

Morning Workshop A: This session invites early educators to reflect on how their perceptions influence the experiences of boys of color, especially Black boys. Participants will practice reframing narratives and explore strategies to create safe, affirming learning environments where Black boys can thrive.

“Early educators are uniquely positioned to influence positive change.... Developing race consciousness is courageous work that requires passion, persistence, and dedication.” – Tony Thurmond, California State Superintendent of Public Instruction

Facilitator’s Bio: Andrea Burnett is the Coordinator of P-3 Quality Improvement Initiatives at the San Mateo County Office of Education. With over 30 years of early education, she has dedicated her career to advancing equity, quality, and inclusion for young learners and their families. Andrea is a dynamic presenter, trainer, and coach, passionate about closing opportunity gaps and strengthening early learning systems.

Morning Workshop B: Understanding ACEs and Creating Safe Spaces to Learn in Your Classroom. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are potentially traumatic events such as abuse, neglect, or household dysfunction occurring before the age of 18. When children experience multiple ACEs without the buffering support of safe, stable, and caring relationships, this can trigger a “toxic stress” response that disrupts brain development, immune function, and overall health. To learn more before or after the workshop visit the [ACEs Aware Learning Center](#).

Facilitator’s Bio: Susan Andrien, LMFT is a licensed psychotherapist and founder of Hope Reimagined, an organization dedicated to advancing trauma-informed, healing-centered practices in schools and communities. With more than 25 years of experience, Susan has partnered closely with educators and systems leaders to create relationally rich, equity-focused learning environments. She has collaborated with the California Surgeon General’s office to expand awareness of ACEs and toxic stress and serves as faculty with organizations training the next generation of trauma-informed practitioners.

Afternoon Workshop A: Somatic Regulation for Educators Working With Students Impacted by Trauma. Somatic Regulation is a therapeutic approach that focuses on the connection between the mind and body, recognizing that trauma and stress are often stored physically as well as emotionally. Through body-based practices such as breathwork, movement, grounding, and awareness exercises, somatic healing helps release tension, regulate the nervous system, and restore a sense of safety and balance.

Facilitators Bio: Susan Andrien, see above

Afternoon Workshop B: Literacy is one of the most important equity issues we face as a nation. In 2022, only a third of 4th and 8th grade students scored at or above proficiency in reading, according to the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). There are many educators working to support our students in their right to read, but our current efforts

often focus too narrowly on foundational skills, without considering readers as whole learners. At the Center for Whole-Child Education, we collaborate with educators, districts, and partner organizations to address literacy through a whole-child lens, so all of our students can become empowered readers. Join us to learn how to apply a whole-child lens to literacy in your context!

Facilitators Bio: Gretchen Livesey is the Director of Partner Impact at the *Center for Whole-Child Education*, part of Arizona State University's Mary Lou Fulton College for Teaching and Learning Innovation. Based in Santa Cruz, California, she partners with educators across systems to advance equitable whole-child thriving. Previously, as Linked Learning Director for Oakland Unified School District, she led the district's high school redesign blueprint, securing ten years of public funding to improve student outcomes. Over her 34-year career as teacher, coach, and leader, Gretchen has remained focused on creating the conditions every student and educator needs to thrive.