

#ICSS19 PROGRAM GUIDE

2019

INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

OLD TOWN ALBUQUERQUE

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2019

THE HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE



Coalition of
Public
Independent
Charter Schools

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 Table of Contents**
- 3 Schedule at a Glance**
- 4 Letter from the CPICS Director**
- 5 Letter from the CPICS Board**
- 7 About CPICS**
- 9 Meet the CPICS Board**
- 10 Welcome to Albuquerque**
- 11 Hotel Map**
- 13 Opening Ceremony**
- 15 Sessions with Deborah Meier**

PLENARY SESSIONS

- 17 Speakers & Keynotes**
- 20 Opening Panel**
Confronting the Polarization in Public Education: Can Progressive Educators Unite Around Shared Values?
- 22 Highlighted Panel**
Yazzie vs New Mexico and National Implications for Education Rights of Minorities and Vulnerable Populations



*Welcome to the
Land of Enchantment!*

BREAKOUT SESSIONS & STRANDS

- 25 Reaching All Learners**
- 28 Race, Diversity, & School Culture**
- 32 Saving the Teaching Profession**
- 35 Healing Our Communities;
Healing the World**
- 38 Governance Board Training**
- 41 Innovation & Multiple Measures**
- 44 Advocacy: Making the
Progressive Case for Our Schools**
- 46 Startup Bootcamp**
- 48 School Visit Day**
- 49 School Visit Day Itinerary**
- 50 Exhibitor Floor Plan**
- 51 Sponsors/Exhibitor Listing**
- 57 Thank-you's**
- 58 National Coordinating Committee**
- 60 Statement of Principles**

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH

3:30pm–6:00pm	Registration & Check-In	West Atrium
3:30pm–4:00pm	Mariachi Serenade	Alvarado Ballroom
4:00pm–5:30pm	Opening Panel	Alvarado Ballroom
5:30pm–6:00pm	Exhibitors/Networking/Legislators Workshop	West Atrium
6:00pm–7:45pm	Flamenco Show	Tablao
7:45pm–9:15pm	CPICS Board Meeting	Fireplace Room

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

7:00am–3:00pm	Registration & Check-In	West Atrium
7:00am–8:00am	Breakfast	Alvarado Ballroom
8:00am–8:50am	Opening Ceremony / Welcome	Alvarado Ballroom
9:00am–12:15pm	Breakout Sessions	Breakout Rooms
12:15pm–2:30pm	Lunch and Keynotes	Alvarado Ballroom
2:30pm–4:30pm	Breakout Sessions	Breakout Rooms
5:30pm–7:30pm	Happy Hour	Explora Children's Museum
9:30pm–11:00pm	Telling Stories Out of School	Fireplace Room

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19TH

7:00am–3:00pm	Registration & Check-In	West Atrium
7:00am–8:00am	Breakfast	Alvarado Ballroom
8:00am–9:30am	Plenary Session	Ballroom
9:35am–12:50pm	Breakout Sessions	Breakout Rooms
12:55pm–2:05pm	Lunch and Keynotes	Alvarado Ballroom
2:00pm–4:00pm	Breakout Sessions	Breakout Rooms
4:00pm–5:00pm	CPICS Membership Meeting	Franciscan Ballroom
7:30pm–9:00pm	Telling Stories Out of School	Fireplace Room

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

7:45am	Check-In for School Visit Day	Hotel Lobby
8:15am–3:00pm	Road Trip around Albuquerque	5 Schools

LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



Hi folks,

CPICS is thrilled to be holding its 2nd conference here in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a place I've grown to love and to think about when I'm not here. There's something about this place—the sky, the people, the food and a spirituality that's been here since the first people. We chose this place, in part, because we're looking for wisdom to guide us through a time of great divisiveness.

Over the next three days we're going to be regaled and challenged. There will be times to take it all in—and the breadth of the programming we have here is pretty cool—and there will be times to share, without reservation, our thoughts on the issues we are all struggling with as leaders and as people entrusted with the care and intellectual development of our most precious resource.

We chose New Mexico as the place to hold our conference because educational leadership here is reckoning, candidly and transparently, with issues of longstanding inequity and with seeking solutions that do not pit one part of the educational sector against the other. This is how it should be. The charter school sector in New Mexico is comprised of 100 schools, each representing a particular approach to providing educational choice and options to their communities. This is also as it should be, and we applaud it. We firmly believe there is something here that needs to be looked at by everyone who cares about the future of the movement for chartered schools.

Please take advantage of as much as you can. Spend some time with Debbie Meier and Jane Andrias. Learn how to be an Analog Astronaut with Sian Proctor. Spend time listening to the students in the Turquoise Room as they discuss the issues that affect them and how they are being empowered to take those issues on. Spend time with each other. Learn more about CPICS and, please, come to our membership meeting at 4:00 PM on Tuesday. And don't miss any of our student performances!

If this conference provides you with an attitude adjustment, let us know. If we do well, or if we fail, let us know. We want to traffic in honesty here. That's the way we grow.

Best to you all and thanks for coming!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Steve Zimmerman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Steve Zimmerman
CPICS Director

LETTER FROM THE CPICS BOARD



Welcome, Fellow Independent Charter Colleagues!

How exciting to be here in beautiful Old Town Albuquerque, meeting with other independent charter school movers and shakers! I believe it is vital that we come together in order to hear each other's stories, learn from our common strengths and struggles, and most importantly, solidify our voice so that the national dialogue includes the independent charter school perspective.

I attended the first symposium two years ago in New York City, where the Statement of Principles for the Coalition of Public Independent Charter Schools was born. We came together from all over the country to formulate who we were as a group and what we stood for. The day made me think of when I was a child, watching our country's political parties' conventions on TV! Similarly, at our symposium, each state had their own section in the room and a designated "delegate" to speak on their behalf. We proposed ideas, debated, and voted – and through this process, we hammered out what it meant to be an independent charter school: Equity, Innovation, Autonomy & Accountability, Respect for Teachers, Collaboration, Governance & Community, Diversity, and commitment to Quality.

Throughout my history as a charter school administrator and parent, I have always felt the voice of the smaller, independent charters was overwhelmed by the CMO's (charter management organizations.) Leaving New York after two days of fascinating discussion and process, I was inspired. I knew that regardless of what happens on the National or even State political stage, there were other independent, hard-working, amazing charters like mine, often silently working on behalf of the students in their care. And at last, we had a collective voice!

Again, welcome to CPICS and I look forward to meeting you all!

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Dianne Jacobson.

Dianne Jacobson

CPICS Board Member

Operations Manager, Skyview School, Inc. (Arizona)

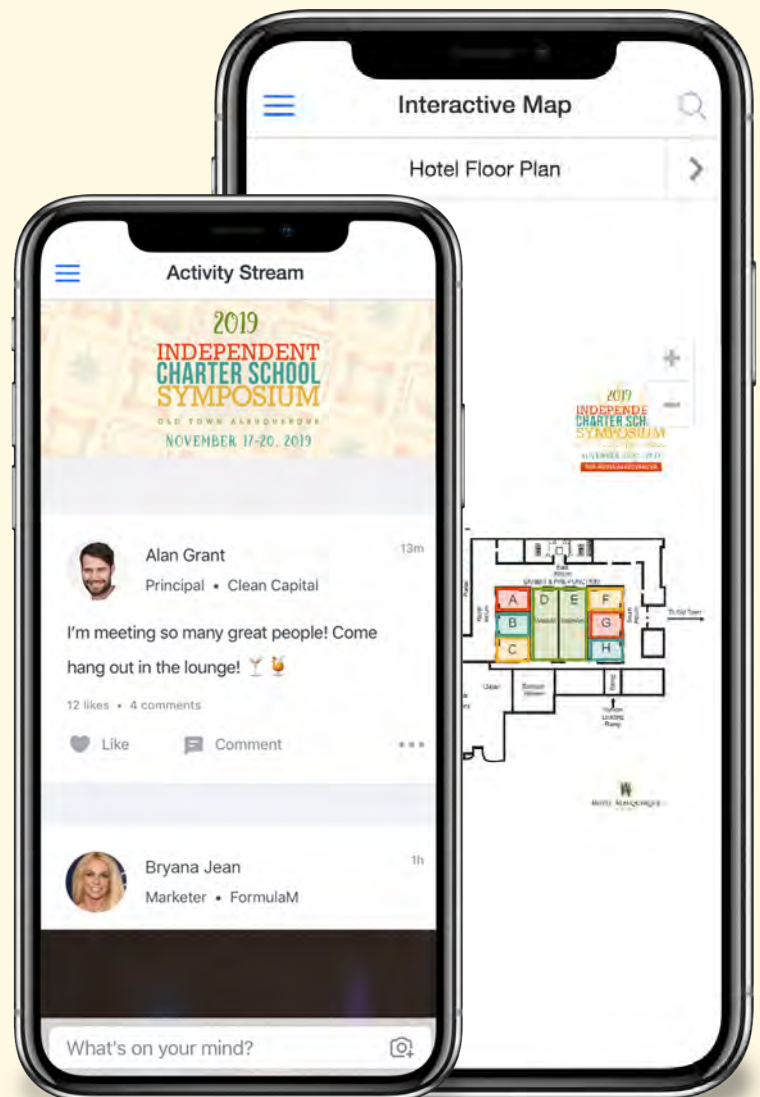
MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR #ICSS19 EXPERIENCE

DOWNLOAD THE OFFICIAL SYMPOSIUM APP POWERED BY **attendify**

Download the
Attendify App
in the App Store
or Google Play and
search ICSS19!

- Event agenda
- Speaker profiles
- Social networking
- Sponsor listings
- Exhibitor directory
- Important alerts
- Maps

Take advantage of the official mobile app to make the most of your 2019 Independent Charter School Symposium experience. Plan ahead by flagging the panels, keynotes and sessions you don't want to miss and connect with your fellow attendees.



2019
INDEPENDENT
CHARTER SCHOOL
SYMPOSIUM
OLD TOWN ALBUQUERQUE
NOVEMBER 17-20, 2019



ABOUT CPICS

Empowering and advocating for public independent charter schools

The Coalition of Public Independent Charter Schools (CPICS) is a national advocacy group for autonomous, self-managed charter schools. We are united behind principles that exemplify the democratic and innovative roots of the charter school movement. Our schools provide creative options in public education, explore new leadership structures and collaborate in the public interest. CPICS promotes public school autonomy and transparency. We believe in the power of schools to transform the lives of young people AND in the responsibility of government to ensure that all children have adequate nutrition, shelter, health care, and educational opportunity.



Our Focus Our focus is on independent, self-managed charter schools that exemplify the original intent of the charter school movement.

Strengthening our independent charter sector is a powerful way to increase excellent public schools and expand educational opportunities for all students. We do this by employing three main strategies:

Peer-to-Peer Network We provide charter school leaders with a means to seek and offer support to each other in leadership, governance, program and operations..

Informing Policy We advocate for policies that support independent charter schools and that work to the benefit of all public education.

Increasing Collaboration We aim to increase collaborations between schools and school leaders nationwide. This exchange of ideas not only increases best practices but also creates more efficiency in the charter community.



Please visit the CPICS table in the North Atrium to become a member. Receive a **FREE** #ICSS19 t-shirt when you sign up for membership.

Our Vision All children will have access to public schools that provide innovative and high quality student learning experiences

Our Mission Empowering and advocating for public independent charter schools

Our Beliefs We aspire to be great community schools of choice for the families we serve. We are united behind the original ideals of the charter school contract. We embrace our diverse communities, which include immigrants, people of color, children with disabilities, the homeless, English language learners, people of all faiths, and the LGBTQ community. We believe in the power of schools to transform the lives of young people AND in the responsibility of government to ensure that all children have adequate nutrition, shelter, health care, and educational opportunity. And we subscribe to these fundamental principles.

MEMBERSHIP

YOUR CPICS MEMBERSHIP GIVES YOU

- Advocacy: a new voice for the charter sector, grounded in our shared principles
- Peer-to-peer network of school leaders for mentoring and advice on any issue
- Exclusive discounts from preferred vendors in PD, HR, legal services and assessment
- Career Board
- Specific assistance for startups

CPICS MEMBERSHIP is open to schools, families, individuals and groups that support our mission. Member schools affirm operation of our schools within the following ethical guidelines:

- Maintenance of IRS not-for-profit status
- Compliance with all federal and state laws regarding financial transparency, operational transparency, and accountability
- Practice of site-based decision making
- Elimination of exclusionary admissions requirements or admissions tests
- Affirmation of the Coalition's "Statement of Principles"

LEARN MORE AT WWW.INDIECHARTERS.ORG/MEMBERSHIP





2019
INDEPENDENT
CHARTER SCHOOL
SYMPOSIUM

OLD TOWN ALBUQUERQUE

NOVEMBER 17-20, 2019

Don't forget to use [#ICSS19](#) on all your social media and get connected!

Tag us in your posts and get featured on our official CPICS accounts.



@CPICSSCHOOLS



FACEBOOK.COM/CPICSSCHOOLS



WWW.INDIECHARTERS.ORG

PURCHASING MADE EASY



3 OAKS

FURNITURE • FIXTURES • EQUIPMENT

NEWEST INDUSTRY-WIDE PRODUCTS

PROJECT MANAGEMENT

FACILITY INSTALLATION

3 OAKS RESOURCE GROUP INTERNATIONAL

is your single source for furniture, fixtures, equipment, technology and supplies for school, office and healthcare needs. We offer the newest, industry-wide products, project management and facility installation, focusing on saving you time and money, while realizing your vision and budget.

Call today to learn more.
Dorie McInturf 303.478.4377
dmcinturf@3oaksgroup.com



MEET THE CPICS BOARD

OUR FOUNDING BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Ricardo Mireles is the Executive Director and Founder of Academia Avance, an independent college preparatory public charter school in the Northeast Los Angeles neighborhood of Highland Park that serves over 400 students in grades 6-12. The Avance college attainment outcomes for its graduates tops 80% enrolling in college, the majority at four year institutions, with a 70% persistence rate. Ricardo is a graduate of Columbia College, studied at the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and taught at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research and at the Don Bosco Technical Institute.

Dianne Jacobson has been the Operations Manager at Skyview School in Prescott, Arizona since 2006. Previously she has served on charter governing boards and worked countless hours supporting charter education as a parent and volunteer. Although she always understood the academic and social benefits charters provided children, at Skyview she became aware of a deeper truth—that the “whole child” approach to education can be brilliantly explored within the autonomy of charter school design, particularly when curricula and methods are developed by educators and parents.



Iris María Chávez is an education advocate and public affairs consultant, currently working with national and Oregon-focused organizations to advance equity by supporting the creation of sound, just policies that better communities in Oregon and across the nation. Iris María came to the Pacific Northwest from Washington, D.C., where she worked for over a decade in education policy and advocacy for civil rights and advocacy organizations such as the Education Trust and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). Iris María's volunteer work also focuses on community engagement and equity, she currently serves on the Partnership for Safety & Justice Board of Directors and the City Club of Portland Board of Governors.

Richard Lee is the Executive Director of Academy of the City Charter School in Woodside, NY, a school that is as diverse as the Borough of Queens. Previously, Richard was the Division Coordinator for seven years for grades 1-4 at The Bank Street School for Children. Richard has organized, led and presented in various workshop including NYSAIS, DOE and NAIS. Most of these have been about Children of Color affinity groups and Social Studies curriculum. Richard is Asian-American and feels strongly about the presence of administrators who reflect the community that they serve.



David Lockett is a STEM teacher at Bok Academy in Lake Wales, FL and an NSTA Aerospace Advisory Board Member. At Bok Academy, he is responsible for implementing a project-based curriculum for all students as they rotate through the STEM Lab. David has a distinguished and diverse background in the fields of Astronomy, Biotechnology, and Engineering, and is an advocate and practitioner of S.T.E.M. accessibility for all students. David has participated in a variety of NSF projects throughout North and South America, including the Astronomy in Chile's Ambassadors Educator Program and Innovators Developing Accessible Tools for Astronomy.

Christopher Norwood is the Founder of the Florida Association of Independent Public Schools and the Governance Institute for School Accountability (GISA). Christopher is the former Executive Director of Lawyers for Children (Florida), and is certified by the Florida Commissioner for Education to provide Governance Training to Charter Schools. He is sought out by many to represent charter schools with application appeals, terminations and non-renewals before Florida's Administrative Law Judges and School Board Administrative Hearings. Christopher chairs the City of Miami Education Advisory Board and serves on the Audit and Budget Committee of Miami-Dade Public Schools.



Heather Vuncannon is the President and CEO of Innovative Community Schools & Services, LLC in Asheboro, North Carolina. Heather co-founded and led Uwharrie Charter Academy, a rural, independent charter school focused on STE3AM (Entrepreneurship, Environment, and Engineering) and Project-based learning. Heather earned her Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and later her school administration degree from High Point University. She led Uwharrie Charter Academy from its opening in 2013 until recently when she struck out on her own to provide consulting and financial services to charter schools across the state of North Carolina.

WELCOME TO ALBUQUERQUE



We are honored to hold our 2019 Independent Charter School Symposium in a city full of rich history and diverse culture. From art and museums to restaurants and shopping – there are many things to see and explore.

There is no other place in our country where the land and the people have a deeper spiritual connection than in New Mexico. This connection is not something that most of us experience in our lives but it is woven into the tapestry of the entire state, even beyond the 19 pueblos where many Native Americans maintain centuries-old traditions. We hope to bring that spirit to our own gathering as well through art, performance, workshops and appreciation of the people and the place.



Learn more at: www.visitalbuquerque.org

Art & Museums

- New Mexico Steam Locomotive and Railroad Historical Society
- Explora Science Center and Children's Museum of Albuquerque
- Unser Racing Museum
- Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
- Albuquerque Museum

Drinks & Dining

- Church Street Cafe
- El Pinto Authentic New Mexican Restaurant
- Pueblo Harvest
- The County Line of Albuquerque
- Papa Felipe's Mexican Restaurant

Shopping

- Aceves Old Town Basket & Rug Shop
- The Blue Portal
- Covered Wagon
- Old Town Emporium
- Plaza Hacienda

THE HOTEL ALBUQUERQUE



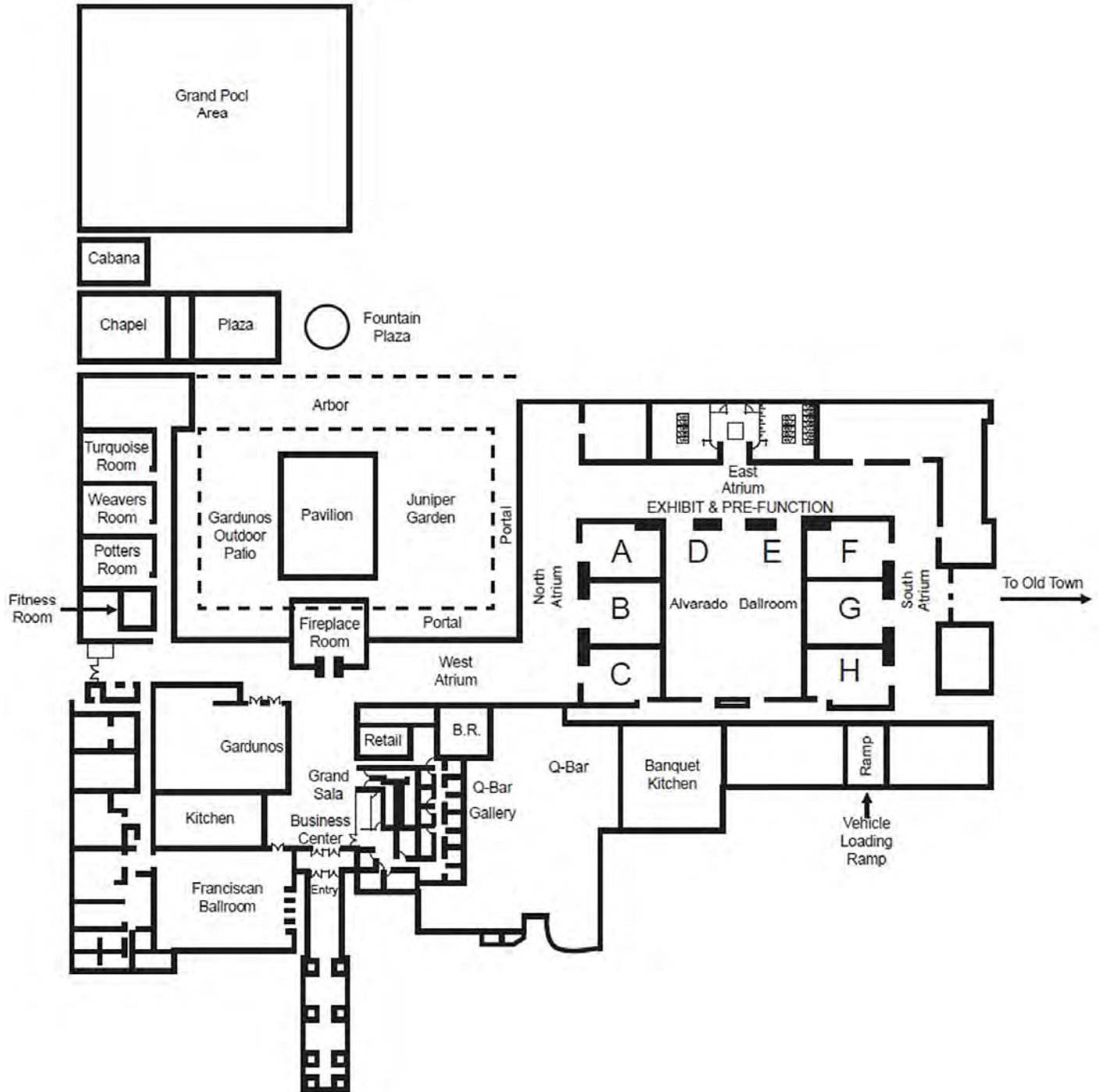
Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town delights travelers with a distinctive blend of historic grandeur and contemporary comfort. This landmark Albuquerque luxury hotel is conveniently located in the heart of Old Town, offering lodging in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and amenities including their on-site restaurant and bars, an outdoor resort swimming pool and more than 62,000 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and event space.

In the heart of Albuquerque, this New Mexico hotel in Old Town offers a unique location in a historic district easily accessible from I-40 and within 15 minutes of Albuquerque International Sunport Airport. Within walking distance are historic landmarks, restaurants, local shopping favorites, and many other things to do in Albuquerque.

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town is home to the Southwest's first authentic Flamenco Tablao. The National Institute of Flamenco in partnership with Heritage Hotels & Resorts is proud to offer this intimate performance space designed exclusively to feature the artistry of Flamenco in Historic Old Town Albuquerque. Sixty percent of the proceeds of the tablao go to support the National Institute of Flamenco for the promotion and advancement of this unique art form.

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
800 Rio Grande Blv. NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104
Phone (505)843-6300

HOTEL MAP





HIGHMARK

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

Your Facility Partner

FACILITY DEVELOPMENT

- # Numerous Capital Sources
- # National Footprint
- # Short-Term or Permanent Funding
- # Accelerated Underwriting and Construction
- # Land Acquisition
- # New Construction
- # Re-Purpose of Existing Structures
- # Independent, EMO-Managed, Start-Up, and Expansion Schools

Experienced Turnkey Charter School Developer

"Turnkey" means we do it all.

We handle all the complexities associated with acquiring real estate, financing, designing, and building your permanent school home.

PATRICK BEAUSOLEIL 616.717.0484 patrick@highmarkschools.com

WWW.HIGHMARKSCHOOLS.COM

Find us on:
 **facebook** [/highmarkschools](https://www.facebook.com/highmarkschools)

 **twitter** [@HighMarkSchools](https://twitter.com/HighMarkSchools)

OPENING CEREMONY

NOVEMBER 18, 2019



WELCOME LED BY NACA STUDENTS



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

NACA

Growing Together.

The venue of our 2019 Independent Charter School Symposium, the Hotel Albuquerque, is on land that traditionally belonged to the Tiwa People. We are honored to have students from the Tiwa Language class at from the Native American Community Academy lead us in a welcome ceremony.

The Native American Community Academy (NACA) is a tuition-free public charter school serving students in middle and high school (grades 6th to 12th). NACA's student body is diverse with many cultural and ethnic backgrounds represented, including students from more than 37 different tribes.

NACA is a small school that integrates culture, wellness, language, community, family, and preparation for college into each child's education. Thier philosophy is grounded in both the Native American tradition and a rigorous, modern approach to college-preparatory education. Students of all backgrounds are welcome at NACA.

WELCOME SPEAKERS



KARA BOBROFF

Kara Bobroff has been working in education for nearly 30 years, beginning her career as a special education teacher. In January 2019, she was appointed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to be the Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity and Transformation. She was the Founder and Executive Director of the Native American Community Academy Inspired Schools Network in Albuquerque and previously served on President Barack Obama's Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Ms. Bobroff holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in special education, and an educational specialist degree from the University of New Mexico.



STEVE ZIMMERMAN

Steven Zimmerman has founded two charter schools in Queens and is the founding director of CPICS. He was an elementary school teacher in the inner-city of Chicago during the Model Cities Program years and later worked for 15 years in educational publishing, first as a science editor and later as a developer of ESL, bilingual and design services for US school publishers. Steve has also done a stint in an educational technology startup. He has spent the last several years trying to figure out how to reconcile the polarized sides in the public education dialogue.

HAPPY HOUR

NOVEMBER 18, 2019

SPONSORED BY



nacsa
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

Explora: creating opportunities for inspirational discovery and the joy of lifelong learning through interactive experiences in science, technology, engineering, art, and math.

MEET & GREET THE
CPICS BOARD!



Just steps away from our symposium at The Hotel Albuquerque, Explora is a new kind of learning place, providing real experiences with real things that put people's learning in their own hands. Explora is part science center, part children's museum, part free-choice school, part grandma's attic, part grandpa's garage, part laboratory, part neighborhood full of interesting people, and part of many people's lives.

Join us for drinks, light snacks and conversations during our Happy Hour Event at Explora on Monday, November 18th from 5:30pm–6:30pm.

1701 Mountain Road NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
505.224.8300
Explora@explora.us



nacsa
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

Authorizers play an integral role shaping the quality and availability of charter schools in every city and state.

By improving authorizing around the country, we can create better educational opportunities for millions of students.

Learn more at www.authorizingmatters.org

SESSIONS WITH DEBORAH MEIER

& Jane Andrias



The Coalition of Public Independent Charter Schools is honored to welcome back Deborah Meier, to the Independent Charter School Symposium. Deborah was the keynote speaker at our inaugural event and we're thrilled that she's returning for a more intimate experience.

Deborah will be hosting two exclusive sessions with attendees during our symposium. Each session will offer a limited number of seats so that each attendee has the opportunity to interact with our greatest living exponent of the American progressive education tradition.

Deborah Meier has been working in public education as a teacher, principal, writer, advocate since the early 1960s, and ranks among the most acclaimed leaders of the school reform movement in the U.S. In 1987 she received a MacArthur "genius" Award for her work in public education.

The work that Debbie did at Central Park East in the 1970's and 80's and at Mission Hill in the Roxbury section of Boston in the 1990's was the inspiration for many of us. It is in the DNA of those who envisioned chartered schools as places of teacher empowerment and workplace democracy.

Debbie will be joined by colleague Jane Andrias for two sessions:

Session 1: Teachers as Leaders and Agents of Change

Date: Monday, November 18, 2019
Time: 2:30pm–4:00pm

There is a tension between the larger public good and the individual's good. In this session, we will ask: How do classrooms, schools and the school community deal and work with this tension?

Session 2: Schools and Democracy - Choice, Responsibility, Agency and Democracy

Date: Tuesday, November 19, 2019
Time: 2:00pm–3:30pm

If societal democracy may require schools to be democratic institutions, what do we need to do and when and how do we start to make our schools democracies. In this session, we will ask: How do we as teachers exercise our responsibility to grow and sustain such a school?

ABOUT JANE ANDRIAS



Jane Andrias began teaching in New York City public schools in 1969. She founded the art program at Central Park East I Elementary School and Central Park East Secondary School and was the director and then principal of the elementary school until 2003. Since her retirement from the NYC public school system, she has served as an adjunct professor at Long Island University, teaching graduate courses in Teacher Inquiry and supervising student teachers.


She has been involved in the design and implementation of an alternative assessment project with several NYC progressive public elementary schools, and she founded and directed the Long Island University Teacher Resource Center. Through her affiliation with The Elementary Teachers Network at the Center for Literacy Studies of Lehman College, she has been teaching a course to public school teachers from several public schools in NYC. She also has been collaborating with Deborah Meier to address the crisis in early childhood and elementary school education.

Jane Andrias is President of the Board of Directors of PerDev. She graduated from CCNY, received a Masters degree from NYU, studied at the Froebel Institute of London University and has been a longtime participant of the Prospect Institutes on Descriptive Inquiry and Practice.

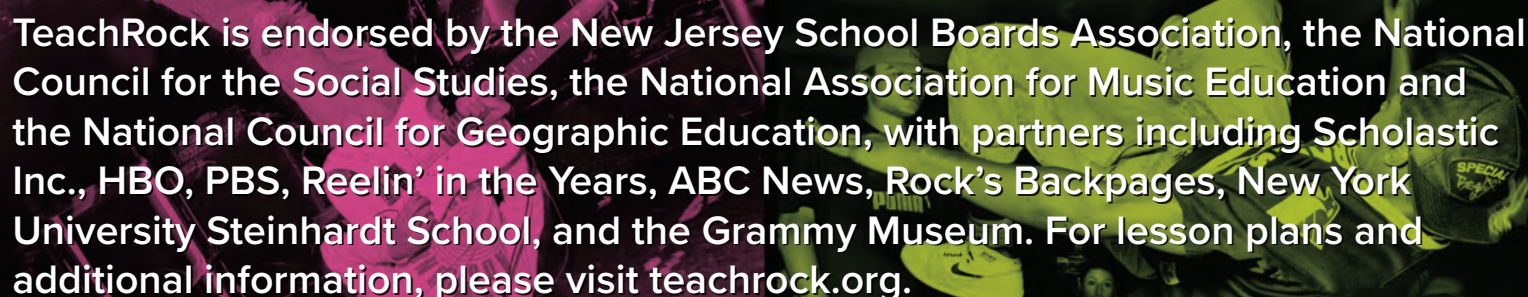


TEACHROCK

•ORG



Steven Van Zandt's Rock and Roll Forever Foundation creates standards-aligned arts integration curriculum that uses the history of popular music and culture to help teachers engage students. K-12 teachers can craft full courses or choose a la carte from more than 150 multimedia lesson plans in subject areas such as social studies, language arts, geography, science, STEAM, general music and more. All free at Teachrock.org.



TeachRock is endorsed by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the National Council for the Social Studies, the National Association for Music Education and the National Council for Geographic Education, with partners including Scholastic Inc., HBO, PBS, Reelin' in the Years, ABC News, Rock's Backpages, New York University Steinhardt School, and the Grammy Museum. For lesson plans and additional information, please visit teachrock.org.

"Music will forever be humanity's most effective and consistent source of inspiration and motivation, and, we have learned, music turns out to be our most solid common ground for establishing communication between teachers and students, which is where education begins." - Steven Van Zandt



**To view our free education materials,
visit teachrock.org**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019**GREG RICHMOND****What's wrong - and right - with charter schools****Time:** 12:35–12:50pm

Since the early years of charter schooling, Greg Richmond has worked with passionate people across the country to improve quality educational opportunities for children by strengthening charter school authorizing. He first started authorizing charter schools in 1996 when he worked for the Chicago Public Schools where he was inspired by the educators who were proposing new schools. In 2000, he founded the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, served as its first board chair until 2005, and then as its full-time CEO. While he has testified repeatedly before Congress, met with Secretaries of Education, been interviewed by countless reporters from coast to coast, and partnered with major foundations, nothing brings him more happiness or inspiration than visiting with educators and students in their schools.

Greg holds a B.S. in geography from the University of Wisconsin and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Minnesota. Greg is married to his high school sweetheart, Janelle. They met when they were each cast in the leading roles in the school musical, *South Pacific*.

**NANCY LÓPEZ****Who Counts? The Urgency of Using Our Schools to Ensure an Accurate 2020 Census and the Consequences if We Fail****Time:** 12:50–1:25pm

Dr. Nancy López is associate professor of sociology at the University of New Mexico. She directs and co-founded the Institute for the Study of "Race" & Social Justice. Dr. López has been named the Inaugural Academic Leadership Academy (ALA) Faculty Fellow, UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI). She has also received funding from the Sociological Initiatives Foundation for a study of discipline in a diverse New Mexico public school, as well as funding from the NM Public Education Department for a study entitled, "Indian Education in New Mexico, 2025."

Her book *Hopeful Girls, Troubled Boys: Race and Gender Disparity in Urban Education* (New York: Routledge, 2003) focuses on Dominicans, West Indians, and Haitians to explain why girls of color are succeeding at higher rates than their male counterparts. Her current work focuses on the creation of meaningful conceptualizations of "race" as a dynamic multi-dimensional and multi-level social construction. The daughter of Dominican immigrants, Dr. López was born in New York City and was raised in NYC public housing; Spanish is her first language.

**SIAN PROCTOR****The Analog Astronaut and The Future of Education****Time:** 1:25–2:10pm

Dr. Sian Proctor is a science educator with a passion for space exploration, geoscience, and helping young people develop leadership skills. She's a dedicated teacher with extraordinary professional development experience including being chosen as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Teacher at Sea, a PolarTREC teacher to Barrow, Alaska, and an Astronomy Ambassador to US observatories in Chile. This past summer she was the science communication education outreach officer on the JOIDES Resolution engaging in climate change research in the Antarctic Circumpolar Current. She was even a finalist for the 2009 NASA Astronaut Program and spent 4 months living in a NASA funded Mars simulation called HI-SEAS. She believes that solving the technological challenges of human space exploration really solves humanity-focused challenges on Earth.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019**RYAN STEWART****Welcome & Introduction to Day 2****Time:** 8:00–8:15am

Ryan Stewart is the Secretary-designate of the NM Department of Education. A graduate of Stanford University and the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Secretary Stewart began his career in education teaching middle school math and science in East Palo Alto, CA. He later worked for the District of Philadelphia as a director of school improvement and innovation before taking a job with the nonprofit Partners in School Innovation where he worked with a network of 22 schools in North Philadelphia that primarily served poor African American students.

**JOE NATHAN****Keeping Our Eye on the Prize and Fighting Like Hell****Time:** 9:05–9:35am

Joe Nathan has been an inner city public school aide, teacher and administrator. Since 1988, Joe has directed the Center for School Change which works at the school, community and policy levels. Nathan has helped write several major laws, including Post Secondary Options and the nation's first charter public school law. He served as a local PTA president in St. Paul, and a member of the Minnesota State PTA board. He has written two books named "must read" by the American School Board Journal, along with a third, and edited a fourth. Nathan now writes a twice-a-month column carried regularly by about 20 suburban and rural Minnesota newspapers and has appeared on more than 400 television and radio programs including "The Today Show," "Good Morning America," McNeil/Lehrer News Hour" and "All Things Considered." He earned a B.A. from Carleton College and his MA and PhD from the University of Minnesota. Nathan has been married for 42 years to a recently retired St. Paul Public School teacher. Joe was recently honored by the National Alliance for Public Charter Schools and inducted into their Charter School Hall of Fame.

**AMY JUNGE****Teacher-Powered Schools****Time:** 1:20-1:55pm

Amy Junge is a former California public elementary and middle school teacher and assistant principal. She began working in education policy with Education Evolving in 2009, studying teacher-powered schools. Amy helped research and write, *Trusting Teachers with School Success: What Happens When Teachers Call the Shots* (2012) with Kim Farris-Berg and Ed Dirkswager. Since the book's publication, Amy has continued to research and support teacher-powered teacher teams. Today, she is proud to serve as the Director of Teacher-Powered Schools working with innovative educator leaders around the nation.

Amy earned a bachelor of arts degree from Northwestern University and a master's degree from the University of California at Santa Barbara. She currently lives in Southern California with her husband and three children and enjoys photography, reading, and cooking.

3

Medicaid programs in 49/50 states + D.C. provide schools with reimbursement dollars for medically necessary, school-based services. While programs vary by state, CGM's team are experts, and will maximize your returns.

2

For the provision of these services, the experts at CGM can get *your school* reimbursed an average of **\$5,500** per student/per year with potential maximum returns of **\$10,000** per student/per year.

1

Your school is already providing IEP/medically necessary services to children with special needs. Your school should be getting reimbursed **per student** for these services...

Independent Charter School Symposium

CGM School-Based Billing Initiative

Medicaid Reimbursement

IEP Services*

Occupational Therapy* (OT)

CGM

Speech-Language Therapy* (SLP)

Physical Therapy* (PT)

www.MediEd.us

CONTACT
US

Keith Jacobsen
Cell: 480.213.0399

E-mail: Keith.Jacobsen@CGM.com

* OT, PT & SLP are the 3 most common services that Medicaid School-Billing Programs across all 49 states+ D.C. reimburse.

OPENING PANEL

CONFRONTING THE POLARIZATION IN PUBLIC EDUCATION: CAN PROGRESSIVE EDUCATORS UNITE AROUND SHARED VALUES?

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019 | 4:00PM | ALVARADO BALLROOM

In our own sandbox, the intense polarization of education politics around concepts of “privatization and public good” has undermined our work and stakeholders in the charter sector feel threatened and besieged. It’s time for us to address these issues honestly and directly with other progressive voices from pedagogy, policy, labor and civil rights. CPICS is proud to bring together four of our most distinguished leaders and visionaries in education who will share their ideas and challenge each other and us to find a way forward.

MODERATOR



LAURIE INMAN

**DEPARTMENT CHAIR AND LECTURER, CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY,
DOMINGUEZ HILLS & CEO AND FOUNDER, THE CENTER FOR
INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS**

Dr. Laurie Inman is currently chair and lecturer at California State University, Dominguez Hills in the Liberal Studies department and founder of the Center for Independent Charter Schools, a nonprofit that provides resources to leaders of color, specifically in the area of trauma-informed practices. Her background includes 35 years of experience in K-16 teaching, in school and district level administration, and in professional development. Dr. Inman earned her Ed.D in Educational Leadership at USC. She also holds a M.Ed. from the University of LaVerne and graduated from CSU, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communicative Disorders.

PANELISTS



LEO CASEY

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, THE ALBERT SHANKER INSTITUTE

Leo Casey is the Executive Director of the Albert Shanker Institute, a think tank affiliated with the American Federation of Teachers which focuses on issues of public education, unionism and democracy promotion. Before he assumed his current position at the Institute, Casey served as Vice President from Academic High Schools for the United Federation of Teachers, New York City's 200,000 person strong teacher union. He is the son of two New York City public school teachers. Casey attended Antioch College in Ohio, the University of Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania and the University of Toronto in Canada, where he earned a Ph.D. in Political Philosophy.



DEBORAH MEIER

RENOWNED TEACHER, PRINCIPAL, THEORIST, ACTIVIST, AUTHOR AND FOUNDER OF THE SMALL SCHOOLS MOVEMENT

Deborah Meier has been working in public education as a teacher, principal, writer, advocate since the early 1960s, and ranks among the most acclaimed leaders of the school reform movement in the U.S. In 1987 she received a MacArthur "genius" Award for her work in public education. The work that Debbie did at Central Park East in the 1970's and 80's and at Mission Hill in the Roxbury section of Boston in the 1990's was the inspiration for many of us. It is in the DNA of those who envisioned chartered schools as places of teacher empowerment and workplace democracy.



PEDRO NOGUERA

PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION & FACULTY DIRECTOR, CENTER FOR THE TRANSFORMATION OF SCHOOLS AT UCLA

Pedro A. Noguera is the Distinguished Professor of Education at the Graduate School of Education and Information Studies and Faculty Director for the Center for the Transformation of Schools at UCLA. He is a sociologist whose scholarship and research focuses on the ways in which schools are influenced by social and economic conditions as well as by demographic trends in local, regional and global contexts. Dr. Noguera serves on the boards of numerous national and local organizations and appears as a regular commentator on educational issues on CNN, MSNBC, National Public Radio and other national news outlets.



TONY SIMMONS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, HIGH SCHOOL FOR RECORDING ARTS

Tony has served as a board member to national school reform organizations like Edvisions, Inc., Minnesota Association of Charter Schools, Reaching At Promise Students Association (RAPSA) and Education Evolving. He has also served as a member of the Saint Paul School District Quality Review Team and as a peer reviewer for those applying to the Minnesota Department of Education for Federal Charter School Program grants. Tony has provided technical assistance to the Black Alliance for Educational Options and is currently serving as co-director of the New School Creation Fellowship at High Tech High Graduate School of Education in San Diego. He was also part of the development team for Minnesota's first online project-based charter school, EdVisions Online Academy. Tony attended Howard University and Pace University where he earned a BA in Political Studies. He received his Juris Doctorate from Rutgers University School of Law. Tony is a native New Yorker who enjoys live music, reading, and traveling with his daughter.

PLENARY SESSION: PANEL

YAZZIE VS NM AND NATIONAL IMPLICATIONS FOR EDUCATION RIGHTS OF MINORITIES AND VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019 | 8:15AM | ALVARADO BALLROOM

On July 20, 2018, Judge Sarah Singleton of the 1st Judicial District Court in Santa Fe County ruled that State of New Mexico had failed to provide students from disadvantaged economic backgrounds, Native American students, English language learners and students with disabilities with a constitutionally guaranteed adequate and equitable education. This case—Yazzie/Martinez vs New Mexico—is a landmark decision in the fight for education equity with repercussions well beyond New Mexico. Our distinguished panel of educators and social activists will talk about the origins of the case, its impact on NM education policy and its national implications for minority education rights.

MODERATOR



EVERETTE W. HILL

PRINCIPAL & MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE SOCIAL INNOVATION STRATEGIES GROUP, LLC OR SISGROUP

Everette W. Hill is an expert in asset-based community, youth and organizational development and a certified ToP facilitator through the Institute of Cultural Affairs (ICA). A resident of the South Valley of Albuquerque for 23 years, he has worked in the non-profit, government and private sectors developing and managing programs, grass-roots community-based public policy, and providing strategic planning and technical assistance supports to individuals and organizations throughout the social sectors. Everette is a graduate of Occidental College where he double-majored in Psychology and History; and in 2001, earned a Masters Degree in Counseling Psychology from the University of Phoenix. Everette is also a Senior Associate with Everyday Democracy—a national deliberative dialogue organization dedicated to community change and racial equity.

PANELISTS



KARA BOBROFF

DEPUTY SECRETARY OF IDENTITY, EQUITY AND TRANSFORMATION, NMPED

Kara Bobroff has been working in education for nearly 30 years, beginning her career as a special education teacher. In January 2019, she was appointed by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham to be the Deputy Secretary of Identity, Equity and Transformation. She was the Founder and Executive Director of the Native American Community Academy Inspired Schools Network in Albuquerque and previously served on President Barack Obama's Advisory Council for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. Ms. Bobroff holds a bachelor's and a master's degree in special education, and an educational specialist degree from the University of New Mexico.



GAIL EVANS

NEW MEXICO CENTER ON LAW AND POVERTY

Gail Evans has over 25 years of legal experience, all of which have been devoted to fighting for the rights of low income individuals and families. She served as the New Mexico Center on Law and Poverty's Legal Director from 2004 to 2018, where she led successful campaigns and lawsuits, including a landmark education lawsuit, *Yazzie v. State of New Mexico*. Ms. Evans continues to serve as the Center's lead counsel in the *Yazzie* litigation. Before joining the Center, Ms. Evans defended New Mexicans facing the death penalty. She also clerked for United States District Judge James A. Parker in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Gail earned her B.A. from Johns Hopkins University, her J.D. from the University of New Mexico School of Law and her L.L.M. from Georgetown University Law School in 1998.



MAYRA VALTIERREZ

DIRECTOR, LANGUAGE & CULTURE DIVISION, NMPED

Mayra Valtierrez serves as the Director of Language and Culture and Hispanic Education Liaison at the New Mexico Public Education Department. She earned her M.A. in Spanish Linguistics with a minor in Anthropology from New Mexico State University where she later taught in the Department of Languages and Linguistics. In this position, she prepared future and current teachers in bilingual multicultural education and conducted research on the Spanish of Southern New Mexico. Mayra has district experience with parent engagement and empowering parents to be active participants in their children's education. In her current position, she and her team work to ensure New Mexico's students have access to rigorous, culturally and linguistically responsive education, and effective language programs that increase achievement and outcomes for all students.



Turn Your
**Vision
Into
Reality**

Call Your
Hertz Furniture Expert

800-526-4677

www.hertzfurniture.com



Chadwick School, Verdes Peninsula, CA

What are some of the lessons we've learned in working with vulnerable populations? How can we best support students with extreme life challenges?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

The Importance of Student-Teacher Relationships in Student Retention and Learning

School/Organization: Maine Academy of Natural Sciences

Time: 9:05–10:15am

Presenter(s): Emanuel Pariser; Rebecca Dennison

Participants will learn about our home based education model Threshold, which is a part of Maine Academy of Natural Sciences (MeANS). In the Threshold program we really DO meet our students where they are. Based on our intention to build strong relationships between teachers and students, Threshold works to address barriers to education by bringing school to students at home who are chronically absent, have dropped out, or have never participated in schooling. In time students come to realize that education is 24/7, and that they really can be in control of the what and where of it. We will also explore other aspects of our approach to building strong, positive relationships with students at MeANS. Participants will learn innovative strategies from our experience working with vulnerable student populations that may be applicable to their own programs.

Emanuel Pariser co-founded the Maine Academy of Natural Science at Good Will Hinckley in 2010, where he currently consults at Threshold, the School's program for pregnant, parenting and socially anxious students. Emanuel received his PhD in education and psychology from the University of Maine, Orono.

Rebecca Dennison is Dean of the Threshold program at Maine Academy of Natural Science. She earned a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Maine at Farmington and a master's degree in Social Work from the University of New England.

All Means All! Lessons Learned from our Therapeutic Learning Class

School/Organization: Alpha Public Schools

Time: 10:20–11:05am

Presenter(s): Russell Michaud

This presentation explores the theoretical foundations of misbehavior, and the unique challenges of supporting behavioral challenges in high performing, academically-focused schools. It also will walk participants through the planning, execution, and iteration of Alpha's Therapeutic Learning Class, and provide high level guidance on developing small and large scale support systems for ensuring that all learners, especially those with emotional and behavioral disabilities, are able to see success in school.

Russell Michaud serves as the Senior Director of Special Education at Alpha Public Schools in San Jose, California. He earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Ithaca College and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from San Jose State University.

"What Do You Mean I Can't Do That?"- Navigating Special Education Law In An Independent Charter School

School/Organization: National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools

Time: 11:10–11:55am

Presenter(s): Wendy Tucker

Charter school autonomy provides exciting opportunities to establish policies and procedures designed around the unique needs of the specific school community. However, there are certain legal responsibilities, particularly related to the education of students with disabilities, that must be followed by every public school. When those laws conflict with policies and procedures, or when personnel are not well-versed in the law, the results can be devastating, particularly in today's polarized climate around charter schools. This session will address some of the common situations where autonomy and special education law collide. Topics will include access, FAPE, least restrictive environment and discipline.

Wendy Tucker is the Senior Director of Policy for the National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools. Wendy currently serves as the founding board chair of Nashville's Diverse Learners Cooperative. In 2014, Governor Haslam appointed Wendy to the Tennessee State Board of Education, a position she continues to hold.

Implementing School-wide Culturally Responsive Approaches to Teaching and Learning

School/Organization: NYC Charter School Center

Time: 2:30–3:15pm

Presenter(s): Kristen Coelho

Classrooms across the U.S. are becoming exponentially more diverse. It is critical to build the capacity among educators and school leaders to ensure that culturally responsive practices are implemented in order to best meet the needs of our student populations. Students have tremendous stories, capabilities, talents, and perspectives that must be siphoned

into the curriculum and learning environment. In this session, the presenter will define Culturally Responsive Pedagogy and unpack its three prongs: institutional, personal, and instructional practices, and how these areas can be assessed and infused with CRP in order to ensure a more inclusive and responsive school environment.

Kristen Coelho serves as the ELL/MLL Specialist at the NYC Charter School Center. Kristen earned her BA from Boston University and an MA in TESOL from Columbia University Teachers College.

PANEL

11 Steps to Prepare Students for College and Beyond

School/Organization: PODER Charter Schools

Time: 3:20–4:05pm

Moderator: Marcos Martinez

Panelist(s): Patrick Bannister, Virginia Johnson, Wendy Consoliver

In Wyoming, the path to college is full of roadblocks such as single parent potholes, behavioral issue pitfalls, and plenty of financial loose gravel. Because the challenges of poverty, vulnerable employment options, and inequality continue to hinder young people, PODER Academy provides students and their families the support to get graduates to college. As the only free public charter school in Cheyenne, the PODER Academy creates a quiet, disciplined student environment with a variety of special features. In this session, participants will learn about the most important factors for student achievement.

Patrick Bannister is a third grade teacher at PODER Elementary School. He has a B.S. from the University of Wyoming and two AA's from Community College of the Air Force.

Virginia Johnson is a Kindergarten teacher at PODER Academy Elementary School in Cheyenne, Wyoming. She has a BA in Communication Disorders from the University of Milwaukee and a MS in Elementary Education from Colorado State University.

Wendy Consoliver is a fourth-grade teacher, a Salvadorian, and a mom. She earned her law degree from the University of El Salvador and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a Post-Baccalaureate in Elementary education. She has taught at PODER Academy since she graduated.

Marcos Martinez is the CEO and founder of PODER Academy schools in Cheyenne, Wyoming. He has opened multiple high-achieving charter schools in Colorado and Wyoming, and his schools have won numerous awards for academic excellence, athletic championships, and overall financial viability. Apart from his administrative history, Marcos has taught at the secondary and collegiate levels, and is also a certified fitness instructor.

Arts Youth Empowerment and the Power Behind Integrated Learning

School/Organization: Arts Youth Empowerment

Time: 4:10–4:40pm

Presenter(s): Anna Stampfli

Integrated learning makes connections across curricula to reinforce material within a lesson. The motivation for this interdisciplinary approach is to assess students on multiple levels during one class period. Ultimately, this method enables the teacher to reach students with varying learning abilities while at the same time sparking an interest in the student to learn the required material. Integrated learning is the answer to every teacher's question, "How do I, as one person, teach 35 different learning styles in my classroom?" This presentation will show how instituting integrated learning in schools improves student performance by enabling children to make connections between the arts and their core subjects.

Anna Stampfli is the founder and CEO of Arts Youth Empowerment. She holds a Master of Arts degree from Columbia University, is a licensed School District Administrator, and sits on a national board that discusses the infusion of integrated learning in our nation's schools.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Trauma Informed Practices

School/Organization: Center for Independent Charter Schools; APEX Academy

Time: 9:35–10:35am

Presenter(s): Laurie Inman; Alfonso Paz

How does a school go through system change to be truly trauma informed? Participants will hear about the phases a school goes through and step-by-step procedures to implement systemic change. Real-life examples will be shared to activate visualization of what it can look like when a school is safe regardless of the constant and daily experience of trauma. The goal is to create a sustainable system of support for students and avoid the "hire an expert to do the work for us" syndrome that is all too common an occurrence in today's educational environment.

Laurie Inman is currently chair and lecturer at California State University, Dominguez Hills in the Liberal Studies department and founder of the Center for Independent Charter Schools, a nonprofit that provides resources to leaders of color, specifically in the area of trauma-informed practices. Her background includes 35 years of experience in K-16 teaching, in school and district level administration, and in professional development. Dr. Inman earned her Ed.D in Educational Leadership at USC. She also holds a M.Ed. from the University of LaVerne and graduated from CSU, Long Beach with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communicative Disorders.

Alfonso Paz has been supporting/helping under-represented students and families in Los Angeles' east Hollywood area to have greater opportunities and access to college and other post-secondary options for close to 30 years. In his various capacities, he has been a teacher, counselor, and is Co-Founder/Co-Director of APEX Academy.

Lessons of Inclusion at the ASL Academy

School/Organization: Albuquerque Sign Language Academy
Time: 11:45am–12:45pm
Moderator(s): Raphael Martinez; Stephanie Lovato
Presenter(s): Laura Vasiliauskas; Deidree Romero; Therese Garcia

Join the leadership team of the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy (ASLA) in a panel discussion led by executive director, Rafe Martinez and director of instruction, Stephanie Lovato. Learn the details about the ASLA's revolutionary inclusion model where the academic and language needs of deaf, hearing and special needs students are met as they work together to rise as one connected community.

Raphael Martinez, a former high school English teacher and basketball coach, is the Executive Director of The Albuquerque Sign Language Academy. The ASL Academy is the only state certified bilingual program incorporating American Sign Language (ASL) and English in the nation. Under Mr. Martinez's leadership the ASL Academy has developed partnerships with Harvard University, McLean Hospital, Pennsylvania State University, the University of Minnesota, the University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, and many other national and local organizations.

Stephanie Lovato is the Director of Curriculum and Instruction at the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy. In her 28 years in public education, she has been a classroom teacher, an instructional coach and a Title 1 resource teacher. Prior to joining the ASLA, her most recent leadership position was as the Principal at Apache Elementary in the Albuquerque Public Schools system. Born and raised in Albuquerque, Stephanie attended New Mexico State University, the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Highlands University.

Laura Vasiliauskas has taught middle-school students for 4 years at ASLA. Previously, she has worked as a teacher, department chair, early childhood parent advisor and college ASL teacher. Laura graduated from California State University, Fresno with a BA in Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies, a MA in Deaf Education, and CA teaching credentials. She is licensed as a teacher of the Deaf/HH in AZ and as a special educator in NM.

Deidree Romero has been a teacher at the ASLA for four years. A graduate of the University of New Mexico's Dual License Program. Ms. Romero's background in American Sign Language helped open the door for her to teach at the ASLA. She is passionate about working with the school's unique community and teaching students who are deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing in an inclusive setting.

Therese Garcia is a Nationally Board Certified, Tier 3 teacher at the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy. She is dual certified in Regular and Special education and is passionate about working with students who are deaf, hard of hearing and have multiple disabilities. She has taught 14 years in early elementary and has a background in early childhood practices.

Music Across the Disciplines

School/Organization: The Rock and Roll Forever Foundation
Time: 2:00–2:55pm
Presenter(s): Christine Nick

This session features TeachRock, a standards-aligned, arts integration curriculum that uses the history of popular music and culture to help teachers engage students. Innovative lesson plans developed by experienced educators and top experts in the field foster genuine learning in areas including social studies, language arts, STEAM, general music, and more. TeachRock has crafted engaging and meaningful material for every classroom and developed exciting professional development workshops to share it with teachers. All for free. No cost, period. Attendees will learn how to incorporate TeachRock into their existing curriculum plans and interdisciplinary curriculum planning best practices. Participants will also have the opportunity to practice arts-integration techniques.

Christine Nick is a former teacher and current public school advocate. She is the Director of Policy & Outreach at The Rock and Roll Forever Foundation, where she supports a vibrant community of educators, acts as resident policy-wonk, and supporter of arts education.

Transforming to a Trauma Informed Compassionate School

School/Organization: BlueSky Online Charter School
Time: 3:00–4:00pm
Presenter(s): Dan Ondich; Renee Parcheta; Amy Larsen

In this session learn how BlueSky has transitioned to becoming a trauma informed school that embraces compassionate practices to meet the needs of all students. And how this transformation has led to the implementation of social and emotional learning standards into existing curriculum.

Dan Ondich is currently the Assistant Director and 7-10th grade Principal at BlueSky Online where he has led the technology development and alignment of all content areas to local, state and national standards. He has over eight years of experience teaching in traditional, alternative and blended programs and was a co-leader in developing a blended online program.

Renee' Parcheta is currently the Student Services Director, and 10-12 grade Principal. Renee' has over thirty five years of experience as a family therapist, school counselor, and school administrator. Renee' has led the initiative for the student services model which links all students to a triage team of social worker, counselor, and advisory upon enrollment.

Amy Larsen is currently the Superintendent and Executive Director at BlueSky Online School where she has worked since 2007. Through Amy's leadership over the past 12 years, BlueSky has established a tradition of innovation and a model of continuous improvement, collaboration, and support.

How can we best ensure diversity throughout our schools, including in leadership and governance? How do we balance cultural identity with diversity?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Social Justice Empowerment Through Ethnic Studies

School/Organization: University of New Mexico

Time: 9:05–9:55am

Presenter(s): Emily Castillo; Nancy López

What was learned when ethnic studies action research was implemented in a large public school district in New Mexico? This workshop describes how studying racial and other interconnected discrimination helped focus students, teachers, schools and community members toward social justice action. Participants will learn about effects of and ways to understand and address multi-dimensional discrimination (e.g. race and sexual orientation). Participants will interact during the workshop around implementing ethnic studies in their school and community settings.

Nancy López is Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of New Mexico. She directs and co- founded the Institute for the Study of “Race” & Social Justice. Dr. López has been named the Inaugural Academic Leadership Academy (ALA) Faculty Fellow, UNM Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI). Dr. López is Secretary-Elect of the American Sociological Association (ASA).

Emily Castillo is a Sociology PhD student whose research re-centers youth of color and their educational experiences - primarily the ways in which current mainstream education models affect them. Using Freirean pedagogical approaches and YPAR methods, she aims to understand these inequities and undo the hierarchical structures of academic research.

Bringing a Race and Equity Lens to the Charter School Boardroom

School/Organization: Education Board Partners

Time: 10:00–10:50am

Presenter(s): Debbie Lister

School based staff at almost every level are engaging in conversations on diversity, equity and inclusiveness (DEI). The one place it isn’t happening is in the boardroom. Boards make critical decisions that impact schools and students. Focusing on equity informs who is on a board, who they do business with, and how a board reviews academic data and engages families. Participants attending this session will discuss the intersections of DEI and Governance and walk away with concrete strategies to practice equity-centered governance.

Debbie Lister, Chief Transformation Officer, coaches, trains and consults with boards across the country concentrating on

good governance, equity and quality schools. She earned a bachelor’s in political science from the University of Florida, a master’s from American University and served on a public charter school board in DC.

PANEL

Diversity and Cultural Affirmation Charter Schools: Different Paths to the Same Goal

Organization: Diverse Charter Schools Coalition

Time: 10:55–11:45am

Panelist(s): Lauren Bryant; Dave Bryson; Richard Lee; Anpao Duta Flying Earth

Charter schools provide quality school choices for families. Many schools operate in neighborhoods highly segregated by race/ income and serve predominantly Black/Brown students. There is also an increasing number of charters that are “diverse-by-design.” These schools serve more racially/economically diverse populations and seek to be an integrated school community. Hear a thoughtful discussion from organizations that support both approaches and their member school leaders on why they chose their model, how they approach their work, and why the emphasis is on AND rather than OR with these school approaches.

Lauren Bryant is the Director of the National Charter Collaborative, a nonprofit focused on supporting single-site charter school leaders of color. She has previously served in operational leadership roles for a variety of schools and education organizations.

Dave Bryson is the Deputy Director of Diverse Charter Schools Coalition. Prior to that he was the Director of Operations of Bedford Stuyvesant Collegiate, part of Uncommon Schools from 2012-2017. Dave earned his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his M.Ed from Lesley University. Dave lives in Berkeley, CA where he equally enjoys hiking the hills and biking the flats.

Richard Lee is the Founding Principal of Academy of the City Charter School in Woodside, NY, a school that is as diverse as the Borough of Queens. Previously, Richard was the Division Coordinator for seven years for grades 1–4 at The Bank Street School for Children. Richard has organized, led and presented in various workshop including NYSAIS, DOE and NAIS.

Anpao Duta Flying Earth is a dedicated education and Native communities advocate, serving as Executive Director at the Native American Community Academy (NACA) as well as Executive Director at NISN. Duta grew up on Standing Rock Reservation in South and North Dakota. He is a third-generation college graduate of Cornell University and the University of New Mexico.

Culturally Responsive Teaching and Institutionalized Racism

School/Organization: The Arts & College Preparatory Academy
Time: 11:50am–12:05pm
Presenter(s): Bradley Severt

Between grading, lesson planning, tracking and analyzing data, student and self-evaluations, behavioral meetings and much more, working against institutionalized racism may seem like too much to put on the shoulders of a classroom teacher. However, it is my belief that there are simple yet effective adjustments that will allow you to battle institutionalized racism not only in your classroom but the school and community at large. In this presentation we will look at how content can be used to counter institutionalized racism and how we, as a community of educators, can empower students through the use of democratic values in the classroom.

Bradley Severt is a second-year teacher at the Arts & College Preparatory Academy in Columbus, Ohio where he teaches high school United States History and American Government. Bradley has a bachelor's degree in integrated social studies and a master's degree in education from the Ohio State University.

Support Systems for Marginalized Students

School/Organization: The Arts & College Preparatory Academy
Time: 2:30–3:15pm
Presenter(s): Jennifer Ruff

This presentation will show a comprehensive approach to supporting and counseling students of diverse backgrounds; in particular those who come from marginalized groups.

Jennifer Ruff received a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Purdue University in 2005, and a master's degree in School Counseling from The Ohio State University in 2013. She has been a school counselor at The Arts & College Preparatory Academy (ACPA) for the past 5 years.

Changing a Generation

School/Organization: Indio High
Time: 3:20–4:05pm
Presenter(s): Rudy Ramirez

How does a high school systematically affect change? In this session, attendees will learn how one high school increased its graduation rate from 69.1% to 96% and decreased its dropout rate from 34.2% to just 2.9%. Participants will discuss how leadership principles, a formal change process, and intentional curriculum can transform schools into meaningful sites of growth for the next generation.

Rudy Ramirez worked as Principal of Indio High for 24 years before retiring. He has 41 years of experience working in education, and is credited with turning Indio High School from "Scary to Ranked" (Desert Sun Newspaper, May 27, 2016).

PANEL

Leading for Equity with Humility as a White School Leader

School/Organization: Highline Academy
Time: 4:10–4:55pm
Moderator: Trina Maull
Panelist(s): Christine Ferris; Franklin Headly; Stephen Falla Riff; Carol Bowar

We believe white people have to take responsibility for ending racism in this country. However, there is no blueprint for doing so, and issues like white fragility make it difficult to even talk about racism. As Executive Directors and/or principals of charter schools and white people, we have been working to create schools where staff are actively growing as anti-racist educators. In this panel discussion, we will identify the journeys that led us to prioritize this work as white school leaders, and talk openly about what has and hasn't worked so well in our own schools. Trina Maull, an African-American leader, will moderate the discussion. Attendees will discuss their beliefs about the responsibilities of white leaders in public charter schools and receive valuable resources for making changes in their own contexts.

Carol Bowar is the Executive Director of Girls Athletic Leadership Schools (6-12) and The Boys School of Denver (6-8). In her 30 years' experience, she has worked in charter schools, higher education, international leadership programs, policy, youth development, girl and women issues, and foundations. Carol has a MA in Education Policy and Practice.

Christine Ferris is the executive director of Highline Academy Charter Schools in Denver, a two school network serving a diverse community of students. She is a veteran educator who has worked in public, private, and charter schools since 1989.

Franklin Headley is the founder of VOICE Charter School in New York. He has received the Fulbright Memorial Fund Master Teacher Award, the Robert Kennedy Urban Educator of the Year, and the Cahn Fellowship at Teachers College.

Trina Maull is the Director of Human Resources and Talent at the Colorado League of Charter Schools. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at University of Louisville and her MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. She has over 20 years in HR and is a Certified Gallup StrengthsFinder Coach.

Stephen Falla Riff is the executive director of the Renaissance Charter High School for Innovation in New York and is an attorney specializing in nonprofit organization and education law.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Building District-Charter Collaboration to Advance Equity for All

School/Organization: New York City Department of Education, District-Charter Collaborative
Time: 9:35–10:25am
Presenter(s): Michael Stoll; Harold Turner; Amanda Morton; Nifemi Ogunsuyi

At the District-Charter Collaborative, we strive to facilitate collaboration between district and charter schools with the goals of improving instructional practices and student outcomes while building schools' capacity to solve their own problems of practice and eliminate disparities along the lines of race. In this session, you will hear from the DCC Director and 3 school leaders about their experiences, then have the opportunity to work collaboratively with them to consider how to be a leader for racial equity in your own school community.

Mike Stoll is the Director of the District-Charter Collaborative (DCC), an initiative of the New York City Department of Education. Prior to joining DCC, Mike was a teacher/coach/coordinator at three different schools in the South Bronx: the Highbridge Green School, The Laboratory School of Finance and Technology, and I.S. 162.

Harold J. Turner is the middle school principal of PAVE Academy Charter School in Red Hook, Brooklyn. He started his career in education as an ELA & History teacher in Newark, NJ. After teaching, he transitioned to the Dean of Humanities role at PAVE Academy. Most recently, he graduated from Teachers College with a Masters of Education in Curriculum & Teaching Leadership.

Amanda Morton is the Principal at New Dawn Charter High School. She brings 20+ years of classroom and leadership experience ranging from kindergarten to high school. Amanda has received recognition as a Master Teacher, has been a National Council of Teachers of Mathematics member, and has experience as a Curriculum Developer and Coordinator, Math Coordinator, Teacher Leader and Mentor Teacher.

Nifemi Ogunsuyi is Master Teacher at The Dr. Betty Shabazz School in Brooklyn. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies from Syracuse University and a Masters degree in Childhood Education and Special Education from St. Johns University. She is also currently completing a Masters degree in School District Leadership at City University of New York- Hunter College. She has had the honor to serve as the District Charter Collaborative School Team Facilitator, promoting Equity for All, as a commitment to closing the achievement gap in New York City schools.

Moving Beyond Either Or: The Case for Diverse Charter Schools

School/Organization: Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Time: 10:30–11:20am

Presenter(s): Susan Marino

Despite efforts to integrate schools in the city of St. Louis and so many urban areas, many schools remain racially and socioeconomically segregated. Research clearly demonstrates the profound benefits of diversity within schools, but how can charter school leaders build and maintain a diverse school? What are the challenges alongside the benefits? How can policy support or detract from charter schools' efforts to build diverse schools? I will explore these topics as they make the case for moving beyond serving either one population or another, toward bringing together the diversity of our city and pursuing greater academic and social outcomes.

Susan Marino is the founding Head of School and Executive Director for Lafayette Preparatory Academy, a K-8 public charter

school in St. Louis City. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from the University of New Mexico, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lindenwood University, an Educational Specialist degree in leadership from Webster University, and is currently pursuing her Educational Doctorate.

PANEL

What if Education Reflected the Needs of Our Communities?

School/Organization: NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN)

Time: 11:25am–12:15pm

Moderator: Jessica Helen Lopez

Panelist(s): Anpao Duta Flying Earth; Maḥpíya Black Elk; Valerie Siow; Anai Pulido

What if our schools reflected the needs of our communities? In this panel presentation, leaders from the NACA Inspired Schools Network (NISN) will discuss cultural diversity and what it means to celebrate and advocate for community across different schools. Topics will include decolonizing versus indigenizing education, the impact of socio-emotional learning on students, and how to develop meaningful community partnerships across different contexts.

Anpao Duta Flying Earth is a dedicated education and Native communities advocate, serving as Executive Director at the Native American Community Academy (NACA) as well as Executive Director at NISN. Duta grew up on Standing Rock Reservation in South and North Dakota. He is a third-generation college graduate of Cornell University and the University of New Mexico.

Maḥpíya Black Elk works with NISN as Community Director for My Brother's Keeper Alliance of Albuquerque, an initiative that supports boys and young men of color by expanding a Social Emotional Learning Community of Practice to 3 different schools and four community organizations. He has recently worked at NACA as the program director for an initiative called the Hiyupo Alliance that focuses on holistic wellness and positive identity development.

Valerie Siow is Fellowship Director at NISN, where she supports tribal communities in New Mexico, Colorado and South Dakota to transform Indigenous education. She has thirteen years of experience as a classroom teacher, and has written and developed comprehensive curricula for Native Literature and Humanities.

Anai Pulido is the Program Coordinator for the Indigenous Educator Corps AmeriCorps program, where she finds other individuals that are passionate about serving and giving back to their Indigenous communities. Anai became the first person from both sides of her family to leave home at 18 to pursue a college education. She holds a B.A. in Criminal Justice and Spanish as well as a Master's in Public Administration.

Jessica Helen Lopez is the City of Albuquerque Poet Laureate, Emeritus, an adjunct instructor with the University of New Mexico Chicana and Chicano Studies Department and Institute of American Indian Arts. Currently she is a team member of the NACA Inspired Schools Network in the area of communications, outreach and community support, as well as a long-time poetry teacher and educator with the Native American Community Academy.

Making the Invisible Visible: How Children from an Historically Under- Resourced Community can Discover their Voices

School/Organization: The Montessori School of Englewood

Time: 2:00–2:55pm

Presenter(s): Rita Nolan; Nyela Wells

Explore how one inner city school meets the needs of their marginalized students in an underserved community. Learn about experiences ranging from growing up in poverty to exposure to familial trauma and neighborhood violence, to beginning school with inadequate readiness. Understand how maintaining a strengths-based and not a deficit perspective in all aspects of teaching and learning requires school leadership and staff to address their own biases.

Rita Nolan, MEd, is the Executive Director of the Montessori School of Englewood, a public charter school in Chicago, IL, and founder of the Chicago Montessori Residency, which is dedicated to growing the ranks of Montessori public schools for children living in underserved communities.

Nyela Wells, EdD, is Director of Equity and Diversity at The Montessori School of Englewood, in Chicago, IL. Dr. Wells is also the Middle School African American Studies instructor.

Integration as Innovation: How Charters Can Lead

School/Organization: Diverse Charter Schools Coalition; City Charter Schools

Time: 3:00–3:55pm

Presenter(s): Dave Bryson; Raul Alarcón

Charter schools are schools of choice; they are currently being criticized for creating more segregated school systems because of the choices they provide. It's undeniable that public schools are more segregated now than in recent memory, but the root cause is not charter schools. Hear a thoughtful discussion from school leaders who are actively/intentionally pursuing integration and diversity in their schools and how they're reaching out to partner with others to do the same.

Dave Bryson is the Deputy Director of Diverse Charter Schools Coalition. Prior to that he was the Director of Operations of Bedford Stuyvesant Collegiate, part of Uncommon Schools from 2012-2017. Dave earned his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his M.Ed from Lesley University. Dave lives in Berkeley, CA where he equally enjoys hiking the hills and biking the flats.

Raul Alarcón is the founding principal of City Language Immersion Charter (CLIC), a dual language (Spanish/English) elementary school located in the Mid-City area of Los Angeles. Prior to founding CLIC Mr. Alarcón was an educator at the UCLA Lab School, a model school for dual-language immersion and constructivist teaching. He has been an educator for over 25 years and was instrumental in designing and running the bilingual program at the UCLA Lab School's Learning in Two Languages (LTL) program.

RACE, DIVERSITY, & SCHOOL CULTURE



FLAMENCO PERFORMANCE

Don't miss the talented students of
the Tierra Adentro Charter School
at this lunch time performance!

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2019

ALVARADO BALLROOM

12:55PM



Teachers are leaving or retiring and fewer young people are entering the profession. The vanishing talent pipeline is a crisis-in-the-making. Why is this happening? What can be done to turn it around?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

A Strategic Approach to Hiring & A Social Justice Call To Action

School/Organization: Arts and College Preparatory Academy

Time: 9:05–10:00am

Presenter(s): Anthony Gatto; Amanda Waluzak

This presentation will show a holistic and strategic approach to recruiting, hiring and retaining high quality teachers at a lower salary scale than traditional district schools.

Anthony Gatto was on the founding staff of the Arts & College Preparatory Academy in 2002, where is he now Executive Director. Anthony has a Master of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Cincinnati.

Amanda Waluzak is High School Principal and a Social Studies Teacher at the Arts and College Preparatory Academy (ACPA) in Columbus, OH, where she has worked since 2007. Amanda has a B.A. in Women's Studies from the Ohio State University, an Integrated Social Studies license for Grades 7-12 through Ohio Dominican University, and a Master of Arts in American History and Government from Ashland University.

How do We Recruit and Retain the Best and Brightest Teachers in the 21st Century?

School/Organization: The New American Academy Charter School

Time: 10:05–11:00am

Presenter(s): Lisa Parquette-Silva

According to The Washington Post, college students are less likely than their parents to see teaching as a path towards social change. Other studies demonstrate similar trends of declining teacher-preparation program enrollment and increased pessimism about one of the most important jobs in the world. Since its inception, The New American Academy Charter School has worked to professionalize teaching and make it an attractive, viable career path. We have successfully created such an empowering environment at TNAACS. Attendees will learn about the innovative hiring practices, alternatives to traditional teacher career pathways, ongoing professional development, embedded teacher support systems and competitive compensation that allows us to attract the best and the brightest from an ever decreasing pool of candidates.

Lisa Parquette Silva is the founding Headmaster of The New American Academy Charter School, which opened in the fall of 2013. She is a seasoned educator with over 33 years experience working with students and mentoring adults. Lisa currently lives in Brooklyn with her husband of 30 years Orlando and her three children, Orlando, Ryan and Isabella.

Mama Mia! Here I Go Again: The old classroom management tactics only wear you down. Let's sing a new song!

School/Organization: Doc Char Consulting, LLC

Time: 11:05am–12:00pm

Presenter(s): Charlotte Hendrix

Do you remember when you could not wait to transform children's lives or when your dreams were about making a difference in the world through teaching? Whatever happened to those dreams? Right now, you may be feeling burnt out as a teacher. Let me share with you a research-based system that can eliminate up to 75% of your discipline problems and behavior challenges. These strategies can be implemented immediately and will drastically increase instruction time. Give yourself the opportunity to accomplish your original goals as a teaching professional. Regain your enthusiasm and find your love of teaching again.

Dr. Charlotte Hendrix received her Ph.D. in Organizational Learning and Instructional Technology from the University of New Mexico. In addition to her full-time career as an instructional designer, she has been an adjunct professor at Central New Mexico Community College for the past fifteen years. As an education strategist, Charlotte's specialty is helping teachers teach better and learners learn better.

Changing the Culture of the Teaching Profession, One School at a Time

School/Organization: Community Training and Assistance Center; Boldfox Group

Time: 12:05–12:20pm

Presenter(s): Benjamin Feit

Freed from district mandates and the standardization imposed by CMOs, independent charters are uniquely positioned to change the culture of teaching on their campuses. Session participants will emerge with a greater understanding of the steps they can take to make teaching at their schools more attractive, more impactful, and more sustainable.

Benjamin Feit is a senior associate at the Community Training and Assistance Center, a Boston-based nonprofit. Ben earned a B.A. from Yale University and a J.D. from Duke University School of Law. He is currently pursuing his doctorate in Urban Education Leadership at Columbia University, Teachers College.

Sustaining Innovation: Student-Centered and Teacher-Powered

School/Organization: Avalon School

Time: 2:30–3:30pm

Presenter(s): Tim Quealy; Carrie Bakken

Since opening in 2001, Avalon Charter School has sustained two powerful innovations - student-centered and teacher-powered - despite facing many challenges and constant pressure to revert to the norm. This session explores how, by empowering teachers and students, schools can create environments that remain mission-driven, adaptable, and sustainable.

Carrie Bakken was hired with a team of teachers to open Avalon School in St. Paul, Minnesota, in 2001, where she is now a Program Coordinator and teacher. Carrie has a Master of Arts degree in Teaching from the University of St. Thomas and a Juris Doctorate from Hamline University.

Tim Quealy began working at Avalon School in 2008 as a high school advisor and Language Arts teacher, and has served as Program Coordinator since 2014. Tim has a degree in English from the University of Minnesota and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Hamline University.

PANEL

Teaching in an Independent Study School (ISS)

School/Organization: Georgia Cyber Academy; BlueSky Online; Clackamas Web Academy; iSucceed Virtual HS

Time: 3:35–4:35pm

Moderator: Dr. Richard Welles

Panelist(s): Daniel Ondich; Brad Linn; Kathleen Allison; Angela Lassetter

Teaching in an Independent Study School (ISS) setting opens up new and exciting teaching opportunities, especially in the digital age. During this round table discussion, Independent Study School staff panel members will discuss how virtual schools can provide unique employment opportunities for teachers who are less likely to commit to traditional schools. Panelists will share their experiences and perspectives about ISS teaching, a typical workday, a flexible schedule, work-life balance, growing professionally, and the most appealing and challenging aspects of their job.

Daniel Ondich is currently the Assistant Director and 7-10th grade Principal at BlueSky Online. He has over eight years experience teaching in traditional, alternative and blended programs and has worked in charter schools for the past 12 years. He has led the technology development and alignment of all content areas to local, state and national standards.

Brad Linn is principal of the Clackamas Web Academy, where he has continuously sought out new ways to optimize the learning environment in his school. During his tenure, he has secured over 1.4 million dollars in grant funds that have allowed his program to retain quality teachers and increase student learning.

Dr. Richard Welles has over 4 decades of experience in K-12 public, private and charter education. For several years Rick has worked with charter school boards and leaders in New York, DC and Philadelphia. He is co-founder and member of the Board of Trustees of Academy of the City Charter School in Queens and also co-founder of the Coalition of Public Independent Charter Schools.

Kathleen Allison has been with iSucceed since 2008, serving in various roles to current role as Executive Director. An educator for over 20 years, her focus is non-traditional students and settings. Kathleen is currently in pursuit of a PhD in Education with emphasis on technology and underserved populations.

Angela Lassetter serves as the Superintendent for Georgia Cyber Academy, a K-12 full-time online charter school. She graduated from Emory University's Business School and has served on various school boards and advisory committees since 2010 for public charter, private, and virtual schools offering college preparatory, STEM, and STEAM programs.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Re-Engineering Teacher Compensation to Save Our Schools

School/Organization: Gateway Public Schools

Time: 9:35–10:35am

Presenter(s): Sharon Olken; Chris Hero

Gateway Public School's new teacher compensation model is aimed at attracting and retaining talented teachers, while making teaching more financially sustainable over time. Built on three domains of teacher practice - expert teaching, leadership and community impact, and professional standards - the model was developed collaboratively by teachers, school leaders and trustees. We will share our goals, process and tools which serve as a catalyst for school leaders to think about their own model and similar opportunities.

Sharon Olken is the Executive Director of Gateway Public Schools. She joined Gateway High School in 2000 as a teacher and then became Principal. In 2011, Sharon helped launch Gateway's second school, Gateway Middle School.

Chris Hero is Chief Operating Officer for Gateway Public Schools and has over 15 years of senior management experience for corporations and non-profit organizations in Silicon Valley and San Francisco. Chris received a BA in History from Santa Clara University and an MBA from Boston University's Graduate School of Management.

What is Best for Students is Best for Teachers

School/Organization: High Tech LA

Time: 10:40–11:40am

Presenter(s): Mathew McClenahan

At High Tech LA, we have done a great job of retaining teachers. Of course we have some turn-over, but we have several teachers who have been here for more than a decade. Our salaries are competitive but not outrageously high. We ask more of our teachers than traditional districts. All our teachers have additional duties. All our teachers do extra tutoring. All our teachers attend and contribute in twice weekly staff meetings. All our teachers actively seek ways to enhance their instruction through additional projects. How do we retain such an amazing staff? We do it by staying focused on what those who are dedicated teachers want to focus on: student learning.

Mathew McClenahan has taught at a Catholic school in NYC, in a large comprehensive high school in LA and at High Tech LA, a small charter school in Van Nuys, since the school opened in 2004. A 2005 Milken Educator Award winner, Mat is committed to making teaching and learning the focus of our schools.

Mindtraps and Burnout! Effective and practical strategies to manage the stressors of school

School/Organization: BTS Spark

Time: 11:45am–12:45pm

Presenter(s): Tara O'Brien

Mindtraps catch us all. Trying to juggle multiple demands and cope with the pressures of the job, there are times when we are not at our best. We may feel overwhelmed or we may simply lose energy. At these times, our Mindtraps (or limiting beliefs) make us less effective and prevent us from bouncing back. Building on both trauma-informed practice and growth mindset work, the Mindtraps model helps you recognize how you respond to stress and teaches you a process to help yourself become more resilient, preventing burnout in yourself as well as in staff and students.

Tara O'Brien has worked for nearly two decades in K-12 schools as a teacher, teacher leader, and Principal. She has earned double Masters degrees in Educational Leadership and Curriculum & Instruction. Tara has a strong interest in the contribution that coaching and positive psychology can make to educational leadership.

Risk-Free Hiring: Building Successful Pipeline Programs

School/Organization: IDEA Public Schools

Time: 2:00–2:55pm

Presenter(s): Karly Gelardi

Facing teacher shortages and a booming economy, schools will need to build internal pipeline programs to create the talent they need rather than seek to find it. Waiting to find the “unicorn” candidate who can do the job day one is not a sustainable solution. Through residency programs, IDEA Public Schools has addressed many of these shortages, allowing for less risk in crucial hiring decisions and higher retention rates. Join the IDEA Director of National Recruitment to learn many

of the key principles in building successful residency programs and the many lessons learned along the way.

Karly Gelardi is the Director of National Recruitment with IDEA Public Schools, where she oversees recruitment strategy to support the staffing of 96 IDEA schools throughout Texas and Louisiana. Karly has also created various IDEA pipeline programs.

The language of intellectual virtues: Creating a compelling profession

School/Organization: Intellectual Virtues Academy

Time: 3:00–4:00pm

Presenter(s): Jacquie Bryant; Rachel Gordon

New York Times bestseller, *The Coddling of the American Mind*, names IVA as a school that opposes the great untruths of our culture for students. What we didn't realize about this model is how professionally transformative it would be to our educators! IVA's intellectual virtues educational model fosters meaningful growth in the personal qualities of a good thinker or learner like curiosity, intellectual humility, attentiveness, open-mindedness and related traits. The language of the virtues has changed our perspective of learning. Join us in a compelling struggle to shift and deepen our educational purpose.

Rachel Gordon is a Science Teacher at IVA. She previously taught for 13 years at Rosa Parks Elementary School in Lynwood, CA, where she was originally placed by Teach for America.

Jacquie Bryant is the Founding Principal of Intellectual Virtues Academy (IVA), a charter middle school located in Long Beach, CA. She previously taught as an English Language Arts teacher for ten years in the LA Unified School District.

Catastrophic floods, droughts, fires and storms are now the norm. Economic disparity is widening. Many communities are in pain. What are we doing in our schools so that future generations of students can have a habitable world?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

PANEL

Administrator's Panel on Service Learning Implementation

School/Organization: National Youth Leadership Council

Time: 9:05–10:05am

Moderator(s): Maddy Wegner

Presenter(s): Shira Woolf Cohen; Mark Sorensen, Ricardo Mireles

Charter school administrators face the unique opportunity to centralize their instruction and programs around a unique mission. Hear from Principals and other school leaders about how they have used Service Learning as a strategy for building school culture, meeting state educational mandates, and ensuring teachers have the resources they need to be successful in using Service Learning.

Shira Woolf Cohen is an educator, community organizer, and leader. Over the past two decades, Shira has been involved in a wide variety of community and educational programs including K-12 and Higher Education. She is a former teacher, afterschool coordinator, Dean, and Vice Principal. Currently, Shira is the K-8 Principal at NFCS, serving 1500 students in K-12. Shira also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Youth Leadership Council, and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at Holy Family University.

Mark W. Sorensen has been an educational leader of schools serving Navajo students for forty years. His work as Principal, Superintendent, Advisor and Mentor of indigenous schools has focused on improving the quality of Native American education by developing place-based, healthy, culturally relevant and ecologically sensitive schools. He has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, and is currently the co-founder, Governing Board President, and CVA (Community Vision Activator) of The STAR (Service To All Relations) School, the first off-grid solar and wind powered public elementary school in the U.S. Mark lives within walking distance of the STAR School in a house that is also off-grid and solar powered.

Maddy Wegner is the Director of Engagement at the National Youth Leadership Council, a nonprofit based in St. Paul, Minn. known for supporting service-learning practitioners who bring research to practice. Her background includes teaching at the middle and high school levels, communications work for a variety of youth-serving agencies, and curriculum development.

Ricardo Mireles is the Executive Director and Founder of Academia Avance in the Northeast Los Angeles neighborhood of Highland Park that serves over 400 students in grades 6-12. Ricardo is a graduate of Columbia College, studied at the MIT Department of Urban Studies and Planning, and taught at the UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research and at the Don Bosco Technical Institute.

Learning About Cross Curricular Service Learning Experiences - Spotlight on EcoJustice and Healing at NACA Inspired School Network

School/Organization: NACA Inspired School Network

Time: 10:15–11:25am

Presenter(s): Micha Bitsinnie, Katherine Page, EcoJustice Students (NACA High School)

Service Learning is a strong vehicle for involving students and teachers in cross curricular learning experiences. In this workshop, NACA teachers and students will engage the audience in their EcoJustice projects, highlighted by digital storytelling modalities such as video, graphic design and art, blog writing and more. Culturally relevant topics include climate crisis awareness and youth advocacy, peer education and cycling for health and wellness, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Indigenous education and community activism.

Creating Your Own Cross Curricular Service Learning Experiences

School/Organization: New Foundations Charter School

Time: 11:30am–12:30pm

Presenter(s): Tiffany Searles

Service Learning is a great way to make real life connections to various content areas. In this planning workshop, participants will receive tools and resources needed to plan cross curricular projects that promote learning and service to the community. Spend time with Service Learning practitioners learning about best practices to implement projects that reach all contents and types of learners.

Tiffany Searles is the Director of Community Engagement and Communications at New Foundations Charter School in Philadelphia, PA. Her experience includes leveraging community partners to support student achievement, providing high quality OST programs for K-12 students, youth development, and training and supporting educators on service-learning best practices. Tiffany received her B.A. in Sociology/Social Psychology from Lehigh University and M.Ed. in Urban Education from Temple University.

All About Community Partnerships for Post Secondary Success - Featuring Academia Avance Senior Independent Projects

School/Organization: Academia Avance
Time: 2:30–3:30pm
Presenter(s): Academia Avance Students

Preparing youth for the future workforce is a priority for all schools, which begins with developing students' social, emotional, and 21st century skills. These skills can be enhanced through creating community partnerships that benefit student learning and allow students to give back to their community. In this workshop, Academia Avance will demonstrate how Senior Projects can prepare students for post-secondary success.

Fostering Community Partnerships for Post-Secondary Success

School/Organization: National Youth Leadership Council; New Foundations Charter School
Time: 3:45–4:45pm
Presenter(s): Tiffany Searles; Maddy Wegner

Reciprocal partnerships benefit schools, students, and community organizations. During this session, attendees will gather tools to build high quality partnerships and explore community resources that could contribute to a school's mission and prepare students for post secondary life. Work collaboratively with Service Learning practitioners to plan for partnerships in your community!

Tiffany Searles is the Director of Community Engagement and Communications at New Foundations Charter School in Philadelphia, PA. Her experience includes leveraging community partners to support student achievement, providing high quality OST programs for K-12 students, youth development, and training and supporting educators on service-learning best practices.

Maddy Wegner is the Director of Engagement at the National Youth Leadership Council, a nonprofit based in St. Paul, Minn. known for supporting service-learning practitioners who bring research to practice. Her background includes teaching at the middle and high school levels, communications work for a variety of youth-serving agencies, and curriculum development.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Integrating Service Learning into Federal Programs and other Grant Opportunities

School/Organization: New Foundations Charter School
Time: 9:35–11:05am
Presenter(s): Shira Woolf Cohen; Tiffany Searles

ESSA and Federally funded programs outline strict parameters for programs and funding use. Learn how New Foundations Charter School is using Service Learning as an integrated

strategy to support funding through grants such as Title 1, Title 2a, Title 4a, CTE, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Safe Schools and others. Bring your funding agreements, RFPs of interest, needs for funding, and budgets so you can gain impactful insights during this session from Service Learning practitioners.

Shira Woolf Cohen is an educator, community organizer, and leader. Over the past two decades, Shira has been involved in a wide variety of community and educational programs including K-12 and Higher Education. She is a former teacher, afterschool coordinator, Dean, and Vice Principal. Currently, Shira is the K-8 Principal at NFCS, serving 1500 students in K-12. Shira also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Youth Leadership Council, and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at Holy Family University.

Tiffany Searles is the Director of Community Engagement and Communications at New Foundations Charter School in Philadelphia, PA. Her experience includes leveraging community partners to support student achievement, providing high quality OST programs for K-12 students, youth development, and training and supporting educators on service-learning best practices. Tiffany received her B.A. in Sociology/Social Psychology from Lehigh University and M.Ed. in Urban Education from Temple University.

Service Learning as an instructional strategy - Featuring the Art of Storytelling

School/Organization: New Foundations Charter School
Time: 11:20am–12:50pm
Presenter(s): Shira Woolf Cohen; Dorothy Bukantz

Service Learning is a strategy for instruction, engagement, and achievement. Integrating service into instructional methods such as storytelling, problem solving, and communications can promote a deeper level of learning among students. Participants in this session will learn how the integration of Service Learning can support specific learning goals through the use of the four stages of Service Learning and the K-12 Service Learning Standards for Quality Practice. You'll also hear from a master storyteller on topics that are important in our communities!

Shira Woolf Cohen is an educator, community organizer, and leader. Over the past two decades, Shira has been involved in a wide variety of community and educational programs including K-12 and Higher Education. She is a former teacher, afterschool coordinator, Dean, and Vice Principal. Currently, Shira is the K-8 Principal at NFCS, serving 1500 students in K-12. Shira also serves on the Board of Directors of the National Youth Leadership Council, and an Adjunct Professor in the School of Education at Holy Family University.

Dorothy Bukantz has worked as a classroom storyteller in independent and charter K-5 schools and informal settings for more than 45 years. As a docent at the Lower East Side Tenement Museum, she told history stories to adults. She also worked in educational publishing, on newspapers and in professional development, focusing on integrating curriculum collaboratively with teachers.

Healing the World through Service Learning - Featuring the STAR School

School/Organization: The STAR School

Time: 2:00–2:55pm

Presenter(s): Mark Sorensen

Service Learning is based on healing our communities at local and global levels. In this workshop, you will learn about The STAR School's Water Bus that provides clean drinking water to the community. This project meets a genuine community need, and has been created in partnership with the University of Arizona. Join members of The STAR School to find out how they worked with students, higher education, and the school to address this community issue and provide a solution.

Mark W. Sorensen has been an educational leader of schools serving Navajo students for forty years. His work as Principal, Superintendent, Advisor and Mentor of indigenous schools has focused on improving the quality of Native American education by developing place-based, healthy, culturally relevant and ecologically sensitive schools. He has a doctorate in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University, and is currently the co-founder, Governing Board President, and CVA (Community Vision Activator) of The STAR (Service To All Relations) School, the first off-grid solar and wind powered public elementary school in the U.S. Mark lives within walking distance of the STAR School in a house that is also off-grid and solar powered.

Planning to Heal Your World through Service Learning

School/Organization: National Youth Leadership Council

Time: 3:00–4:00pm

Presenter(s): Maddy Wegner

Identifying and meeting a genuine community need through Service Learning can work to heal the world, and heal your community. In this workshop, you will explore The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals that are aimed at ensuring a better future for everyone. Students and schools across the nation are tackling these goals and helping to heal the world - and now it is your turn! Join this session to learn about national and international projects your school can become a part of. Work with Service Learning practitioners to take back ideas, tools and resources to your school community!

Maddy Wegner is the Director of Engagement at the National Youth Leadership Council, a nonprofit based in St. Paul, Minn. known for supporting service-learning practitioners who bring research to practice. Her background includes teaching at the middle and high school levels, communications work for a variety of youth-serving agencies, and curriculum development.

GUITAR PERFORMANCE

Enjoy a live performance by the talented students of the **School of Dreams Academy** at our Happy Hour Event!

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

EXPLORA MUSEUM

5:30PM



An extension of our Start-Up Bootcamp strand, these sessions are approved by the New Mexico Public Education Department. These offerings focus on a number of topics including assessment, organizational performance, ethics, and finance.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

In The Beginning, There was HR...

School/Organization: Colorado League of Charter Schools
Time: 9:05–10:05am
Presenter(s): Trina Maul

Starting a Charter School is not easy. There are so many things to put together before your school's opening and when your students arrive. And so many "people things" to think about. Where do you start? Who can help? HR! Include us In the Beginning and we can assist and support you in building, growing and sustaining an amazing Charter school.

Trina Maul is the Director of Human Resources and Talent at the Colorado League of Charter Schools. She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration at University of Louisville and her MBA from Indiana Wesleyan University. She has over 20 years in HR and is a Certified Gallup StrengthsFinder Coach.

Assessment and Use of Data in Charter School Governance

School/Organization: R. Pressler Associates; The Diamante Group
Time: 10:10–11:10am
Presenter(s): Rick Pressler; Brian Diamante

Boards of Trustees are required to make momentous decisions on a monthly basis—about budgets, personnel, programs, and policies. But to what extent are these decisions driven by data? With so many different types of assessments and so much operational data generated by schools, trustees may feel virtually bombarded by information. This session will de-mystify how different types of assessment and operational data can inform school board decisions and help trustees become better consumers of information. Participants will leave with insights about best practices that cultivate a positive data culture, as well as a coherent framework for considering what information is most useful in a given situation.

Rick Pressler is the Director of School Services for R. Pressler Associates, an educational consulting firm specializing in program implementation, governance, and strategic planning at independent charter schools. Rick has a Master of Public Affairs and Politics from Rutgers University and a B.A. in Music from Haverford College.

Brian Diamante is an expert in charter school data and educational data systems. He is the President & CEO of The Diamante Group, an education data analytics consulting firm,

and the current Director of Data Systems and Senior State Budget Analyst at the New Jersey Charter Schools Association where he helps support the charter school sector in New Jersey.

PANEL

So, You've Outgrown Your Charter School Facility – Now What?

School/Organization: Haskell
Time: 11:15am–12:15pm
Moderator: Charlie Rocheleau
Panelist(s): Molly Melloh; Susan Golden; Tina Cafiero; Diane LaBelle

You find yourself outgrowing your facilities and are unable to efficiently support your students and faculty. You might be asking the question "Now What?" This discussion focuses on the real experiences of charter schools and their journey. They will share how they developed new facilities, found funding, and engaged a design and construction company to complete the project. Attendees will learn how to plan for facility growth, find a facility that works, obtain project financing and deliver a facility before the start of the school year.

Charlie Rocheleau is Education Division Leader at Haskell. His work has been dedicated to the education and municipal industry delivering a variety of design- build projects. He is an experienced hands-on executive with full authorization to commit company resources. He has extensive knowledge in construction means and methods to make sound decisions and ensure project success.

Susan Golden is the Executive Director of Tiger Academy Charter School in the northwest section of Jacksonville, Florida, the most impoverished area in the city. Before Susan began work on Tiger, she served for 34 years in the traditional public schools in Jacksonville as a teacher and principal. Susan was recruited to the YMCA in 2008 to design, build and open Tiger Academy. Tiger has just completed their 10th year in operation and in that time has made great strides in providing children in poverty with a quality education in a premier facility with wraparound services for all.

Tina Cafiero is Director of Instruction for New Dimensions High School in Kissimmee, FL and has been in the education field since 1989. She has served as a classroom teacher, a career counselor, Dean of Students, and the Director of The Center for Electronics Excellence, a State of Florida Designated Model Career Academy. In 1998 she co-founded New Dimensions High School, Osceola County's first charter school. Dr. Cafiero has also presented at numerous conferences in Florida and

other states, such topics as charter school development, financial planning and management, career education, and literacy leadership.

Molly Melloh manages the underwriting and originating of loans financing charter school facilities as Senior Director of K-12 Education at the Reinvestment Fund. She works with early stage, growing, and established schools to structure and deliver flexible financing that supports their needs. During her eleven-year tenure at Reinvestment Fund, Molly has presented on charter facilities finance at various charter forums and Conferences.

Diane LaBelle is the Executive Director & CEO of the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts (Charter Arts) and has been working in the education and community arts field for over 20 years. Now in its seventeenth year of operation, Charter Arts, located in Bethlehem, PA, has completed four years in a new 90,000 sq.ft facility in the heart of Bethlehem's Southside Arts District. Charter Arts has achieved regional and national acclaim for its education model and student success, leading to it being named a 2018 National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education.

Put Down the Fire Extinguisher! Tools for Mission-Centered Improvement Planning

School/Organization: Colorado Charter School Institute
Time: 2:30–3:30pm
Presenter(s): Jessica Welch

On any given day, charter school leaders rotate between principal, teacher, disciplinarian, HR manager, custodian... the list goes on. As a result, improvement planning is often subsumed in the day-to-day crisis management. In this session, participants will learn about concrete tools and structures to help shift away from crisis management and towards integrated, deliberate improvement planning.

Jessica Welch is the Assessment and Improvement Planning Specialist at the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI). Jessica holds an undergraduate degree in Spanish Literature from the University of New Mexico and a master's degree in Mind, Brain, and Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Building a Strong Board in Start-Up

School/Organization: Education Board Partners
Time: 3:35–4:35pm
Presenter(s): Debbie Lister

Building a strong and diverse board from day one is essential to ensuring the long-term success of a charter school. But how do you focus on the essentials of good governance while also juggling the endless to-do list every charter starter has to manage? Education Board Partners has worked with start-up boards across the country on this challenge. Through this session, we will share the five essential steps to building a

strong board during start-up, and share tools and templates that charter starters can take back and use with their teams.

Debbie Lister, Chief Transformation Officer at Education Board Partners, coaches, trains and consults with boards across the country concentrating on good governance, equity and quality schools. She earned a bachelor's in political science from the University of Florida, a master's from American University and served on a public charter school board in DC.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Top Five Financial Mistakes Charter Schools Make and How to Avoid Them

School/Organization: Charter School Capital
Time: 9:35–10:30am
Presenter(s): Tricia Blum

Whether your school is growing student enrollment, expanding facilities, or implementing new educational programs, we can all agree that financial wellness is one of the most important aspects of running a successful charter organization. In this lively panel presentation, we'll cover the five most common financial and operational mistakes that charter schools make and give you actionable tips on how to avoid them. Get armed with the right knowledge, techniques, and materials to ensure financial success and learn how to avoid the pitfalls that may cause trouble.

Tricia Blum, formerly an interim turnaround CEO of a charter organization located in Los Angeles, California, is thrilled to be working with Charter School Capital as the head of the charter school business department. Tricia supports client schools that need strategic business, financial, and operational guidance.

Are you Governing for Growth?

School/Organization: BoardOnTrack
Time: 10:35–11:30am
Presenter(s): Mike Mizzoni

Here's the thing that not everyone has figured out yet: governance capabilities must evolve at the same pace as the capabilities of the rest of the organization. Alongside the CEO's growth mindset, the board should be governing for growth. But what does that look like? And how do you make it happen? Attend this inspiring, interactive discussion to learn exactly what a board needs to focus on as it grows from planning, to launch, to sustainability. In addition, boards will learn the secret to setting goals to keep this focus front and center.

Mike Mizzoni joins the BoardOnTrack team with professional experience in higher education, board governance, law, and state and local politics. Mike currently lives in Littleton, Massachusetts and is a proud graduate of both the University of Massachusetts Lowell and New England Law Boston.

Charter School Grants: How to Save Time and Write a Better Grant

School/Organization: Grants Mentor

Time: 11:35am–12:30pm

Presenter(s): Peggy Downs

Change the way you think about grants! From identifying a shared vision to learning how to partner with donors to make a difference and figuring out how to see your grant proposal from the funder's perspective, this session provides the answers you need to write a successful grant proposal. Led by a grant writer and former charter school director, you'll learn how to craft your message to meet funders' needs, and then develop your program, find your grant donor, and write a proposal that works.

Peggy Downs is on a mission to help 100 charter school leaders write successful grants in the next 5 years. She holds a master's degree in Educational Leadership and a Colorado Principal License and has served as a director, teacher and board member in charter schools.

Charter School Finance 101

School/Organization: Avolon Accounting & Charter CFO Service

Time: 2:05–3:05pm

Presenter(s): Candy Yu; Andrew Lewis

Approximately 80% of all charter school closures are due to poor financial oversight by staff and board. This statistic is unacceptable and avoidable. But leaders in charter schools must put into place the correct processes from day one. While academics are the very visible side of a charter school's success, the financial operations of a charter school are just as important but far less visible to the public. This presentation helps charter leaders design and implement accounting and internal control systems, monitor financial reports, prepare for audits and create annual budgets.

Candy Yu is a highly regarded charter financial expert who leads Avolon Accounting & Charter CFO Service in providing high quality charter school financial management from back office support to CFO strategic planning in GA. Candy and her firm have a long successful track record in turning around high-risk charter schools and establishing best practice Charter school financial management system.

Andrew Lewis currently works with various charter schools and charter support organizations across the nation as an independent consultant. He worked for the Georgia Charter Schools Association for over 12 years as EVP over advocacy and policy.

Dashboards: An Essential Part of Your School's Data Stewardship Toolkit

School/Organization: Lumen Network

Time: 3:10–4:00pm

Presenter(s): Sabrina Bow

From multi-year strategic planning to quarterly goal setting, accurate and timely data is needed to make sound data-informed decisions. In this session, we will discuss the concept of data stewardship and how school leaders and board members can use dashboards to monitor key aspects of their school's organizational health. Participants will identify data stewards in their schools, articulate SMART goals, and leave with ideas and resources to create their own dashboards.

Sabrina Bow is the founding executive director of Lumen Network, a non-profit organization supporting charter schools by promoting best practices in data-informed operations. Dr. Bow is a veteran educational leader specializing in the intersection of academics and operations as a site administrator and consultant for over 15 years. She holds an MBA from USC's Marshall School of Business and a doctorate in education from UCLA.



Please download the official #ICSS19 mobile app to learn more about credit hours approved by the NMPED.

Innovation and Multiple Measures go hand in hand. What are you doing in your school that's really cool? How are you measuring success?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

A School's Journey to Literacy: Ensuring No Students Fall Through the Cracks

School/Organization: Community Roots Academy
Time: 9:05–9:50am
Presenter(s): Jeremy Cavallaro; Lyndsey Rahman; Tzippy Rav-Noy

Over the past two years, Community Roots Academy has implemented a new approach to improving literacy. Now, fewer students are slipping through the cracks. Mr. Cavallaro and Mrs. Rahman will discuss their approach to literacy, curriculum, PD, and assessment. Ms. Rav-Noy will demonstrate what a sequenced approach to phonics looks like and how it is essential for developing successful and independent readers. Together, they will showcase the successful instructional framework implemented at Community Roots Academy today.

Jeremy Cavallaro is the Co-Founder of Community Roots Academy, an independent, public charter school and has served as Executive Director of Education since its opening in 2011. Previously, he was a school leader in private and public schools in New York City and Southern California.

Lyndsey Rahman is the Reading Specialist at Community Roots Academy. She graduated from the University of Surrey, England, with a degree in History and Multi-Subject Elementary Education, and has taught in London, Dubai and the US.

Tzippy Rav-Noy is Co-Founder of Capit Learning, a PreK-12 educational company that provides a supplemental, digital literacy curriculum with demonstrated efficacy. She has taught and held administrative positions in pre-schools and elementary schools in Michigan, Los Angeles, New York, Australia, and Israel.

Dignified Environments are for Everyone: Two Charter Schools' Contrasting Color Strategies

School/Organization: Smith & Architects
Time: 9:55–10:40am
Presenter(s): Chad Smith

Color plays a vital role in our response to our surroundings. We understand the effect of color in the built environment and use it to empower our schools' occupants. We bring the same standard of care and attention to detail developing color palettes for our charter schools as for bespoke apartments. Our approach to color elevates the everyday experience of the students and their teachers to provide a new sense of dignity and purpose. Our presentation will show how two very different Charter Schools for whom we were gut renovating spaces participated in our color inquiries, with great results.

Chad Smith founded Smith & Architects to develop architecture that builds community. Smith & Architects has completed a wide range of educational, residential and fitness/wellness projects. The firm is known for their innovative approach to adaptive reuse, shared amenities and a holistic use of color.

Innovation Trends in Educational Assessment

School/Organization: NWEA
Time: 10:45–11:30am
Presenter(s): Michael Nesterak

As education evolves, assessments must keep pace. Traditional test designs like multiple choice may not meet the assessment needs of today's students. Emerging technologies have made a large impact on instruction by allowing more individualization in teaching and learning, and assessments will also be affected by these same technologies. This presentation will discuss and demonstrate some of the innovative approaches that NWEA is exploring to help address evolving assessment trends. These include new test designs to potentially enhance equity for all students and emerging technologies, such as augmented reality and virtual reality, that allow for the measurement of standards and constructs that cannot be measured on traditional tests.

Mike Nesterak currently serves as the Senior Director of NWEA's Innovation Center. He has a 33 year history in the educational assessment industry serving in roles including product management, product development, and research.

The Innovative Educator: Realistic Strategies for Reshaping the Classroom

School/Organization: Windsor Charter Academy
Time: 11:35am–12:20pm
Presenter(s): Irene Nissen

Pedagogy and standards have shifted in the last decade and it can feel overwhelming to reshape lesson plans and incorporate new technology while still meeting the rigorous demands of curriculum standards. This session will explore how today's students are different from previous generations, outline expectations for learning in the 21st century classroom and discuss various methods for incorporating innovative teaching strategies. Attendees can expect to walk away with a portfolio of strategies for updating their lesson plans to meet today's ever changing standards, as well as a new understanding of what it means to be an innovative educator.

Irene Nissen has worked in the field of libraries and education for over a decade and is currently serving her sixth year in the role of Technology and Innovation Director for a growing K-12 charter school. Irene also operates a STEAM education implementation consulting service. Irene holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Colorado State University along with a teaching certificate for business education.

S.T.E.A.M. Programming in a Rural Educational Setting

School/Organization: School of Dreams Academy

Time: 2:35–3:35pm

Presenter(s): Mike Ogas

School of Dreams Academy (SODA) is one of the few, if not the ONLY, multifaceted charter schools in New Mexico. With a S.T.E.A.M. educational model that just keeps getting better and better, SODA offers outstanding programs in the Arts, Robotics, Dance, Guitar, Agriculture, Literature, and Science. In this presentation SODA officials will present how a successful S.T.E.A.M. Model has come about in semi-rural New Mexico. Participants will have a chance to listen to and speak with students and staff from one of the premier charter schools in New Mexico.

Mike Ogas is the Superintendent and co-founder of School of Dreams Academy, a NM State Authorized Public Charter located in Los Lunas, NM serving grades Pre-K through 12th. Mr. Ogas brings 40 years of educational experience to School of Dreams.

Create a Strategic Plan

School/Organization: The Learning Collective

Time: 3:40–4:40pm

Presenter(s): Adam Aberman

Interested in strategic planning but don't know where to start?! In a highly interactive workshop, you and your team (preferably at least two people from your school) will produce 1-2 SMART goals, with detailed action steps, specific to your school and its mission statement. Adam Aberman has facilitated strategic planning sessions with charter schools, charter authorizers and state boards of education across the country with great success and impact. See principal video testimonials at <http://bit.ly/1LGvkwY>

Adam Aberman is the CEO and Founder of The Learning Collective. Over the past 15 years, he has assessed over 200 current, and 100 proposed, charter schools nationally. Adam received a B.A. from Vassar College and a Master in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

Measuring the Model: Authentic Ways to Measure Student Outcomes

School/Organization: Colorado Charter School Institute

Time: 9:35–10:20am

Presenter(s): Ryan Marks

The session will focus on how to translate anecdotal stories articulated by charter school leaders into appropriate and rigorous measures that can be shared with authorizers and the school community. Multiple case studies will highlight ways that schools can work with their authorizer to articulate and measure what makes their school distinctive. From a rural Montessori school and a suburban Waldorf school to an urban alternative school for pregnant teens, this panel will engage the audience to share and develop novel ways to measure and communicate school outcomes. Participants will walk away with recommendations and guidelines for how to measure their model beyond traditional accountability measures.

Ryan Marks is the Director of Evaluation and Assessment at the Colorado Charter School Institute (CSI). Ryan has a B.S. in Biological Sciences and a M.A. in Research Methods and Statistics and holds his professional teaching license with endorsements in secondary science education, gifted education, special education, and linguistically diverse education.

A Path to Transformed Schools: Educate the Whole Child

School/Organization: Educate the Whole Child

Time: 11:15am–12:00pm

Presenter(s): Christopher Nye

We need a bold paradigm shift in education, not more of the same kind of thinking that created the problems of saturation testing and standardized curriculum. In this presentation, we will cultivate the capacity to imagine the future and consider what skills students will need to confront it. We will then explore what the whole child paradigm looks like, how it works, and resources to learn more. This is followed by examples of whole child learning in action—a school garden, various types of place-based or project-based efforts. Discover “the secret sauce” that lets learning have lasting impact.

Christopher Nye is on the leadership team for Educate the Whole Child, a nationwide effort to change the paradigm for public education from one of accountability to one focused on the individual child. He is also vice president of the Myrin Institute and chair of the nonprofit environmental magazine *Orion*.

The Innovation Diploma: A new way to credential students

School/Organization: Design Tech High School

Time: 12:05pm–12:50pm

Presenter(s): Ken Montgomery; Nicole Cerra

Participants will learn about new ways to rigorously assess students in the skills, mindsets, and responsibilities needed for them to be innovators. Participants will also learn about how Design Tech High School supports this work, as well as how they leveraged their partnership with Oracle to develop innovative students.

Ken Montgomery is the co-founder and Executive Director of Design Tech High School, which is located on the Oracle corporate campus in Redwood Shores, CA. Ken completed his PhD in administration and policy analysis at Stanford University.

Nicole Cerra began her career in education mentoring at-risk teens in Seattle as a member of the AmeriCorps program and then went on to tutor high school students while earning a Masters in Education at the University of California in San Diego. Nicole is co-founder of Design Tech High School, where she has also served as Director of Learning for five years.

LOVE your School Brand. Marketing. Website.

School/Organization: Frogtummy

Time: 2:00–2:15pm

Presenter(s): Janice McReaken

Frogtummy is a website development company specializing in custom website solutions for charter schools. Our websites are powered by our proprietary Content Management System, built for charter schools—it is the easiest and most beautiful in the industry. Our suite of products includes visual brand identity, website design and development, Content Management System (CMS), website accessibility (ADA), photo shoots, video shoots, campaigns + promotions, eCommerce, online carpool, emergency notifications, enrollment and registration, teacher websites, student absence notification and more.

Janice McReaken has a passion for innovation and trailblazing. She brings the worlds of technology and design together so that beautiful, effective design powered by robust technology is approachable for everyone. She is an avid mountain biker and hiker – and designs anything she can get her hands on!

Fostering Creativity—Start the Spark!

School/Organization: Windsor Charter Academy Schools

Time: 2:20–4:00pm

Presenter(s): Rebecca Teeples

Successful nations are fueled by creative minds that develop innovative solutions to some of the most complex problems. With globalization and rapid changes due to technology and competition, educators are challenged to prepare students to be innovative in a dynamic world. This 120-minute workshop addresses what creativity is, why it is important and how teachers can utilize nine behaviors that will “start the spark” of creativity. Participants will complete an assessment that outlines their individual strengths and areas of improvement in nine creativity fostering behaviors. Utilizing this individualized data, participants will engage in hands-on activities that support these nine creativity fostering behaviors.

Rebecca Teeples, recognized as one of “40 Superwomen of Northern Colorado,” serves as the Windsor Charter Academy Executive Director over administration of the elementary, middle, and early college high schools. Rebecca is currently completing her doctorate in Organizational Leadership with a K-12 Emphasis.



MARIACHI SERENADE

check out a live performance by
the talented students of the
Albuquerque Bilingual Academy

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2019

ALVARADO BALLROOM

3:30PM

CASE FOR OUR SCHOOLS

How do we counter the myths and misinformation about charter schools? How do we promote the indie charter model without "splitting the sector?"

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Educators as Charter School Advocates

School/Organization: Association of American Educators

Time: 9:05–10:05am

Presenter(s): Rena Youngblood

While we hear from parents, students, and education reform organizations when advocating for charters, the educator voice is often missing from the conversation. In this presentation, we will examine ways to empower your staff and raise the profile of educator voices uniquely positioned to support the cause. Attendees will receive a toolkit specifically designed to assist in their efforts. Ultimately, attendees will learn how to use their unique skill sets to advocate for themselves and their schools.

Rena Youngblood is Senior Director of Charter School Services for the Association of American Educators. Prior to her work with AAE, Rena served as the Director of Membership and Member Business Services for the Georgia Charter Schools Association.

Advocacy and the Art of Quadratic Equations

School/Organization: Bronx Charter School for Better Learning

Time: 10:10–11:40am

Presenter(s): Theodore Swartz

At the Bronx Charter Schools for Better Learning, progressive education means practicing an instructional approach that leverages academics as the vehicle – not obstacle – to keep students in touch with their innate brilliance. Our approach eschews test/outcome oriented instruction by engaging our children – nearly all people of color from low-income households – in activities that tap their creativity. We do satisfy our authorizers with high test scores; more importantly, the children remain in touch with their natural love of learning. Participants in this session can experience our approach first-hand and gain insight into a process that frees learners from unnecessary worries. No prior mathematics acumen needed!

Theodore (Ted) Swartz, Ph.D. is Director of Professional Development at the Bronx Charter School for Better Learning, which he founded in 2003. A progressive institution with two elementary campuses, BBL has received multiple state and federal awards and exceeds NY State's wealthiest district's aggregate results in both ELA and mathematics.

Understanding Who Speaks for You: You are Your Best Advocate

School/Organization: Independent Charter Consultancy

Time: 11:45am–12:00pm

Presenter(s): Andrew Lewis

Statewide charter support organizations, education reform organizations and their lobbyists are often conflicted between what they believe is best for the sector, including CMO and EMO operators, what is best for their organizations, and the political impact of taking a stance on certain issues. Their work is important, but it is critical that those most invested in a charter's mission and vision are able to rely on themselves as advocates. In this short presentation, attendees will learn how different stakeholders can mobilize to affect change.

Andrew Lewis currently works with various charter schools and charter support organizations across the nation as an independent consultant. He worked for the Georgia Charter Schools Association for over 12 years as EVP over advocacy and policy.

PANEL

Leveraging the Authorizer Relationship

School/Organization: Buckeye Community Hope Foundation; Stonebrook Montessori; Education Law Association

Time: 2:30–3:30pm

Presenter(s): Tom Hutton; Jacqueline Miller; Amber Oxley; Jason Moore

Passion and expertise in a particular education model drives the creation of independent charter schools. But while these qualities help a school open, they won't save a school from getting non-renewed if academic success isn't clear to the authorizer. Due to their unique missions and models, independent charters often find themselves having to explain themselves to authorizers in ways that managed schools do not. The set-up presents challenges, but also provides opportunities.

This session will bring together presenters from independent charter schools and authorizers to discuss what can be gained for schools and the charter movement if we expand the lens of the school/authorizer relationship from transactional to relational.

Tom Hutton is a Honolulu-based independent consultant and the interim executive director of the Education Law Association. He is the former executive director of the Hawaii State Public Charter School Commission, a former school board attorney, a co-founder of an independent charter school in the District of Columbia, and a governing board member of a Hawaii independent charter school.

Jacqueline Miller is the current and founding principal at Stonebrook Montessori, Ohio's only public charter Montessori. Jacqui has over 25 years as a teacher/leader in the Montessori community and is a sought-after presenter across the global Montessori community on adolescent development.

Amber Oxley leverages her nonprofit management background to support independent charter school leadership. She is part of the senior leadership team at Stonebrook Montessori, where she leads operations. She is also a board member of another Ohio independent charter school.

Jason Moore works for Buckeye Community Hope Foundation as Finance and Compliance Director. In 15 years of experience working with Community Schools across Ohio, Jason has served as both licensed Treasurer and School Director. As a member of the founding team for five independent schools in Ohio, Jason brings experience in all aspects of operating a school.

Immigration, Education, & Resilience

School/Organization: El Colegio High School

Time: 3:35-4:35pm

Presenter(s): Norma Garces

Almost nine in ten school leaders report that incivility and contentiousness in the broader political environment has considerably affected their school community. While many students from immigrant families experience mounting uncertainty and fear as their future remains unclear, El Colegio is one of the few high schools in the country that has the capacity to support the community with both a compassionate approach and tangible resources to address academic needs as well as navigating and healing from trauma. Learn about El Colegio High School's resilience-based model in the face of a turbulent political climate.

Norma Garces has been executive director of El Colegio High School since 2011. Prior to becoming Executive Director, she previously served as a senior planning analyst at Hennepin County in Minnesota, where she led the county's 2010 Census efforts and ensured one of the highest Latinx participation rates of any county in the country. She has also worked in the Minneapolis Public School district in multiple capacities, and is the former Executive Director of La Escuelita.

VOICES OF THE FUTURE: EDUCATION & ACTIVISM

A STUDENT-LED STRAND AT #ICSS19

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2019

TURQUOISE ROOM

3:00-4:30PM

Youth Assembly

Time: 3:00-3:30pm

Student-only meeting of youth activists from local and national groups. Leaders will present a resolution that schools can adopt to address the climate crisis and youth activism.

Panel of Youth Leaders

Time: 3:30-4:30pm

Student-led activism in response to the climate crisis, racial and gender inequalities, and gun violence has become a powerful force. Young people are tired of watching their world fall apart and are ready to do something about it. This activism is happening on a local, national and global level. Join leaders from youth-led organizations to learn more about how they are addressing these issues. This session, led by youth organizers, will feature a short presentation of the work these groups are doing, followed by a panel discussion of the role they want our schools to play in the struggle for climate justice and to help them become more effective advocates. Students will then prepare and discuss a resolution that will be presented at the CPICS Membership Meeting. Attendees will receive resources to help implement these ideas in their own schools.

Participating organizations include:

- This Is Zero Hour
- Fight For Our Lives
- Youth United for Climate Crisis Action
- Sunrise Movement



Startup indie charter schools face enormous hurdles and don't have the resources provided by CMO's, but they still generate great energy. What are the tips and tricks schools should consider as they get started?

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Flexible Leadership for Successful School Launch

School/Organization: FIT Academy Charter School; Lafayette Preparatory Academy

Time: 9:05–10:05am

Presenter(s): Susan Marino; Claud Allaire

This presentation will explore the challenges of navigating the unknown and unexpected when launching a new school. We will discuss strategies for keeping your community focused on the school's mission and developing a collaborative culture. We will also explore operational lessons learned during facility transitions, renovations and expansions. The presentation will include best practices as well as real-life examples from two start-up school leaders.

Claud Allaire is the Executive Director and Founder of FIT Academy Charter School in Apple Valley, Minnesota. He earned a teaching degree from the University of Michigan, a master's in sport psychology from Ithaca College, and completed the Education Specialist program for principals from the University of Minnesota.

Susan Marino is the founding Head of School and Executive Director for Lafayette Preparatory Academy. She has a Bachelor of Arts in Literature from the University of New Mexico, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Lindenwood University, an Educational Specialist degree in leadership from Webster University, and is currently pursuing her Educational Doctorate.

Can You Afford It? The Cost of Ineffective Board Meetings

School/Organization: Highmark Schools Development

Time: 10:10–11:10am

Presenter(s): Tina Smith

Time is our most precious commodity and finite resource—only 24 hours in a day and yet the demands continue to increase. With everything a new board has to accomplish in the first few years in operation, setting up processes and systems to ensure effective board meetings can maximize the resources within our control. In this workshop style session, we will discuss specific strategies that set boards up for long term success and sustainability. Using real examples of “good, bad and ugly” board meetings, we will review the power of implementing simple yet effective tools to streamline preparation and lead to productive decision making.

Tina Smith is the Director of Portfolio Management with Highmark School Development. As a former educator, founding team member, and board chair of a successful charter school, and most recently as the Chief Operations Officer at the Utah Association of Public Charter Schools, Tina has over a decade of hands-on charter school experience.

Facilities, Finance and the 5th Grade

School/Organization: Santa Ynez Valley Charter School

Time: 11:15–11:30am

Presenter(s): John Dewey

What can you do with a limited budget and a lot of upkeep? This is the story of a small independent Charter School in Santa Barbara County that turned to students for help with custodial and landscaping needs. This presentation documents students in fifth and sixth grade who turned their hand to making facilities improvements on campus and in the 2-acre garden attached to the school. They're learning just as much outside the classroom as they are inside; measurements, physics, the natural world. And they're framing a new philosophy for the school, a do-it-yourself mentality with hands-on learning and tangible results.

John Dewey joined Santa Ynez Valley Charter School as Director a year ago, after a decade in progressive education and representing WASC as visiting chair for independent schools. Dr. Dewey began his career teaching Spanish before earning his master's in Linguistics and pursuing a PhD in Educational Leadership and Organizations. political headwinds currently confronting the charter movement.



INSPIRING COMMUNITY

INSPIRE

School Choice

FOR ALL FAMILIES

TRULY  **PERSONALIZED** **LEARNING**

Homeschooling  **With Heart**

ADVENTURE OF LEARNING

TK-HS ★

PROUD SPONSOR OF THE
2019 INDEPENDENT CHARTER
SCHOOL SYMPOSIUM

SCHOOL VISIT DAY

NOVEMBER 20, 2019

SPONSORED BY



We're taking a road trip to a few independent charter schools all across Albuquerque. Take a look at the impressive schools we're going to visit. We're all going to learn something to take back to our own schools!



EXPLORE ACADEMY

Explore Academy is a college preparatory middle-high school which provides each student with a personalized educational experience through the power of student choice. Through an elective-based approach to learning, each student creates a learning pathway that is personalized and unique.

The school year is divided into shorter learning modules rather than traditional semester or year-long courses. All class sizes at Explore are kept small because they believe that individual attention is crucial to student success.

5100 Masthead NE • Albuquerque, NM 87109 | www.explore.academy/abq



ALBUQUERQUE SIGN LANGUAGE ACADEMY

The mission of the Albuquerque Sign Language Academy is to improve educational outcomes for deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing students in the greater Albuquerque area by providing a rigorous standards-based bilingual educational program which utilizes American Sign Language and English to achieve academic excellence, support family involvement, and promote multicultural community partnerships.

The ASL Academy provides an innovative, dual-language, non-institutional educational model which is inclusive of all children and respectful of the family unit.

620 Lomas Blvd NW • Albuquerque, NM 87102 | www.aslacademy.com



NATIVE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACADEMY

The Native American Community Academy is the collaborative effort and the dream of many educators, parents, professionals and leaders throughout New Mexico. NACA's vision is of a thriving and dynamic community where students, educators, families and Native community leaders come together, creating a place for students to grow, become leaders, and prepare to excel in both college and life in general. The NACA community and experience will help students incorporate wellness and healthy life practices, community service and an appreciation of cultural diversity into their lives.

1000 Indian School Road NW • Albuquerque, NM 87104 | www.nacaschool.org



PUBLIC ACADEMY FOR PERFORMING ARTS

The Public Academy for Performing Arts is a public charter school that integrates a rigorous college preparatory curriculum with the performing arts and prepares students to pursue their passions and talents.

PAPA has a diverse student population selected through a lottery process. Students are from all over the city, Rio Rancho, south to Belen, east to Moriarty, and north as far as Santa Fe. PAPA is committed to closing the achievement gap between low-income and other students.

11800 Princess Jeanne Ave NE • Albuquerque, New Mexico 87112 | www.paparts.org

SCHOOL VISIT DAY ITINERARY



In addition to our mind-opening programming we're inviting participants to spend an additional day in Albuquerque with us to explore some remarkable charter schools in the area for school visits.

Along with Cypress Tree New Mexico, we have selected a few charter schools with incredible stories and outstanding school models. These schools are a living lesson of our principles and of the work member schools perform in transforming the lives of young people.

As a \$25 add-on to your #ICSS19 registration, you can join other school leaders for a fun-filled day. Space is limited.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019

7:45am–8:00am Registration & Check-In at Hotel Lobby

8:15am–9:15am Albuquerque Sign Language Academy

COFFEE & BAGELS SERVED

9:40am–10:40am Explore Academy

11:00am–12:00pm Native American Community Academy

12:15pm–1:15pm Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

LUNCH

1:40pm–2:40pm Public Academy for Performing Arts

3:00pm Return to Hotel



Please visit the registration desk in the West Atrium to see if there are any available slots left to join us!

20 YEARS COUNT!

Education

Healthcare

**Affordable
Housing**

*Investing in the
dreams and hopes
of our Community*

Past • Present • Future

RAZA DEVELOPMENT FUND
THE DOCUMENTARY
COMING THIS NOVEMBER

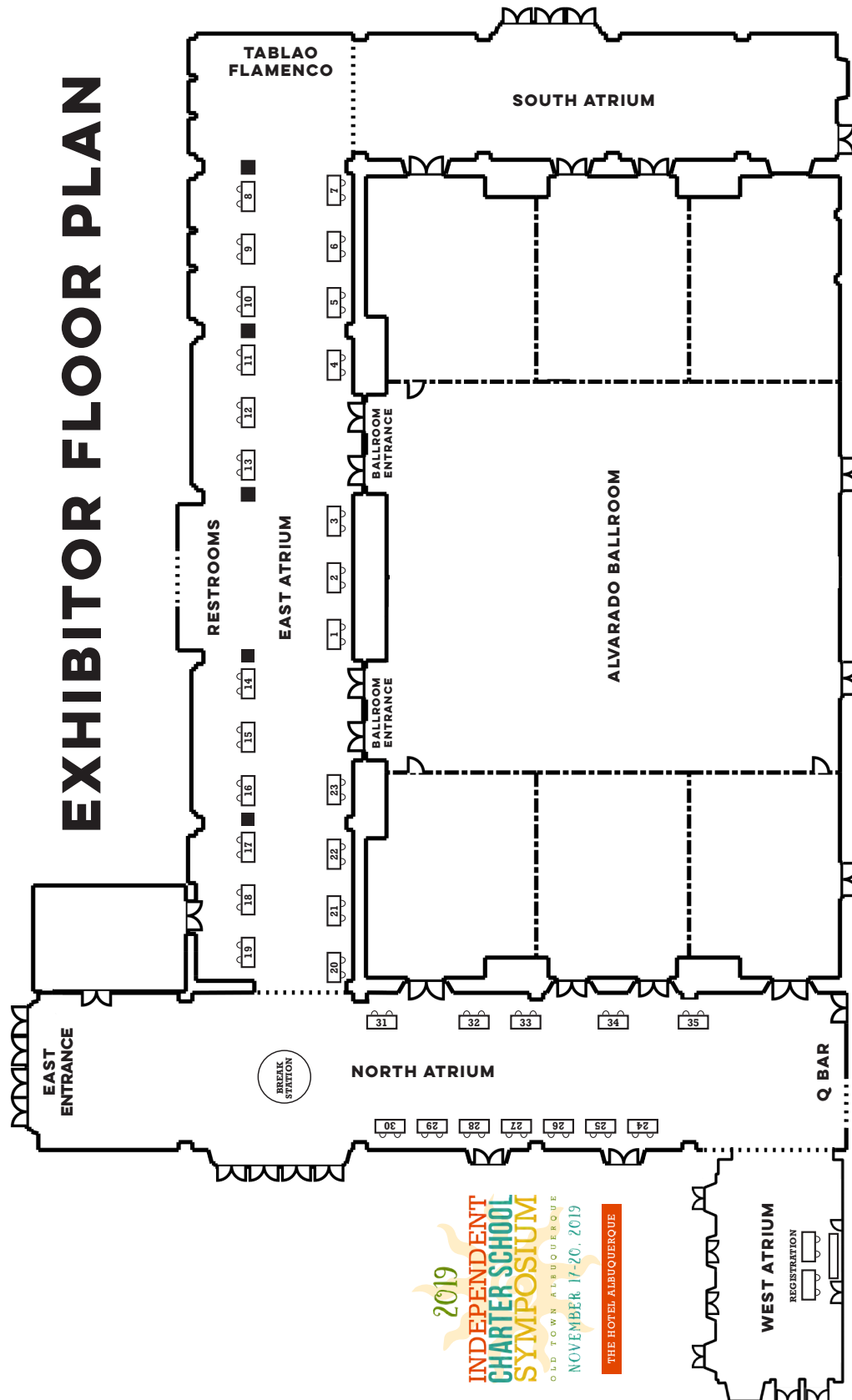


www.razafund.org

602.417.1400



EXHIBITOR FLOORPLAN



- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 CGM | 19 School Food & Wellness Group | 28 Kokopelli Design Studio |
| 2 US Census Bureau | 20 BYU Independent Study | 29 Sean Wells Art |
| 3 Oaks Resource Group | 21 Haskell | 30 CPICS |
| 4 The Education Team | 22 NWEA | 31 Houghton Mifflin Harcourt |
| 5 Oxford Consulting | 23 FLVS Global | 32 School Pathways, LLC |
| 6 The Rensselaerville Institute | 24 Kaeden Publishing | 33 Bright Thinker |
| 7 United Way of Central New Mexico | 25 LINQ | 34 National Youth Leadership Council |
| 8 Honey Badger Conservation Crew | 26 Chicana Guadalupeana | 35 LadyJennD Mixed Media Collage Creations |
| 9 CLN Kids (Cuidando Los Ninos) | 27 Two Sisters Crafts | |

SPONSORS/EXHIBITOR LISTING

3 OAKS RESOURCE GROUP

www.3oaksgroup.com

3 Oaks is a one-stop, single-source purchasing company specializing in furniture, fixtures, equipment, technology and supplies for Charter Schools. For over 20 years, we have focused our efforts on Charter Schools, bringing our sales expertise and extensive product knowledge, at the same time providing the lowest pricing of the best products to the Charter School market.

Working similar to a cooperative purchasing program, 3 Oaks serves charter schools nationwide. All pricing is competitively bid, so there is no need to duplicate the bid process. Our main objective is to build a strong, unique, and long-term relationship with our clients, focusing on saving both time and money while providing the best product at the best price.

Contact: Dorie McInturf
Email: dmcinturf@3oaksgroup.com
Phone: 303.478.4377

ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN EDUCATORS

www.aaeteachers.org

Association of American Educators is a professional association serving educators in all 50 states. AAE is a non-union, non-profit organization with a non-partisan focus on lifting the teacher voice and profession through student-centered policies and advocacy. We provide liability insurance and access to legal services for administrators, teachers, and education staff at schools throughout the country, including many public charter schools, for only \$16.50/month/member.

Contact: Rena Youngblood
Email: rena@aaeteachers.org
Phone: 404.455.1520

BOOKSHARK

https://www.bookshark.com/

Available for a "Traditional" Homeschool approach and "Virtual" learning approach.

- Traditional – for charters and independent families who support traditional homeschool methods, where parents are the student's primary teacher and monitoring is not required.
- Virtual – for charters and states who want direct monitoring of student attendance and evidence of learning. Enables parent and teacher to guide the student.

Contact: Lynn Woodley
Email: lwoodley@bookshark.com
Phone: 720.215.6064

BRIGHT THINKER

brightthinker.com

Bright Thinker is at the forefront of the new educational model—"Blended Education." As today's students have changed, so have their educational expectations and academic needs. COMPREHEND™ offers the following: Rigorous Academics, Exceeds Standards, Online Educational Model

Contact: Jackie Cheney
Email: jcheney@bluelearning.com
Phone: 860.941.1823

BYU INDEPENDENT STUDY

https://is.byu.edu/

BYU Independent Study is a nonprofit online educational program, offering more than 500 fully accredited online courses to middle school, high school, university, and professional development students. BYU Independent Study partners with academic departments and faculty at Brigham Young University to be the primary resource for online and blended education on campus. We also extend those university courses to students at other institutions.

We offer these courses to students everywhere in preparation for a university education and lifelong learning. We believe, and hope, that in doing so, we can make a positive impact on the course of education.

Contact: David Hoffman
Email: david.hoffman@byu.edu
Phone: 801.422.7466

CGM

www.medied.us

CGM - your school's funding source for Special Education Services. CGM believes that all students deserve the opportunity to reach their full potential. We partner with schools to secure Medicaid and insurance funds so that every student with special needs has the resources they need to succeed.

Contact: Kris Watson
Email: kristopher.watson@cgm.com
Phone: 606.207.3576

CHARTER SCHOOL CAPITAL

www.charterschoolcapital

Charter School Capital helps charter schools access, leverage, and sustain the resources needed to thrive. Since 2007, we've focused exclusively on charter schools, and have invested more

than \$1.8 billion in over 600 charter schools, their facilities, and the charter school ecosystem as a whole. Most importantly, we are proud to have supported the education of more than 1 million students. Our wide range of products and services were developed to address the diverse set of challenges charter leaders face so they can build more sustainable futures for their schools and continue to focus on what matters most—educating students.

Contact: Mike Robinson

Email: mrobinson@charterschoolcapital.org

Phone: 602.777.1251

CHICANA GUADALUPANA

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/ChicanaGuadalupana>

Handcut Lino stamps made from the hands for the hands of a natural art lover. Handmade + carved prints of scenic views and New Mexican staples. Each print is different with every ink roll making it a unique take away from the land of enchantment. Specialty Images and Colors available per request. Hangable Prints, Postcards, Gift Bags + Textiles made with natural inks and dyes.

Contact: Marisa Trujillo

Email: 16mtrujillo@gmail.com

Phone: 505.450.3595

CLNKIDS (CUIDANDO LOS NINOS)

CLNKids.org

The Mission of CLNKids is to:

- Provide high quality early childhood development and therapeutic services that meet the special needs of children experiencing homelessness.
- Support services that assist their families to become rehoused and stronger.
- Be a community leader and advocate for social change necessary to break the cycle of homelessness.

Contact: Antonia Martinez

Email: Info@clnkids.org

Phone: 505.843.6899

CYPRESS TREE NEW MEXICO

CypressTreeNM.org

Like the cypress tree, many charter schools endure harsh climates, poor soil, flood waters, and otherwise poor living conditions in their quest to thrive. Cypress Tree New Mexico is an autonomous organization of independent charter school leaders united to meet common needs and aspirations. Our community of New Mexico charter school proponents support educational innovation by deliberately and efficiently pooling expertise and resources to improve opportunities, programs, and outcomes for the children we serve.

Contact: Jennifer Martinez

Email: JMartinez@CypressTreeNM.org

Phone: 505.507.3867

THE EDUCATION TEAM

www.educationteam.com

The Education Team provides fully qualified and pre-screened on-demand substitute teachers for grades K through 12. We provide substitutes for short-term absences and long-term absences and we can help you fill your permanent positions. We work with private schools, charter schools, and public school districts.

- For schools: Access to a large pool of highly qualified substitute teachers.
- Convenience: Request a sub at the last minute, 97% fill rate.
- Compliance: We take care of all HR functions including payroll, benefits, worker's comp and liability insurance.
- Support: Phone lines are staffed live. A dedicated placement coordinator for your school's needs.

Contact: Antonio Azar

Email: antonioazar@educationteam.com

Phone: 213.986.4718

FLVS GLOBAL

www.flvsglobal.net

Founded in 1997 as the first statewide online public high school in the U.S., FLVS is an established leader in K-12 digital education. We have grown to serve students in all 50 states and in more than 100 countries and territories, delivering rigorous and flexible digital courseware, a turnkey virtual school, and professional development for schools and districts looking to grow their online and blended learning environments. For more information, please contact Christy Cleugh.

Contact: Christy Cleugh

Email: ccleugh@flvs.net

Phone: 714.315.8706

FUTURES EDUCATION LLC

discoverfutures.com

Futures Education is a national leader in special education services and resources. We have a comprehensive array of expertise including clinical and educational assessments, professional development offering, staffing and management of school system's special education programs. Building better lives for people with special learning and healthcare is our mission.

Contact: Paul McDonald

Email: pmcdonald@futureshealth.com

Phone: 623.640.2909

HASKELL

https://www.haskell.com/

We are a global network of experts providing integrated design, engineering, construction and professional services

to clients and communities. We bring a history of innovation and thoughtful expertise to craft the optimal solution for every project or program, regardless of size or market. We serve as practice leaders within our market segments and bring the highest level of entrepreneurial thinking to each project. We share insights and observations openly; demonstrating our leadership within the industry and our consultative value to clients. We're building Haskell Tomorrow today.

Contact: Nicole Ortiz
Email: nicole.ortiz@haskell.com
Phone: 904.357.4276

HERTZ FURNITURE

www.Hertzfurniture.com

Flexible, Collaborative, Individualized, or Traditional - Hertz Furniture has innovative furniture to match your teaching style, curriculum, and budget for every room in your school, including Classroom, Commons Area, Lab, Media Center, café, and more, all with Lifetime Warranties. Complimentary interior design and turnkey project services always included.

Contact: Dan Goldfine
Email: dgoldfine@hertzfurniture.com

HIGHMARK SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT

www.highmarkschools.com

Highmark School Development serves charter schools with 100% financing and turnkey development of permanent, affordable, high-quality facilities. Since 2005, Highmark has deployed over \$800 million across 80+ projects in 16 states. Highmark's rapid approvals, professional team, and various capital sources suit independent start-up charters, operational schools, and management companies. Highmark provides access to short-term and long-term facility financing for a new build on a green field or adaptive reuse of a building. We shoulder all the burdens of funding, real estate, entitlements, acquisition, permitting, design, and construction.

Contact: Patrick Beausoleil
Email: patrick@highmarkschools.com
Phone: 616.717.0484

HONEY BADGER CONSERVATION CREW

<https://www.aslacademy.com/>

The Honey Badger Summer Conservation Crew is a summer program that engages youth in our community to participate in a fun, rewarding educational 5 week program that connects them to our historical, sacred, wild and special places.

Contact: Yancey Ranspot
Email: outdooreducationcoordinator@aslacademy.com
Phone: 505.401.4683

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT

www.hmhco.com

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt (HMH) is a global learning company committed to delivering integrated solutions that engage learners, empower educators and improve student outcomes. As a leading provider of K-12 core curriculum, supplemental solutions and professional learning services, HMH partners with educators and school districts to uncover solutions that unlock students' potential and extend teachers' capabilities. HMH serves more than 50 million students and 3 million educators in 150 countries, while its award-winning children's books, novels, non-fiction and reference titles are enjoyed by readers throughout the world.

Contact: John Hurley
Email: John.Hurley@hmhco.com
Phone: 401.339.5875

INSPIRE CHARTER SCHOOLS

www.inspireschools.org

Inspire Charter Schools is a family of charter schools sharing the same goal of partnering with parents to provide all students with a high-quality personalized education. Inspire believes in school choice and empowering educators and families to innovate and educate children together. Inspire shares and is committed to the CPIC mission to empower and advocate for public independent charter schools.

KAEDEN PUBLISHING

www.kaeden.com

Kaeden Publishing specializes in K-6 leveled texts and customized classroom libraries. We are also the sole purveyor of the Lucy Caulkin's Reading and Writing Project Assessment Collection.

Contact: Craig Urmston
Email: info@kaeden.com
Phone: 440.617.1400

KOKOPELLI DESIGN STUDIO

kokopellidesignstudio.com

Kokopelli Design Studio is on a mission to bring forth unique design ideas while utilizing gorgeous yet sustainable elements. Our designs are produced in small quantities so they remain distinctive, just like our wonderful customers. We dare to capture southwestern beauty in the form of art and successfully bring it to you. Enchantment, quality and variety are things we strive to deliver to you consistently. We glean from our colorful history of the desert southwest. These designs dangle proudly on your earlobes, nestle on your collarbones and cradle your wrists for the rest of the world to see and enjoy.

Contact: Corrina Hughes
Email: kokopellidesignstudio@gmail.com
Phone: 505.297.8055

LADYJENND MIXED MEDIA COLLAGE CREATIONS + THE OT CIRCUS

<https://www.etsy.com/shop/ladyjennd>

LadyJennD has been creating mixed media collages steadily since the Summer of 2010, though she has always dabbled in art. She truly enjoys the transformation aspect of collage; That you can take an image or text from something already completely idealized, and create a completely different context for the images. She loves immortalizing old, discarded images and texts into imaginative realms, and considers herself a “DJ of Imagery”.

Many of her pieces reflect the oddities contained in the philosophic subconscious, and have deep meaning that she hopes resonates with you

Contact: Jennifer DeSantis
Email: beanmurderer@yahoo.com
Phone: 505.415.4643

LINQ

<https://www.linq.com/>

LINQ is the first company to deliver a full suite of integrated solutions with the ease-of-use and flexible processing that today's charter schools need. LINQ's platform includes solutions for finance & human resources, nutrition management, digital payments, school websites, custom forms including student registration, and document management. LINQ has been serving the K-12 community for over 30 years.

Contact: Margaret Eubank
Email: Margaret@linq.com
Phone: 800.541.8999

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CHARTER SCHOOL AUTHORIZERS

www.qualitycharters.org

The National Association of Charter School Authorizers (NACSA) is an independent voice for effective charter school policy and thoughtful charter authorizing practices that lead to more great public schools. If and how well authorizers fulfill their responsibilities directly shapes the quality of public schools available within a community, which is why we work with authorizers across the country to develop, implement, and maintain rigorous authorizing practices. We provide trusted, independent policy resources to build state foundations where charters can thrive. We conduct research to identify emerging issues and trends in the field that inform the national conversation.

Contact: Kristen Forbriger
Email: kristenf@qualitycharters.org
Phone: 312.376.2300

NICHE

www.niche.com

Niche is the leader in K-12 search. Every year, over 24 million people use Niche to find the right school. We have in-depth profiles on all U.S. colleges, universities, and K-12 schools including millions of student reviews, comprehensive rankings, and detailed statistics. Students and families use Niche throughout the admissions process—from list building, to applying, to deciding where to enroll. We help connect schools with these highly-engaged users when they are actively researching. With over 1,200 partner schools, Niche has a proven track record of delivering more visits, applications, and best-fit enrollments with our turn-key enrollment marketing solutions.

Contact: Kevin O'Donnell
Email: kodonnell@niche.com
Phone: 412.329.6233

NWEA

www.nwea.org

NWEA® is a research-based, not-for-profit organization that supports students and educators worldwide by creating assessment solutions that precisely measure growth and proficiency—and provide insights to help tailor instruction. For more than 40 years, NWEA has developed pre-K–12 assessments and professional learning offerings to help advance all students along their optimal learning paths. Our tools are trusted by educators in more than 10,000 schools, districts, and education agencies in 141 countries.

Contact: Brad Banich
Email: brad.banich@nwea.org
Phone: 503.444.6423

OXFORD CONSULTING SERVICES, INC.

oxfordconsulting.com

Since 1994, Oxford Consulting Services, Inc. has been an approved agency with the Department of Education. With 25+ years of experience, Oxford Consulting collaborates with over 300 schools across the nation to provide high quality special education services. Oxford providers are among the top in their field and provide dynamic and individualized services for their students using evidence based techniques. Services available include: Specialized Academic Instruction, Speech, Occupational and Physical Therapies, Psychological Services, Counseling, Educational/Therapeutic Assessment and Low Incidence. Services are available both in-person and virtually through secure login in NY, NJ, PA, CA, AZ, NM and TX.

Contact: Christina Russi
Email: crussi@oxfordconsulting.com
Phone: 949.596.9125

POMS & ASSOCIATES

www.pomsassoc.com

Our collective knowledge and experience serving the needs of public, private and institutional entities makes us more than mere advisors. We become trusted partners in understanding your specific and unique needs and risks. Poms is a proven resource in providing innovative and cost-effective solutions to those needs.

Custom solutions may involve: risk management services; selecting and implementing new employee benefits plans; acting as a client's advocate in property claim situations, crisis planning, products liability, aviation or marine operations; or even retention and alternative finance programs.

Phone: 800.578.8802

RAZA DEVELOPMENT FUND

www.razafund.org

Raza Development Fund is a national, nonprofit Community Development Financial Institution formed with the intention of creating financing solutions for Latino serving organizations. RDF was formed with the strong conviction that the stewardship of dollars loaned, and technical support given to organizations, would have measurable impact on Latino families. Supporting educational opportunities for low-income communities, through its financing solutions, is at the heart of what RDF does. With more than \$340 million invested in educational facilities since inception, RDF has been a pioneer in charter school lending and plays an important role in providing families with choice to failing schools.

Contact: Adrian Ruiz
Email: aruiz@razafund.org
Phone: 602.417.1426

THE RENSSELAERVILLE INSTITUTE

https://www.rinstitute.org/

School Turnaround is an intensive intervention and leadership development initiative that helps principals turn around failing or underperforming schools. Our program is designed specifically for schools and districts where someone in power perceives a current failure that requires urgent intervention. While most educational initiatives geared toward demonstrating student achievement take place over a long time period, School Turnaround is proven to bring about urgency and timecompressed change in one year.

Contact: Billie-Jo Slingerland
Email: bjslingerland@rinstitute.org
Phone: 518.797.3783

THE ROCK AND ROLL FOREVER FOUNDATION

www.teachrock.org

Steven Van Zandt's Rock and Roll Forever Foundation (RRFF) strives to empower teachers and engage students by using popular music to create interdisciplinary, culturally responsive education materials for all 21st-century classrooms. The more than 160 standards-aligned lesson plans in the RRFF's TeachRock curriculum foster genuine learning through arts integration in areas including social studies, language arts, STEAM, general music, and more. From The Beatles to Beyoncé, from early elementary to AP History—TeachRock offers engaging and meaningful material for nearly every classroom, all at no cost to educators.

Contact: Christine Nick
Email: Christine@rockandrollforever.org

SCHOOL FOOD AND WELLNESS GROUP

www.sfwgroup.org

SFWG is a National consulting group that assists schools with finding local, healthy food vendors to provide meals that meet and exceed the National School Lunch regulations. SFWG helps schools manage state audits, submit monthly claims, process household meal applications, conduct staff training and oversees overall program compliance.

Contact: Emily Chatelain
Email: echatelain@sfwgroup.org
Phone: 504.439.6060

SCHOOL PATHWAYS, LLC

https://schoolpathways.com/

School Pathways Personalized Learning Student Information System (PLSIS™) is a Responsive, Adaptive, and Integrated educational data technology solution for traditional, alternative, independent study and personalized learning educational models. PLSIS™ is an easy to use web-based system that uses a Real Time Access Model and is rich in reporting and anomaly resolution. Added features make it a complete system from online student registration to electronic document archiving with digital signatures. The PLSIS™ personalizes education to meet the needs of students, staff, and schools. Contact us today for a personalized solution for your school! One student information system, multiple solutions!

Contact: Cheree Childers
Email: cheree@schoolpathways.com
Phone: 866.200.6936

SMITH & ARCHITECTS

www.smithandarchitects.com

Smith & Architects has completed a wide range of educational, residential and fitness/wellness projects. The firm is known for their innovative approach to adaptive reuse, shared amenities and a holistic use of color. Color plays a vital role in our response to our surroundings. We understand the effect of color in the built environment and use it to empower our schools' occupants. We bring the same standard of care and attention to detail developing color palettes for our charter schools as for bespoke apartments. Our approach to color elevates the everyday experience of the students and their teachers to provide a new sense of dignity and purpose.

Contact: Chad Smith

Email: chad@smithandarchitects.com

U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

census.gov/schools

Statistics in Schools (SIS) is a U.S. Census Bureau program that uses census data to educate pre-K-12th grade students about the importance of a complete and accurate census. For the 2019-2020 school year, new materials are available that teach students about the importance of the 2020 Census count, and empowers them to share this knowledge with adults in

their home. Making sure ALL children are counted in the 2020 Census is especially important for education. Responses to the 2020 Census determine how more than \$675 billion in federal funds are distributed to communities each year for the next ten years.

Contact: Nicole James

Email: nicole.james@census.gov

Phone: 301.763.4030

ZIEGLER

<https://ziegler.com>

With over 115 years of raising capital for communities, Ziegler is a recognized leader in the educational sector throughout the U.S. We continue that tradition with our dedicated services to the national charter school market. Ziegler provides its charter school clients with capital for financing new construction, refinancing existing debt or advising on future developments. As one of the few financial services firms in the country that has a dedicated team of charter school finance professionals, Ziegler can offer unbiased advice to help advance your mission.

Contact: Scott Rolfs

Email: srolfs@ziegler.com

Phone: 414.978.6576

THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OUR #ICSS19 SPONSORS AND SUPPORTERS



THANK-YOU'S

Thanks so much to all the school leaders and teachers, especially those who have travelled a great distance, who have taken time—that most precious commodity—to be with us and share their thoughts and talents.

And a very deep thanks to some very special people who have given us the rare gift of critical friendship in guiding our efforts:

**Dorothy Bukantz
Joe Nathan
Rick Welles
Christopher Norwood
Deborah Meier**

A very special thanks to the following:

**The Raza Development Fund
The National Association of Charter School Authorizers
All our Exhibitors
Our contributing students from California and New Mexico
Cypress Tree New Mexico
The New Mexico Public Education Department**



**PLAN TODAY.
INSURE TOMORROW.**

For over 20 years, we have committed ourselves to providing New Mexico schools and businesses with superior products and services. We act not only as your insurance broker, but as an educator, becoming a trusted partner in understanding your specific and unique needs and risks.

201 3rd Street NW, Suite 1400, Albuquerque, NM 87102
www.pomsassoc.com | 800.898.6236 | 505.797.1354

NATIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Coordinating Committee is a group of 40+ educators and advocates who laid the groundwork for this organization. We want to thank all of them for the time they gave in long meetings and sub-committee work to point CPICS in the right direction.

Adam Aberman
The Learning Collective
Los Angeles, California

Lou Austin
3-Trails School
Kansas City, Missouri

Carol Bowar
Girls Athletic Leadership
Schools
Denver, Colorado

Dorothy Bukantz
Variety Boys & Girls Club
Queens, New York

George Cabrera
Cabrera Consulting Group
Coral Gables, Florida

Michael Catlyn
Brooklyn Charter School
Brooklyn, New York

Jeremy Cavallaro
Community Roots Academy
Laguna Niguel, California

Iris Maria Chávez
Equity Action Partners
Portland, Oregon

Patrice Coffin
Carondelet Leadership
Academy
St. Louis, Missouri

Jim D'Agostino, Ed. D
Santiago Charter Middle
School
Orange, California

Peggy Downs
Charter School Specialist
Aurora, Colorado

Christine Ferris
Highline Academy
Denver, Colorado

Tony Gatto
Arts & College Preparatory
Academy
Columbus, Ohio

Rose Mary Grant
Highlander Charter School
Providence, Rhode Island

Adriana Hire
Two Rivers Community School
Boone, North Carolina

Aaliyah Hodge
Center for School Change
St. Paul, Minnesota

Shahara C. Jackson
NYC Leadership Academy
New York, New York

Dianne Jacobson
Skyview School, Inc.
Prescott, Arizona

Shayne Klein
Raleigh Charter High School
Raleigh, North Carolina

Diane LaBelle
Lehigh Valley Charter High
School for the Arts
Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Todd Landry
Chapel Hill Academy
Fort Worth, Texas

Virginia Lannen
Pegasus School of Liberal Arts
and Sciences
Dallas, Texas

Richard Lee
Academy of the City Charter
School
Woodside, New York

Andrew Lewis
Georgia Charter Schools
Association
Atlanta, Georgia

David Lockett
Lake Wales Charter Schools
Lake Wales, Florida

Amy Marschall
Raleigh Charter High School
Raleigh, North Carolina

Keri Melmed
Highpoint Academy
Aurora, Colorado

John Merrow
Former Education
Correspondent, PBS
NewsHour
New York, New York

Ricardo Mireles
Academia Avance
Los Angeles, California

Joe Nathan
Center for School Change
St. Paul, Minnesota

Christopher Norwood
Florida Association of
Independent Public Schools
Miami, Florida

Emanuel Pariser, Ph.D.
Maine Academy of Natural
Sciences
Hinckley, Maine

Robert Pilkington, Ed.D.
Village Green Virtual Charter
School
Providence, Rhode Island

Stacey Prohaska
Circle of Seasons Charter
School
Fogelsville, Pennsylvania

Kelli Pryor
Baxter Academy for
Technology and Science
Portland, Maine

Mary Rumpz
Townsend Community School
Castalia, Ohio

James Vira
Lawrence Group
New York, New York

Heather Vuncannon
Uwharrie Charter Academy
Asheboro, North Carolina

Dr. Richard Welles
Coalition of Community
Charter Schools
Long Island City, New York

Peter Wieczorek
Northwest Passage Charter
High School
Coon Rapids, Minnesota

Steve Zimmerman
Coalition of Community
Charter Schools
Long Island City, New York



EMPOWERING AND ADVOCATING FOR PUBLIC INDEPENDENT CHARTER SCHOOLS.

CPICS is a member-run organization of educators, families and supporters who believe in the democratic principles that underlie the movement for public chartered schools. CPICS schools provide a broad and growing range of options in public education, explore new leadership structures and innovate and collaborate in the public interest. We aspire to be the democratic voice of our schools and to promote public school autonomy, transparency and accountability.

Please visit the CPICS table located in the North Atrium to receive a FREE #ICSS19 t-shirt when you sign up for membership for the 2019-2020 School Year!



Coalition of
Public
Independent
Charter Schools

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We are united behind the original ideals of the charter school contract.

We embrace our diverse communities, which include immigrants, people of color, children with disabilities, the homeless, English language learners, people of all faiths, and the LGBTQ community. We aspire to be great community schools of choice for the families we serve.

Equity

- We reaffirm that charter schools are public schools. All public schools should receive equitable funding.
- We are committed to transparency in our practices and accountability to our students, parents, government authorizers, and the public at-large.
- As public institutions, our charter schools are open, welcoming, and responsive to our many stakeholders.

Autonomy & Accountability

- Autonomy in exchange for accountability is the bedrock principle of charter schools.
- Real accountability must be rooted in the development of the whole child and the needs of society to improve our democracy and cultivate citizens who can solve the intractable problems of our time.
- The work we do at our schools is for the greater good. We guard against any practice that subordinates the work we do to personal or corporate profit.

Collaboration

- Because charter schools were created as laboratories of innovation, we seek out opportunities for collaboration among district, charter, and independent schools.
- We seek out opportunities to learn from and exchange ideas with our colleagues.
- Our workplaces are collaborative, not adversarial. We invest in our teachers so that they can invest in us.

Diversity

- We commit to serving students who reflect our communities and neighborhoods, particularly students with the greatest educational needs.
- We actively recruit, retain and serve the highest-need students, such as students with disabilities, English language learners, and students with challenging life circumstances.
- We are determined to educate all of our students to the best of our ability, every day.

Innovation

- Our independence is a public trust. Autonomy provides the freedom to innovate and differentiate.
- We have an obligation to research, develop and implement new ideas, practices and strategies.
- School innovation is reinforced by use of multiple measures for evaluation. We must learn how to measure what is truly important and germane to the mission of our schools.
- We share these practices, serving as a laboratory for all other public schools.

Respect for Teachers

- We rely on a professional and compassionate teaching staff to model the attitudes we expect in our students. Our schools provide innovative opportunities that encourage young teachers to excel at their craft and become great educators.
- Personnel evaluations and all our employment practices are fair and transparent.

Governance & Community

- Strong independent boards and an engaged community are essential to school governance and student success.
- Boards must be fully and demonstrably independent from service providers and must have robust process for community input.
- Decision-making involves feedback from our students, families and the community at large.

Quality

- All students have the right to a high-quality education.
- Our parents, students, and caregivers choose our schools and trust that we will provide the best possible education.
- We support their right to make that choice and will do everything in our power to fulfill our responsibilities.

WE SUBSCRIBE TO AND SUPPORT THESE PRINCIPLES