practice Joyzistance and critically engage with our equity stances. Then, it's all about mapping your journey—putting your truth on paper, the people and moments that shaped who you are and where you're going. We close by sharing our stories, creating a space of belonging, and leaving with purpose and power to lead for collective liberation.

Biography

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Nikki (she/hers), born and raised in San Diego, found belonging as a young person on the soccer field or at the Boys and Girls Club. Shaped by her Abuelita's love, her mother's dedication to peace and justice, her father's work ethic, and her brother's adventurous spirit, she developed a strong sense of compassion, curiosity, and drive. After earning degrees in Psychology and Computer Science at the University of Notre Dame and a master's in educational studies at Loyola Marymount University, she began her teaching career in East Los Angeles before moving on to Boston, Cambridge, and then returned home to San Diego, where she was a school leader and founder of four High Tech High schools.

Now at the High Tech High Graduate School of Education's Center for Love and Justice, Nikki partners with educators, students and community members to engage in systems change that honors untold stories and builds communities rooted in DEEP LOVE and COLLECTIVE LIBERATION. She finds joy in spontaneous family dance parties, meditating with the rhythm of the waves, and drawing wisdom from the quiet teachings of the trees.

Meet The Experience Designers



Carolene Joy

Carolene Joy Cabrera King (also known as Carolene Joy) is the Group Learning Lead and a CORE Coach at the Los Angeles Education Partnership. She is also a breathwork healing facilitator for Revelation Breathwork, an emcee and festival designer for San Diego's Shake & Shine Music & Wellness Festival, as well as a lead facilitator and designer for The Healing Arts retreat series at Soul of the Land in Fallbrook, California. Carolene is based out of Escondido, California, where she lives in Eden Valley. She is a poet, a playwright, an educator, and activist committed to envisioning and building a world of true social justice. A proud Pinay, Carolene's play TOO MUCH SKIN, which focuses on assimilation, dismantling white supremacy culture, and sexism by highlighting a relationship between a Filipino American brother and sister premiered in Hollywood in 2022 to critical acclaim and a feature in Broadway World. Carolene's upcoming book of poetry, TEND will be available to the public by November 22nd this year



Marielle Burt

Marielle Burt (they/them) is an expert in learning through play and immersive learning design. A frequent collaborator with Stanford's d.school, Marielle recently contributed to an immersive learning experience about educational equity at SXSW Edu. They currently serve as a learning designer at The Dandelion Project, an alternative school in Philadelphia focused on community liberation. Marielle also leads professional development workshops on topics ranging from learning through play to fostering LGBTQ+ inclusivity in schools. With a background in running game design and escape room programs for youth, Marielle is dedicated to creating learning experiences that encourage learners to explore their authentic curiosity and experience the joy of learning through play. They hold an MS Ed. from Stanford University's Graduate School of Education and a BA from Brown University.



Matthew Haupert

Matt Haupert is an English teacher/ Yearbook adviser at Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad and a Professor of Practice in Reach University's Intern Credential/Master of Arts in Teaching program. Now in his 12th year as a full-time educator, Matt got his start as a Teach For America corps member (LA '13) and has taught at a diverse range of public and charter schools in Los Angeles, Oakland, and San Diego. Matt's passion as an educator lies at the intersection of social justice and project based learning, fueled by the belief that school can and should be a relevant, transformative, and joyful experience every day.

'ATAAXUM POMKWAAN
means "For The People".

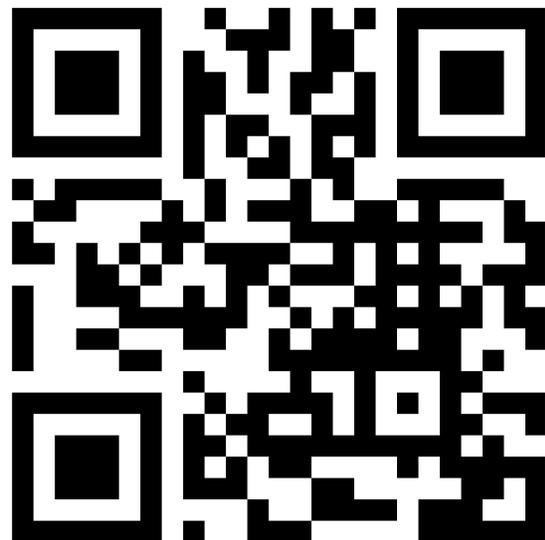
Pronounced: "Ah-tAH-hoom pome-qwan"



Our work honors our Native grandparents who survived government sanctioned genocide so we may exist today. Our obligation is to serve their grandchildren and their grandchildren's children.

Our purpose driven mission is to provide community resources centered around healing and improved mental health for the continued survival of California's Native and Indigenous peoples; their languages, customs, and histories. We are grateful to have you join in this journey with us.

**Scan the QR code
to learn more
about the work
they're doing in
their community .**



Sister Stone

Facilitator

90s Vibe R&B + Hip-Hop

Meets Ritual, Activism & Earth Reverence

Stream on all
music platforms



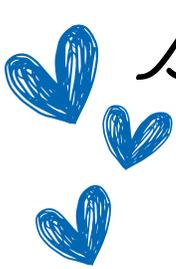
So Say We All

We are a literary and performing arts organization whose mission is to help people tell their stories, and tell them better, through creating performance opportunities, educational offerings, and accessible media forums.

Learn more about this organization by scanning the QR Code below:



Equity Camp YEARBOOK



*See you in
March.
-LAEP*



Equity Camp YEARBOOK

See you in
March.
-LAE





Thank you!

**Our Amazing Session Facilitators
Our Touchpoint Coaches
The Los Angeles Education Partnership Teams
General and Administrative
Teaching and Learning
Community Schools
CORE
Evaluation Accountability and Impact
The Paradise Point Team Especially
Carrie Shidler
Sandra Torenberg
Christiana Calumpit
Justin Flores
Participatory Methods Team
Our Photography and Videography Team
Anna Petrick
Kevin Dawes
Robert Martinez
The Stanford dSchool
Louie Montoya
21CSLA
California Department of Education
...and you**



