



Hola: My name is Ainaka Luna. Sociologist, M.A. 2023 VT-NEA Human Rights Award. I was born in Colombia, lived in Australia and moved to VT. For 13 years I taught Spanish in public and private schools. Seating at the board of the Vermont Foreign Language Association now VOCALE I advocate for world languages and cultures teaching from an early age. Interpreting for the Latinx migrant farmworkers, I learned about the difficult journey of an overworked and underpaid community hidden under dairy labels. I promote Colombian culture through arts, education and dancing. As a DEI coach, I use my voice to advocate for social justice and a culture of respect where all members, identities, and stories safely coexist free of discrimination and diversity is a strength, not an obstacle.

In the USA, Multiracial marriage was approved in 1967 by the Supreme Court. Many parents, grandparents and adults around our children were born or grew up during segregation. We are raising a new generation of multiracial, gender fluid, post-pandemia internet savvy, technology native children with access to unlimited instant information beyond their experience. In times where messages of war and hate spread with a click, our job as educators is to inspire critical thinking and cultural humility, guide our students in their journey in the rapidly changing and diverse world around them physically, virtually, and beyond Vermont, and to protect human rights through respect to all around us. Everyday, our students interact with identities from diverse families and backgrounds. As a community, we learn from each other and grow together.

CVSD commitment to equity is reflected in the CVSD [Equity Policy](#), [Equity Audit](#), the recently approved [Transgender and Nonbinary Students policy](#), and the permanent revision of practices and policies. The DEI team does this work through professional development, supporting educators, students, families, and initiatives addressing social justice, and collaborating across schools and district systems. See the [CVSD DEI Share Vision](#). Our path to equity starts recognizing the diversity of our community. The DEI Virtual Town Hall evolved to in person Diversity Events dedicated to celebrating our differences and weaving our stories together. On

November 10th we will have our first in person community event in CVU. Visit the [DEI website](#) for more information. All are welcome.