

Welcome to the 8th Annual

UNLV | COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

SUMMIT

— ON NEVADA EDUCATION —

**Creative Community
Collaborations**

Friday, Nov. 18 & Saturday, Nov. 19, 2022
Stan Fulton Building, UNLV
#NVEdSummit22



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SUMMIT

— ON NEVADA EDUCATION —

Welcome to the 8th Annual Summit on Nevada Education.

One of the key lessons we've learned over the past year is that progress in any endeavor requires collaboration. When we focus on shared values and goals, we can address different perspectives with kindness and respect. This is especially true when we're talking about education and mental health in Nevada.

We're aware of the numerous stakeholders all working toward student success, and, in many cases, doing some great things in our communities. But that's no longer enough. When we unpack our knowledge and skill sets, laying everything out on the table, we can redefine approaches to both policy and practice in true and genuine collaborations.

It's my hope that year you'll find new opportunities to use collaborative approaches that improve educational progress as well as mental and emotional development for all of Nevada's students.

As you move through this year's summit, I encourage you to seek out those shared values and the common goals that bridge across our divides. I hope that you leave inspired to help us shift to a truly collaborative community in support of Nevada's students of all ages.

In community,



Danica G. Hays, Ph.D.

danica.hays@unlv.edu



Friday, November 18

8-8:30 a.m......Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

8:30-9 a.m......Welcome and Introductions (Ballroom)

9-9:45 a.m......General Session (Ballroom)

Please refer to page 9 for panel description and panelist/moderator bios.

Future of Nevada Education Policy Panel

Featuring:

Susan Enfield, Superintendent, Washoe County School District
Cecelia Gonzales, Assemblywoman, Nevada State Legislature
Felicia Ortiz, President, Nevada Board of Education

Moderated by:

Jackie Valley, Assistant Editor, Nevada Independent

9:45-10 a.m......Break

10-10:45 a.m......Breakout Sessions

Please refer to pages 11-12 for session descriptions and presenter bios.

Ballroom A

Boosting Support for a Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Community

Presented by:

Cindy Flores & Ignacio Ruiz

Ballroom C

Transformative Practices for Building the Black Teacher Pipeline in Nevada

Presented by:

Shartriya Collier & Jordan Hankins

Room 220

Clamping The Leaky Pipeline: The Nevada Educator Preparation Institute and Collaborative (NV-EPIC) Teacher Licensure Model Through Accelerated Engagement of Paraprofessionals and School Support Personnel

Presented by:

Jeff Briske & Kenneth Varner

10:45-11 a.m......Break

11-11:45 a.m......Breakout Sessions

Please refer to pages 12-13 for session descriptions and presenter bios.

Ballroom A

School Safety, Community, and the Intersection of Race

Presented by:

Ender Austin & Jacob Skousen

Ballroom C

The Power of Social Justice in Mathematics and STEM Education

Presented by:

Linda Johnson-McClinton & Kari Kokka

Room 220

Engaging Educators to Decentralize Youth Mental Health: Strategies for the Classroom

Presented by:

Heather Dahl & Katrina Harris

11:45-noonBreak

Noon-1 p.m......Luncheon Keynote (Ballroom)

Please refer to page 10 for speaker bio.

Creating a World Championship Culture

Presented by:

Jennifer Azzi, Chief Business Development Officer, Las Vegas Aces



Saturday, November 19

8-8:30 a.m......Registration, Breakfast, and Networking

8:30-9 a.m......Welcome and Introductions (Ballroom)

9-9:45 a.m......General Session (Ballroom)

Please refer to page 14 for panel description and panelist/moderator bios.

Going ALL-IN for the Future of Educator Preparation

Featuring:

Annemarie Stover, Principal, Paradise Professional Development School

Cris Pabon, Educator, Ullum Elementary School

Moderated by:

Joseph Morgan, Chair, Department of Early Childhood,

Multilingual & Special Education, UNLV College of Education

9:45-10 a.m......Break

10-10:45 a.m......Breakout Sessions

Please refer to pages 15-16 for session descriptions and presenter bios.

Ballroom A

Academic Discourse in the Secondary Classroom

Presented by:

Selena Torres & Tillie Torres

Ballroom C

Defining Success by Imagining the Future: Building a Portrait of a Nevada Learner, Together

Presented by:

Jeanine Collins & Erica Mosca

Room 220

Cracking the #GenZ Code: Engaging AI Projects for Every Classroom

Presented by:

Isabel Gwara & Tyler Landvogt

10:45-11 a.m......Break

11-11:45 a.m......Breakout Sessions

Please refer to pages 16-17 for session descriptions and presenter bios.

Ballroom A

SIMPLY BREATHE: A How-to Guide to Create Calm, Clarity and Creativity

Presented by:

Damon Damato

Ballroom C

Schechty's Cat: Choice, Engagement, and the 22nd Century Learner

Presented by:

Mike Lang

Room 220

Theory of Change Deep Dive: Self, Groups, & Systems

Presented by:

Clarence Dortch

11:45-noonBreak

Noon-1 p.m......Luncheon Keynote (Ballroom)

Please refer to page 14 for speaker bio.

My Journey: The Field of Early Childhood Education

Presented by:

Carl Esteban, Special Education Teacher, Reynaldo Martinez Elementary School

1-1:10 p.m......Break

1:10-1:30 p.m......Gaming Lab Post Con: Daniel Sahl

Please refer to page 17 for session description.

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Friday Morning Plenary Discussion & Panelists

The Future of Nevada Education

It's been a contentious election season. Now that the ballots have been counted, how do we continue to move Nevada up the education rankings? What have we learned?

About the panelists:



Washoe County School District Superintendent **Susan Enfield** serves more than 62,000 students in 100+ schools. She began her education career as a high school English, English Language Learner and journalism teacher in the San Francisco Bay Area and went on to a number of leadership roles in Washington and Oregon. She was named the 2022 Washington State Superintendent of the Year and the 2018 Superintendent of the Year by the National School Foundation Association.



Assemblywoman **Cecelia González** is a proud daughter of immigrants and advocate for women's health and criminal justice reform. In addition to her legislative role, she is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in multicultural education and teaching at UNLV and as a substitute in K-12 classrooms in the Las Vegas Valley.



Felicia Ortiz is the founder, president and CEO of PM Consulting Solutions, which focuses on technology-based project management for national and international clients. The daughter of an educator, she has always been passionate about education and committed to helping future generations. She is currently the president of the Nevada State Board of Education and a member of the WestEd Board of Directors.

About the moderator:



Jackie Valley is an assistant editor at The Nevada Independent, where she has worked since the beginning of 2017. She started as an education reporter and spent years chronicling K-12 issues throughout the state. Originally from Ohio, Jackie came to Nevada for an internship that turned into a job at the Las Vegas Sun in 2010.

Take the Summit conversation online!



Tag us @unlvcoe
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Luncheon Keynote & Speakers

Creating a World Championship Culture

How much does organizational culture contribute to success? Jennifer Azzi, the chief business development officer for the WNBA Champion Las Vegas Aces, will share what it took to shape a 25-year-old franchise into a successful organization -- on and off the court. The WNBA and Olympic champion will share her refreshing insights on leadership, organizational culture, and empowering excellence in your own teams.

About the presenter:



Jennifer Azzi's achievements have firmly established her as one of the most accomplished figures in sports and business. She has been inducted into eight halls of fame and is an Olympic Gold Medalist, Stanford NCAA National Champion, Two-Time World Champion, Naismith Award and Wade Trophy award winner, WNBA All-Star, and winner of the prestigious NCAA Silver Anniversary Award.

These days she is the chief business development officer for the Las Vegas Aces, where she oversees all business development for the WNBA franchise. Prior to joining the Aces, Jennifer served as associate vice president at the University of San Francisco, helping complete its largest campaign in university history.

A photograph of a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, smiling and looking towards the camera while working on a laptop. The background is a brick wall.

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Friday Breakout Sessions & Presenters

Ballroom A

Boosting Support for a Culturally & Linguistically Diverse Community

Learn about the Clark County School District's (CCSD) holistic plan to build an inclusive learning environment that honors and meets the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students and their families by increasing access to resources and services.

About the presenters:



Cindy Flores currently serves as director of the CCSD Family Support Center. In her 20 years of education experience, she's been the coordinator in CCSD's English Language Learner Division and an educator for the Los Angeles Unified School District. She holds a certification as a WestEd Quality Teaching for English Learners professional developer in Nevada and also helped lead efforts for the establishment of CCSD's new dual language program.



Prior to his role as the assistant superintendent of CCSD's English Language Learner Division, **Ignacio Ruiz** worked as the director of the language acquisition department in the Tucson Unified School District. In addition to his current role at CCSD, he is the founder and president of the Nevada Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents

Ballroom C

Transformative Practices for Building the Black Teacher Pipeline in Nevada

Join the exploration of Nevada's Black teacher landscape by examining recent data related to Black in-service teachers as well as pre-service teachers and celebrating their power as culturally responsive practitioners. We'll also discuss current challenges for Black educators, innovative approaches to recruit and retain them, and how local, district, state, and community-partners can best support them.

About the presenters:



Shartriya Collier is the associate dean of the Nevada State College School of Education and co-founder and director of the college's Sankofa Black student recruitment and retention program. With more than 21 years of experience as an educator, teacher educator, and parent/community advocate, her research interests include family literacy, the recruitment and retention of teachers of color, emergent bilinguals and literacy development and culturally responsive pedagogy.



Las Vegas native **Jordan Hankins** launched the Southern Nevada Black Educators Initiative, a non-profit organization with the goal of expanding Clark County's Black educator pipeline and offering support to Black pre-service and in-service teachers through policy, mentorship and professional development. Jordan's advocacy work centers around her experience as a CCSD student who narrowly escaped the school-to-prison pipeline, and she is a strong advocate for educational equity and social justice.

Clamping The Leaky Pipeline: The Nevada Educator Preparation Institute and Collaborative (NV-EPIC) Teacher Licensure Model

Teacher shortages are at critical levels both in Nevada and beyond. This session highlights the NV-Educator Preparation Institute and Collaborative, an accelerated licensure/degree program created to cultivate a next-generation approach to educator preparation customized for paraprofessionals and school support personnel.

About the presenters:



Jeff Briske is the director of Educator Development, Licensure, and Family Engagement and serves as secretary to the Commission on Professional Standards at the Nevada Department of Education. His background includes extensive experience in developing educator preparation programs, including the Teach Nevada Scholarship, Incentivizing Pathways to Teaching, and the Nevada Institute on Teaching and Educator Preparation State grants.



Professor **Kenny Varner** focuses on literacy, language, and cultural studies with an emphasis in glocality. In addition to his role as the director of the Gayle A. Zeiter Family Literacy Center, he is the principal investigator for three grants fueling the NVForward program, which include the NV-Educator Preparation Institute and Collaborative, Nevada Institute on Teaching and Educator Preparation and Nevada Institute on Educator Preparation, Retention and Research.

Ballroom A

School Safety, Community, & the Intersection of Race

Despite public perceptions of school safety, incidents of school violence have decreased in the last decade. Join us for a collaborative discussion about how public perceptions are shaping policy. We'll take a deeper dive, with a particular focus on the experiences of communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by violence and law enforcement.

About the presenters:



Ender Austin has a lifelong passion for the betterment of all people and has answered a call to serve his local community in clerical and civic capacities. This has led him to work with numerous community causes, campaigns and organizations, including the Bethesda Church of God in Christ and Faith in Action Nevada.



A member of UNLV's faculty since 2019, **Jacob D. Skousen** is an avid educational policy researcher who works to bridge theory and practice with a particular focus on leadership development and equity. He is also the coordinator of the Executive Educational Leadership doctoral program. Before shifting his career to higher education, he worked for 15 years as a teacher, instructional coach and principal in PK-12 environments.

Ballroom C

The Power of Social Justice in Math & STEM Education

When we promote equity within mathematics and STEM classrooms, we empower students to identify and address inequities in their schools and communities. Learn how the education community can engage in justice work through mathematics and STEM education. In addition to a brief overview of their research, the session will include an interactive discussion with the presenters and participants.

About the presenters:



Linda Johnson-McClinton is a former middle school math teacher, principal, and district-level administrator. She currently serves as an adjunct professor for the American College of Education. As a teacherpreneur, she founded Enriching Explorations in Engineering (E3), a non-profit STEM organization and LJM Educational Services, LLC, an educational consulting company.



Kari Kokka is a former New York City Title I high school mathematics teacher, activist and instructional coach and co-founder of the Creating Balance in an Unjust Conference on STEAMM Education and Social Justice. She currently studies social justice mathematics as an assistant professor of mathematics education at UNLV.

Room 220

Engaging Educators to Decentralize Youth Mental Health: Strategies for the Classroom

As youth are becoming more aware of their own mental health, how can educators prepare to successfully support their students? In this session, we'll discuss educator professional development approaches that administrators can take back to their schools and policy ideas that support stronger mental health resources in schools.

About the presenters:



Assistant Professor **Heather Dahl** is the counseling program coordinator in the Department of Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services at UNLV. Her research interests include suicide and crisis prevention and intervention, and social justice issues in professional practice. She is currently president of the Western Association of Counselor Education & Supervision.



Professor Emerita **Katrina Harris** teaches part-time in the Department of Counselor Education, School Psychology, and Human Services at UNLV. She is a licensed CPC-Intern with a mental health counseling private practice. Her areas of focus include anxiety, depression, trauma, grief and loss.

Saturday Plenary Discussion & Panelists

Going ALL-IN for the Future of Educator Preparation

The Academy for Leadership and Licensure Innovations for Nevada (ALL-IN) is an intensive alternative pathway to licensure program with a cohort-based approach to student teaching within urban education settings. Sit in on a candid discussion with an administrator, mentor teacher and former student teacher about their experiences and their insights about accelerated and alternative routes to licensure programs and the role of critical mentorships in educator preparation.

About the panelists:



After a career as a corporate trainer, **Cristian Pabon** shifted his teaching role from the business world to the K-12 arena and, after a stint as a substitute, is now a full-time first grade teacher at James Madison Ullon Elementary School. He is currently working on a master's degree in education with an endorsement in English language learning through ALL-IN.



Annemarie Stover serves as the principal of Paradise Professional Development Elementary School (PDES). This year marks her 21st year in CCSD and her sixth year as the principal of Paradise PDES. As the principal of Paradise PDES, she has worked with the UNLV's College of Education to support pre-service teachers at various stages of their development as they prepare to enter the classroom.

About the moderator:



Associate Professor **Joseph Morgan** has been at UNLV since 2209 and serves as the Early Childhood, Multilingual, and Special Education department chair. His research on traditional and alternative pathways licensure programs and efforts to support educator preparation make him especially qualified to moderate this morning's panel.

Luncheon Keynote Speaker

My Journey: The Field of Early Childhood Education

When Carl Esteban accepted the award for Nevada's 2022 Early Childhood Educator of the Year (Pre-K), he said he didn't set out to change the world, but, quoting Tupac Shakur, he wanted to "spark the brain that will change the world." We'll hear more about Carl's journey from student to educator and the lessons he's learned so far. His energy and passion are infectious and inspiring.

About the presenter:



A California native and Nevada transplant since 2202, **Carl Esteban** is a proud UNLV graduate about to finish his master's degree in early childhood special education. As a former lead teacher at the National Association for the Education of Young Children five-star accredited UNLV/CSUN Preschool, he fostered a safe and learning environment shaped to meet the unique needs of each individual child. These days, you'll find Carl spreading his light as a special education teacher at Reynaldo Martinez Elementary School.

Saturday Breakout Sessions & Presenters

Ballroom A

Academic Discourse in the Secondary Classroom

All educators, no matter their area of focus, are English teachers. Learn how you can effectively engage multilingual students in English language acquisition in secondary classrooms. You'll also learn how to promote discourse and support students' language development.

About the presenters:



When Assemblywoman **Selena Torres** is not in Carson City working to create a more equitable Nevada, you can usually find her at Mater Academy East Las Vegas where she is currently an English instructional coach. In addition to her undergraduate and graduate degrees from UNR and UNLV respectively, she is a proud Teach for America alumna.



Tillie Torres has been an English educator at the secondary and college level for over 25 years in both Las Vegas, NV and her hometown of Honolulu, HI. She teaches in both the English Department and in the Teaching and Training CTE while helping building Mater Academy's CTE program into one of the best Las Vegas has to offer.

Ballroom C

Defining Success by Imagining the Future: Building a Portrait of a Nevada Learner, Together

In developing a shared vision of success, the state is creating a Portrait of a Nevada Learner. We'll explore this process and collectively discuss essential elements all learners need to thrive in school and beyond. Participants will be invited to formally engage in sharing feedback in the portrait development and consider the opportunities to bring it to life.

About the presenters:



Las Vegas native **Jeanine Collins** is the chief innovation officer for ed.Xtraordinary, which brings people together to build the mindsets, skills and community conditions to reinvent learning so all learners can get what they need to thrive. She has been a public high school arts educator, Critical Friends Group Coach, university instructor and learning design consultant.



Erica Mosca is a proud first-generation college graduate, daughter of a Filipino immigrant and social justice advocate. After experiencing educational inequity in both her personal and professional life, she vowed to upend structural inequity and systemic racism and work to ensure underrepresented students become leaders in their own communities. She founded the non-profit Leaders in Training, which empowers over 220 students annually with a 100% college acceptance rate.

Room 220

Cracking the #GenZ Code: Engaging AI Projects for Every Classroom

Learn to leverage artificial intelligence to spark creativity, ignite debate and promote engagement. Explore real-world examples of AI to appeal to our Gen Z learners—from social media to visual art to employment—and how to create accessible, captivating project ideas that empower students. No prior AI knowledge required, for you or your students.

About the presenters:



Isabel Gwara is a computer science educator (and TFA alumna) advocating for high quality, engaging learning experiences for all students. In her current role as the curriculum lead at The AI Education Project, she guides the development of innovative curricula that allow students to express their creativity, experience joy in the classroom and enact change in their community, all while learning the fundamentals of AI literacy.



Computer science educator **Tyler Landvogt** propels students to become self-motivated lifelong learners. In his current role as the robotics and computer science instructor at Innovations International Charter School, he facilitates student technological engagement through rigorous hands-on curriculum, problem-solving skill development, as well as fosters creativity.

Ballroom A

SIMPLY BREATHE: A How-to Guide to Create Calm, Clarity and Creativity

The genius behind the breathwork is its simplicity. Learn how to breathe in a way that makes you feel more in control and will elicit confidence and instill a sense of joy and peace. Learn and practice simple techniques for you and your students.

About the presenter:



Damon Damato is a nationally recognized mindfulness speaker, performance coach and lifestyle entrepreneur who has applied his innovative methods to living a life of adventure, philanthropy and entrepreneurship. He is an author and fitness lifestyle specialist dedicated to helping people achieve their peak performance by realizing that human optimization is possible through the power of the breath, movement and the science of food healing nutrition.

Ballroom C

Schlechy's Cat: Choice, Engagement, and the 22nd Century Learner

How might we inspire our artists (students) to create, collaborate and share what they've learned using any and all tools available to them? Which scaffolds, strategies and philosophies can you, as instructional designers, consider when designing activities? In this session we'll apply principles from Dr. Phillip Schlechy to imagine systems of instruction that allow artists to express who they are.

About the presenter:



In his 18-year education career, **Mike Lang** has served as a K-8 teacher, digital learning coach, and ELL coordinator during a career in Mississippi, Taiwan, and Nevada. He has been recognized as an Apple Distinguished Educator, PBS Digital Innovator, and Heart of Education Award Winner.

Room 220

Theory of Change Deep Dive: Self, Groups, & Systems

What can we do to better understand the history of inequities in the education community? In this session, we'll identify how to partner with colleagues, students, families and/or local organizations and brainstorm potential policies and/or laws your built coalition will navigate or influence.

**Required attendance for Teach for America Second-Year Corp Members only.*

About the presenter:

Clarence Dortsch, Teach for America Las Vegas' director for systems change, is a long-time advocate for social justice and criminal justice reform. After working in various facets of the legal system, he observed that many of the issues facing black and brown men originate in their educational experiences. So, he transitioned his career to CCSD and, through Teach for America, became a sixth grade science teacher, eventually earning his master's degree in education from UNLV. Five years ago, he shifted gears again to join the TFALV staff to extend his efforts to address inequalities in education.



Optional Post-Con Presentation

Gaming Lab

UNLV International Gaming Institute & Innovation Lab

What does the International Gaming Institute do? Stick around and learn about the fascinating research and policy work from the center's director, Dr. Daniel Sahl.

About the presenter:



Daniel Sahl serves as the director for the Center for Gaming Innovation, part of the International Gaming Institute. In this role, Dr. Sahl works with undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and industry leaders to drive, develop, and commercialize new casino gaming technologies.

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