

Professional Sessions

Better Solutions for Better Outcomes: Strategies for Academic Success of Latino Students- We must understand the value of the Latino student's sense of belonging and self, thus the building of self-worth. This workshop will examine and discuss best pedagogical practices to address instructional needs, monitor students for any personal or learning difficulties and will explore strategies for quality academic instruction that identify the student's social, developmental, mental and physical health, judicial and economic issues, etc. Relevant practices of mentorship, relationship building, home visits, etc. will also be discussed. Presented by Dr. Fae Garcia Bush and LaTisha Vigil Quintana, MSW, Health South Rehabilitation Center **Breakout 3-2:30 to 4:00**

Bridging Best Practices with Cultural Competency for Students with Exceptionalities- This session focuses upon how cultural competence will result in a greater identification of students of color into gifted and talented programs and for Advanced Placement. At the end of this session, parents and educators will be able to identify misconceptions which result in labeling, tracking and "defacto"-segregation policies that hinder or deny special education services to students in need or to students who are gifted in areas not readily identified by "standardized" IQ tests. Presented by Aaron J. Griffen, Principal, Sierra High School, Dawn Thomas, Secondary Language Arts Instructional Coordinator, HSD2, Jymil Thompson, Asst. Principal, Sierra High School **Breakout 3-2:30 to 4:00**

Bridging the Digital Divide- Surge365 Solution and Action Focus: Innovative approach to the delivery of classroom instruction The Surge365 "World Virtual Trips" model bridges the digital divide by making it fun to learn geography and go on world "virtual" field trips without leaving the classroom. The digital divide is the inability to access technology due to socio-economic factors. This hinders schools and students from offering and receiving a quality education. "84% of teachers believe new technologies are creating a bigger divide between affluent and disadvantaged schools." @ pewresearch. Presented by Rick Reese **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Building emotional intelligence in students to promote better choices and overcoming challenges- Due to the multitude of obstacles students may face, students do not always have the skills to make positive choices and embrace and overcome challenges. If students are able to conceptualize their own level of emotional intelligence, then they will have better skills to embrace difficult choices and challenges. The presentation will also provide strategies for teachers to model emotional intelligence, and how to be an emotionally competent teacher as well as recognizing and enhancing emotional intelligence in students. Presented by Bryan Bohanan, Ed.D, UCDenver and DPS **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Creating Student Engagement to End Disengagement- This session will provide an overview of the statistics surrounding children of color who drop out of school, including the when and why? We will examine some of the predictors for dropping out and examine targeted, comprehensive, and systemic approaches for curtailing the dropout phenomenon among children of color. Presented by Dr. Teresa Lance, HSD2 **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Early Childhood "Education" or Early Childhood "Life" : Meeting the 21st Century Needs of Young Children of Color Both In and Out of the Classroom Setting- Despite unfair preK-3 school suspensions, overrepresentation in special-ed, mental health concerns, poverty, and other negative aspects, the importance of establishing the positive foundation of learning in early childhood life must not be lost. .

Together we can ensure a brighter horizon for the children not only inside the classroom but in life.
Presented by Dr. Marilyn Chipman, Metro State **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Effective Communication: Schools' Roles and Obligations under the ADA for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students- The session will address the latest developments in federal law and policy, including the newly released ADA guidelines on effective communication from the U.S. Department of Education and U.S. Department of Justice. The impact on transition planning and mainstreamed classrooms will be discussed. Information will also be shared on national resources, the use of interpreters and the monitoring of successful inclusion along with promoting self-advocacy in students. Presented by Tawny Holmes, Esq., Education Policy Counsel at National Association of the Deaf **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Ethnic Studies is Our Fight- This workshop will address why many students of color struggle academically and the importance of including Ethnic Studies in K-12 programs. Presented by Rogelio Fernandez, President of Council de Manos **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Flipped Instruction-This session will demonstrate how to provide content outside of class time, the benefits of application taking place during class time, and challenges with Flipped learning instruction will be discussed. Participants will experience a sample flipped lesson that focuses on differentiation, including use of unique types of activities to model in classroom. Presented by Peggy Jacobs, EdD. and Andrea McCorquodale, D-49 **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Headlines and Hatred: How to inspire and engage youth when life is threatening-This session will look at the work of Claude Steele and address the power of suggestion and self-fulfilling prophecies. Participants will address the impact of stereotypes and micro-aggressions, and learn tools to assist youth to succeed despite a political and social environment that devalues them. Presented by Dr. Regina Lewis, PPCC **Breakout 3-2:30 to 4:00**

How to Motivate the Unmotivated "Teaching with Poverty in Mind"- Learn how to help at-risk students succeed. It's clear that students from poverty are often at a disadvantage when it comes to education, and educators can find it challenging to help such students become positively engaged in their own learning. Students from poverty often need more help engaging in the classroom. Above all, Craig J. Boykin advises educators to avoid giving up on "difficult" students by deciding that certain students "can't be taught," and provides powerful examples of at-risk students succeeding in large numbers in supportive environments. He also admonishes, "If you don't teach it, don't punish students for not doing well at it!". Presented by Dr. Craig Boykin (GED to PhD) **Breakout 3-2:30 to 4:00**

If You Are Riding a Horse and it Dies, Get OFF!- This workshop will focus on evidence-based educational programs worth investigating, as well as decode some of the latest school jargon. As participants increase their understanding of best practices, they may find the answer to enhancing academic success for all children; specifically children of color and children of poverty. Includes TED talk message from Rita Pierson, "Every Children is a Champion." Presented by Beverly Bennett-Roberts **Breakout 3-2:30 to 4:00**

LGBTQ individuals and Education-This session will address legal and educational issues associated with gender diversity and explore the lived experiences of youth who are LGBTIQ. Presented by Mary G. Malia, Executive Director Inside Out Youth Services **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Match the Ads: A Workshop on Media Influence- Theorizing hegemonic mass media as one of the most important “information-diffusing socializing agencies” in the United States, this course allows attendees to develop the competencies necessary for analyzing media codes and conventions and interpreting the myriad meanings and ideologies generated by media texts. More specifically, we explore how gender, sexuality, race, class, citizenship, and other social, cultural, and political markers are constructed in mass media, including the multidimensional impetuses for and implications of these constructions. Presented by Dr. Heidi Lewis, Colorado College **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Mindfulness in the Classroom- How many of us have ever been asked to “pay attention” when we were in school? How many of us were taught what “paying attention” means? In this session, you will be given the tools to practice Mindfulness. You will learn the research-based benefits of incorporating Mindfulness into your classroom. We will talk about what is happening in the brain (for all different ages) when we are practicing Mindfulness, and address resources for any age group. Presented by Devra Allen, Nueva Ventura **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

N!gga/er Word: Is There A Message in the Madness?-Who is allowed to say the N!gga (er) word? What do we do/say when N!gga (er) is said in our classrooms, hallways, practice fields, and resident halls? Ignoring the N!gga (er) word is not an option anymore – you can hear N!gga anywhere at any time in the 21st century. Remember Paula Deen? What about Trayvon? The NFL? This workshop offers suggestions about the importance of understanding the various realities associated with N!gga (er) and recommends how to challenge and encourage all people, but specifically young people, to consider the ramifications of casual or uniformed usage of a powerful and troublesome word. Presented by Dr. Eddie Moore **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Pathways Out of the Pipeline: Immigration Options for Undocumented Youth- Training will be provided on immigration status options for undocumented youth. The session will also address the rights, risks, and realities that young undocumented people and their families should know about. Presented by Ashley Harrington, Esq., Rocky Mountain Immigrant Advocacy Network **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Recruiting, Training and Preparing the Next Generation of Teachers- This session will share the new, NxtGEN 4 Year Undergraduate Residency Model (4YUGR), an initiative of the School of Education and Human Development, University of Colorado Denver in partnership with a high-poverty, diverse urban school district. The aim of the NxtGEN is to close the achievement gap by preparing “next generation” of diverse teachers by strategically recruiting local diverse talent, providing a highly supported, clinically-intensive customized pathway for preparation in urban school settings, and supporting new teachers through innovative, differentiated induction. Presented by Dr. Ritu Chopra , UCDenver **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Reinstating parental rights as an alternative to aging out of foster care- C.R.S. 19-3-612, enacted in 2014, provides for the reinstatement of the parent-child legal relationship in certain child welfare cases where parental rights have been terminated. This session will address the specific requirements of Colorado’s statute and how the statute could be utilized for youth in long term foster care. Rebecca Casey, Esq. and Loretta Koehler **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Re-thinking School Turnaround in Denver Public Schools: A New Way Forward- The objective of this presentation is to share how an intense focus on ECE using transformative and inclusive practices holds promise for achieving federal turnaround policy goals of improving educational outcomes for students in

high poverty underperforming elementary schools. Secondary objectives include the identification of policy and practice implications of a transformative approach on the inclusion of young children with disabilities in public schools, and the role and promise of school district leaders as advocates for an ECE/ECSE agenda and in initiating policy and systems change. Presented by Jermall Wright, UC Denver and DPS **Breakout 3-2:30 to 4:00**

Rigor or Rigor Mortis- Are we Killing our Kids?- Education talks about "rigor"- but doesn't always discuss what it is and what it should look like. Participants' will leave with a clear definition of what "rigor" is and will also find out what "rigor" isn't. The program will open with the ASCD-DVD *"Use Students' Diverse Cultural Backgrounds to Enhance Student Achievement"*. Presented by Beverly Bennett-Roberts **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Shifting Paradigms & Pedagogy: Trauma-Informed, Culturally Responsive & Disability Positive Education Changes Everything-This presentation will illustrate how our collective failure to address trauma and disability experienced by our youth contributes to our children being pushed out of school and into a penal system that only serves to further traumatize young people and pave the way to adult incarceration. This session centers on trauma-informed care, disability justice and universal equality to undermine the root causes of the school to prison pipeline. Presented by Talila Lewis, HEARD **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Thinking Outside the Box: Exploring and Motivating for the Future with the Visual Arts- This presentation will focus on effective ways of increasing motivation and exploration in ourselves and our students through experiencing the questions that arise while trying to understand and create visual art. We will learn easier, observe more and increase empathetic discernment of differences. We need to wake up to our reality and become explorers of our current and past artistic worlds, and give ourselves permission and others to think outside the box. Presented by Becky Myers **Breakout 1-10:15 to 11:45**

Transforming Ourselves to Become Culturally Inclusive Educators- What can we do differently to create a welcoming, inclusive, and exciting educational environment for the 21st century? How can we overcome the many obstacles to creating cultural inclusiveness, including: Implicit Bias, Stereotype Threat, Microaggressions, Identity-Blindness, among others? Pushing past these challenges requires a willingness to consider our own biases, and a commitment to learning what we don't know we don't know. In this interactive workshop, we will reflect on our selves, our environments, and our practices using 8 transformative steps. This session should particularly benefit educators of any experience level who are willing to engage in self-reflection and who are specifically interested in increasing their teaching effectiveness by making their classrooms more culturally inclusive. Presented by Dr. Dena Samuels, UCCS **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

Understanding the Minds of Boys and Girls-The latest research in brain development and gender differences. This session will address issues of maturity, learning and success. Presented by Dakota Hoyt, Gurian Institute **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**

White Privilege- This interactive, informational, challenging and energetic session examines and explores white privilege/oppression and the imperative that those promoting diversity must "get in on the conversations." Participants will leave with the skills and knowledge necessary to begin addressing issues of white privilege/oppression individually and institutionally. Presented by Dr. Eddie Moore **Breakout 2-1 to 2:15**