



Washington Association of School Social Workers 2024 Fall Conference

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Meet your 2024 Conference Presenters:

Rachel Barrett is a licensed clinical social worker and certificated school social worker serving as the Project Manager for UW SMART Center's Workforce for Student Wellbeing Initiative. Rachel is an affiliate instructor at the University of Washington School of Social Work and most recently worked as a tier three mental health consultant for Seattle Schools. Rachel specializes in treating externalizing behaviors that mask internal distress- particularly trauma responses- and is invested in mentoring and supporting the next generation of school social workers.

Representative Lisa Callan proudly represents the 5th Legislative District – including Snoqualmie, North Bend, Issaquah, Maple Valley, Black Diamond, Carnation, Fall City, and parts of Sammamish and unincorporated King County – in the Washington State House of Representatives. Since taking her oath of office over three years ago, she's been an active voice for Washington families, schools, youth, and community investment.

As a vice chair of the House Capital Budget Committee, Lisa helps develop and direct investments in Washington construction and infrastructure projects, bringing opportunity and jobs to communities across the state.

Lisa also serves as a co-chair of the Children & Youth Behavioral Health Work Group, leading a group of hundreds of stakeholders focused on improving the behavioral health services and strategies for children, youth, families, and caregivers. Through this work, she's helped pass many new

policies in mental health, substance use, suicide prevention, workforce development, and perinatal-to-young-adult behavioral healthcare.

Mirko Chardin is Novak Education's Chief Equity and Inclusion Officer. Before joining Novak, he was the Founding Head of School of the Putnam Avenue Upper School in Cambridge, MA. Mirko's work has involved all areas of school management and student support. His greatest experience and passion revolves around culturally connected teaching and learning, recruiting and retaining educators of color, restorative practice, and school culture. He is also a race, diversity and cultural proficiency facilitator & leadership coach for the Aspire Institute at Boston University's New Wheelock College of Human Development and Education and is a Virtual Module Content Provider and In-Person Technical Assistance Provider for the Dept. of Ed.'s Inclusive Practice Academy.

He is a principal mentor for the Perone-Sizer Creative Leadership Institute, a former Trustee at Wheaton College and is an active hip-hop artist. Mirko presents both locally and nationally on issues of cultural proficiency, equity, Universal Design for Learning and the use of personal narratives. He is also the co-author with Dr. Katie Novak of the bestselling "Equity by Design: The Power and Promise of UDL". He is available to provide workshops, seminars and trainings on implicit bias, microaggressions, UDL, restorative practice, identity, courageous conversations about race, and personal narratives.

Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal serves on the United States House Judiciary Committee, where she is the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement and serves on the Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, the Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development and the Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions. (Video Message)

Prior to serving in elected office, Congresswoman Jayapal spent twenty years working internationally and domestically in global public health and development and as an award-winning national advocate for women's, immigrant, civil, and human rights. She spent almost a decade working on global health and development for the international nonprofit organization, Program for Appropriate Technology in Health (PATH), and spent 12 years as the founder and Executive Director of OneAmerica, the

largest immigrant advocacy organization in Washington State and one of the largest in the country. (Recorded Message)

Michelle Sorensen is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker working as a District Wellness Coordinator for the Richland School District. Michelle oversees the integration of School Based Mental Health Supports utilizing Interconnected Systems Framework. Michelle has worked as a School Social Worker for 20 years supporting students, families and community.

Carrie Suchy is a school psychologist in the Franklin-Pierce School District, and was named Washington State Educational Staff Associate (ESA) of the Year for 2021. Carrie has worked in multiple schools in the district and has shown exceptional dedication to supporting students, advancing her profession and advocating for public schools.

As an advocate for all school psychologists, Carrie was a founding member of the ESA Behavioral Health Coalition which brings together representatives from the professional organizations for all ESA groups. Having this powerful group of student supporters together has given the ESAs the power to win definition of their roles in state law and inclusion in the governor's budget proposals. Carrie also led the development and delivery of the first training customized for ESAs.

Therssa Warren has worked throughout her career with underserved youth, youth and families of color, and families impacted by trauma. Therssa currently works as a District School Social Worker and Foster Care Liaison for the Puyallup School district. Therssa's background has allowed her to work with youth and families in many capacities K-12, offering high levels of support for students and families, supporting those who have experienced mental health crises and providing intensive community support..

A few of the passions she shares is supporting students of color and students impacted by the foster care system. . Therssa has over 9 years as a social worker and 4 being a school social worker.

Nikki York With over 8 years of experience in social work, Nikki York is a professional known for her knowledge and expertise in school-based threat assessment. She has conducted and assisted with school-based threat assessments since 2015, demonstrating an understanding of risk evaluation and support strategies that keep students in school. After working for Seattle Public Schools, she most recently worked at OSPI until June 2024 leading school social workers and threat assessment at the

state level. Nikki currently works for UW SMART Center with the WSW Program.