



## Breakout Sessions and Presenters

### WRITE on RACE to be RIGHT on RACE™

As our society continues to struggle with race relations, the refrain most often heard is, “we have to talk to one another.” This typically leads to one-time, one-sided events with short-lived and minimal impact. We stay in a cycle of anger, blame, misunderstandings, and miscommunications. While there could be a myriad of ways to genuinely approach these conversations, and begin to dismantle the issues of race, racism, and white privilege, it is difficult and takes commitment. The praxis of personal healing and collective responsibility are critical components to having cross racial conversations that create empathy and develop deep relations that spur individuals and communities to action. In this session you will learn about WRITE on RACE to be RIGHT on RACE™ a one-of-a-kind, first-in-the-nation initiative that has accomplished this very thing - developing deep cross racial relationships with a commitment to action.

#### Presenter: Stacy Wells



**Stacy Wells** is a dedicated educator and equity thought leader with a variety of professional experiences, including leadership in the public and private sector, K-12 teacher and district wide administrator, higher education faculty, and consultant. She has over twenty years of training and facilitation experience. Her areas of specialty include leadership development and coaching embedded in cultural competence, organizational alignment with DEI strategies, community development to advance racial justice, and teacher preparation.

Stacy is the co-author of the WRITE on RACE to be RIGHT on RACE Resource Journaling Guide and process. She is also the co-founder of Love & Struggle, LLC., a consulting collaborative that offers a variety of services to assist organizations in embedding equity and creating racially just environments. She is currently the Director of Communications for Mankato Area Public Schools. Stacy earned her B.A. in Broadcast

Journalism from Drake University, and an M.A. in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of St. Thomas.

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## **Presenter: Bukata Hayes**



The most important thing about Bukata is that he is the son of Dia Damani and Karen Hayes, husband to Lisa and father to Damani, Jalen, Xavier, and Zuri. In addition to this, he recently became the first VP for Racial and Health Equity at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Prior to that, he served for 15 years as the Executive Director of the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, a non-profit, focused on diversity, inclusion and equity in Southern Minnesota since September, 2006.

In March 2020, he co-authored a book titled, WRITE on RACE to be RIGHT on RACE Resource Journaling Guide which is a self-study on race highlighting its many impacts on our communities. He is the co-founder of Love & Struggle, LLC., a consulting collaborative that offers a variety of services to assist organizations in embedding equity and creating racially just environments. He also co-hosts a local radio show and podcast called DEI: Engaged Exchanges which discusses issues with diversity, equity and inclusion with local and statewide leaders.

Bukata received his Bachelor's Degree in Exercise Physiology from the College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, Minnesota. He has membership and/or is on the board of numerous organizations such as the Mankato Chapter of the NAACP (Executive Committee), Martin Luther King Jr. Commemorative Board (President), Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation Board (Vice President) and the Blandin Foundation Board.

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