

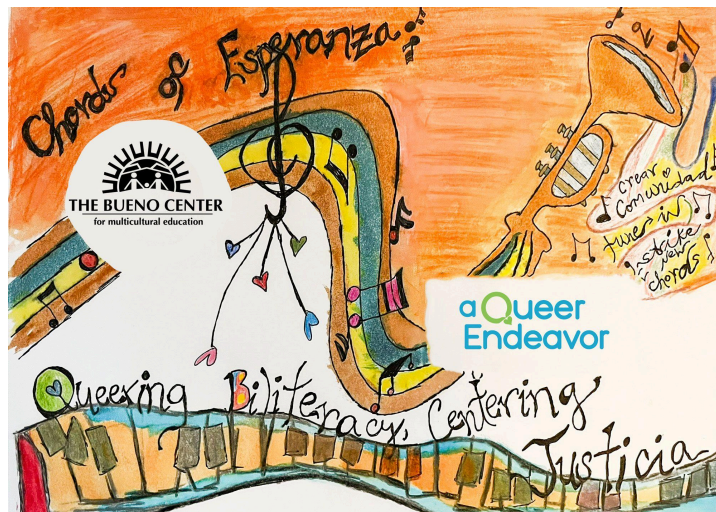
## ***Chords of Esperanza: Queering Biliteracy, Centering Justicia*** **Invitation for Presentations**

Dear colleagues,

Con mucho respeto y entusiasmo, we invite you to help shape our inaugural summer institute as the University of Colorado Boulder's BUENO Center and A Queer Endeavor come together to host *Chords of Esperanza: Queering Biliteracy, Centering Justicia*.

While the commitments of BUENO and AQE center different populations, those populations, along with many communities *minorizadx*s by race, gender, social class, sexuality, dis/ability, language, immigration status, geography and their intersections<sup>1</sup> are currently experiencing similar attacks via outright violence, significant funding cuts, and pervasive and dangerous rhetoric in social and popular media. Increasingly, laws and policies are prohibiting educators from attending to the unique needs of BIPOC, LGBTQ+, multilingual, and undocumented students. Educators must navigate complex contexts as their students' identities are politicized and their roles as trusted, supportive adults are challenged. AQE and BUENO want to support those educators, prioritize their needs, *crear comunidad*, and learn *juntxs* how to navigate these unprecedented times – and we want to work alongside you to bring this Institute to life.

*Chords of Esperanza* is a gathering for educators, scholars, community leaders, and youth-serving adults – both refuge and rally – that brings together different movements and traditions to create something stronger, more resonant, and more durable than any single note can strike. We will bridge bilingual education, immigrant and newcomer justice, and queer pedagogy to ask and answer the questions *How can we orchestrate sinfonías nuevas of solidarity in education? What new chords can we create by coming together?* Our commitment is to amplify the rich histories of communities with such wealth, such soul, such knowledge, all of which—we believe—can heal us and move us toward collective action for educational justice, to amplify the songs of their histories and brilliance, to bring us together and to dance to the music of our ancestors.



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<sup>1</sup> There is no getting around the conundrum of lists, of enumeration. While helpful, it also creates boundaries and binaries we all agree are *unhelpful*. Think with us about how to do this differently. Join us as we move toward a better way.

Our goals, so far, include: (1) curating an experience that brings together the commitments of AQE and BUENO of intersectional movement building; (2) supporting educators who are committed to supporting LGBTQ+ and culturally and linguistically diverse students and families; (3) challenging participants and presenters to engage in justice-centered intersectional work, beyond singular areas of expertise; (4) convening diverse educators from across Colorado and beyond in a community of healing, connection, rest, and collective action; (5) building a sustained partnership between AQE and BUENO, modeling collaboration and multiplying impact across schools and communities.

Across the country, *educadores, estudiantes, y comunidades* are enduring attacks on bilingual education, inclusive curriculum efforts, restrictions on queer visibility, and policies that criminalize trans, genderqueer, immigrant and newcomer students and families. Yet, schools remain powerful sites where, every day, educators cultivate *esperanza*, build solidarities, center *cariño*, craft futures, and honor all students for who they are. We know this work is currently under threat, but we don't have to endure it alone and together, we can rally! *¡Sí se puede!*

In the spirit of shared purpose and care, we're extending a personal *invitación* for you to serve as a presenter at this Institute. Because we are curating a cohesive, collaborative experience, sessions are invite-based this year. We would be honored to have you join us and bring your voice, vision and *creatividad* to our Institute!

Con respeto,  
BUENO & A Queer Endeavor teams

Details for Submitting a Presentation
<b><i>Chords of Esperanza: Queering Biliteracy, Centering Justicia</i></b> Co-hosted by the BUENO Center and A Queer Endeavor
<b>Date:</b> July 15th and July 16th, 8:00-4:00 pm
<b>Location:</b> Denver Montessori Junior/Senior High School ( <i>tentative</i> )
<b>How to Submit:</b> Fill out <a href="#">this form</a> .
<b>Deadline:</b> February 1, 2026

## What we're looking for:

We seek presentations that offer new visions of education research, practice, outreach, partnership, and collaboration. In particular, we invite presenters and session leaders to engage with historical pasts and imagined futures, leveraging intergenerational and trans-disciplinary knowledges to meet the current challenges, and opportunities, faced by educators and youth-serving adults in this moment. How can we foster dialogue across backgrounds, lived experiences, disciplines, geographies, and areas of expertise? How can such dialogue support the process of envisioning, exploring, and creatively designing for most just futures? Consistent with the Institute theme, *Chords of Esperanza: Queering Biliteracy, Centering Justicia*, our hope is that sessions will be designed with intersectional commitments and engagement in mind.

Because we have unique goals and visions for this Institute, we request that sessions include the following:

1. A demonstrated alignment with the theme of the Institute. This should be clear not only in the content of the session, but also in the modality that you choose.
2. Collaboration with colleagues and/or ideas outside of your specific expertise.

Here are some examples:

- If your focus is on undocumented families, you might partner with a colleague who studies LGBTQ+ youth and their relationships with their families of origin to create a session that brings these together.
- An AVID program coordinator might partner with a Queer-Straight Alliance sponsor to consider inclusive and supportive pedagogies for their students
- A youth-serving adult from a large-city context might join with educators in a rural context to create a panel of youth discussing their hopes for support in this moment
- Working with a colleague across policy contexts to bring together conversations about policies that target trans students and policies that target bilingual education
- Investigating the lived realities of queer and trans immigrants in the U.S. within the context of present-day structures of oppression.

**We will be hosting in-person and virtual pre-conference workshops for all presenters. Those dates will be finalized and sent out in the spring.**

Below, we share some starting-place ideas from our team to launch your thinking. We invite you to riff off of and remix these in whatever ways feel generative!

Themes	Topics/Ideas
Partnership/ Solidarity	<b>Community Service &amp; Organizing</b> Sessions that inform about, or create spaces for, engaging in community service or advocacy, including mutual aid projects or writing letters to editors/politicians.
	<b>Community Partnerships</b>

	Partnering with public institutions, organizations, or communities (e.g. public libraries) in order to engage with current and historical issues (such as censorship).
	<b>Laws &amp; Policies</b> These sessions support participants in understanding local and national laws and policies, as well as the implications and opportunities for their practice.
Pedagogy	<b>Curriculum Remixes</b> Educators bring lessons and collaboratively work toward applying principles of queer and/or culturally sustaining and/or translanguaging pedagogies to make more queer, multilingual, and immigrant-affirming activities.
	<b>Transformative Pedagogies</b> Introduce practical pedagogy and curriculum ideas, including strategies for differentiating, scaffolding, and gamifying a topic.
	<b>Unpacking “Problems of Practice”</b> Offer spaces to engage in learning communities around unpacking problems of practice.
	<b>Panel Discussions</b> Panel discussions with school leaders, great teachers, community leaders, etc.
Creation & Community	<b>Creative Engagement &amp; Crafting</b> These are sessions, workshops, or spaces where attendees get to engage creatively around justice and solidarity themes. This can include collective storytelling, art, writing, or other forms of creation.
	<b>Mapping &amp; Interactive Drawing</b> Guide attendees in creating maps (visual or otherwise) around identities and ideas in non-linear and exploratory ways.
	<b>Cultivating Mindfulness</b> Includes opportunities for developing and/or engaging in mindfulness strategies, including meditation and breathing techniques.
	<b>Being in Community</b> Fostering spaces and practices for being in community with others through cooking, meal sharing, gardening, or engaging in other activities outside.