

APRIL 30, 2011



THE SECOND ANNUAL CAPITAL REGION  
**EQUITY SUMMIT**

POLICY, PEDAGOGY AND POWER IN CALIFORNIA'S SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES

*Join together with colleagues to learn about equity-based initiatives, ideas and possibilities.  
Develop a deeper understanding and an action agenda around key focus areas.*

**Saturday, April 30, 2011**

8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**UC Davis Conference Center**

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

Dear Community Partners,

The UC Davis School of Education CRESS Center is pleased to welcome you to the Second Annual Capital Region Equity Summit. The theme for this year's gathering is: Policy, Pedagogy, and Power in California's Schools and Communities.

To effect true and lasting change, we must engage our policymakers and focus on dismantling systems that promote and protect inequity. California has one of the highest drop-out rates in the country. The incarceration rate of youth in our state is racially disproportional and shameful. Hate crimes continue to surface in our communities and universities. As a beacon of diversity, California is failing. Our schools continue to struggle to effectively meet the needs of multicultural students and families.

The UC Davis School of Education CRESS Center is in a unique position to bring together stakeholders from the worlds of policy, schools, and communities in order to launch an action agenda for the Capital Region. We are committed to convening this annual summit to catalyze equity in our community and beyond.

Our schools are a crucible of sorts. Together, let's make them a place where young people begin to imagine and define their future, discover their rights, and assert their power to shape our world. We must work to focus our pedagogy on equity, building a new perspective in our citizenry about the promise of youth and the great responsibility we all share to nurture and encourage them to speak up for what they want and need from all of us.

Our goals for the day include:

- Sharing core principles of education equity through policy, pedagogy and power that can be adapted and modeled in local community-school partnerships
- Discussing common obstacles and successful strategies for overcoming issues of education inequities
- Learning about current initiatives that can foster best practices for school and community empowerment.

Thank you for your commitment to equity and for joining with us today. If you have the opportunity, please introduce yourself to a member of the planning committee and thank our co-sponsors for their partnership and support.

Sincerely,

Mary Sandy, Executive Director, CRESS Center

Dr. Vajra Watson, Director of Research and Policy for Equity, CRESS Center

The 2011 Planning Committee:

Marlene Bell  
Dr. Ronda Adams  
Stephanie Au  
Dr. Nancy Erbstein  
Sandy Holman

Dr. Michele Hamilton  
Donna Justice  
Leslie Lipman  
Dr. Jonathan London  
Kindra Montgomery-Block

Renee Newton  
John Roina  
Anita Royston  
Vickie Gomez  
Dr. Kadhira Rajagopal

Graciela Torres  
Pam Mari  
Dianne Ross  
Wendy Gallimore  
Zenae Scott  
Daniel Tkach

**UC DAVIS**  
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**UC DAVIS**  
CENTER FOR REGIONAL CHANGE

CALIFORNIA  
TEACHERS  
ASSOCIATION



**Davis Joint Unified  
School District**



**SIERRA HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
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**UC DAVIS**  
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# Agenda

- 8:00–9:00 **Registration and Light Breakfast**
- 9:00–9:30 **Welcome and Opening**  
**Dr. Vajra Watson**, Director of Research & Policy for Equity, UC Davis  
 School of Education CRESS Center  
**SAYS Griot: An Equitable Education is...**  
**Mary Sandy**, Executive Director, UC Davis School of Education CRESS Center  
**Dean Harold Levine**, UC Davis School of Education
- 9:30–10:15 **Keynote Address: Dr. Jeannie Oakes**  
*Educational Justice and the “College for All” Agenda*
- 10:15–10:25 Table Dialogue
- 10:25–10:50 Questions and Answers with Dr. Oakes
- 10:50–11:00 Closing of Morning Session
- 11:00–12:15 **Workshop 1**
- 12:20–12:55 Lunch (Outside Conference Center)  
 Book signing with Dr. Oakes in Conference Room A
- 1:00–2:15 **Workshop 2**
- 2:20–3:00 Moving Marginalized Youth to the Center of School Reform (Youth Panel)
- 3:00–3:15 Dialogue with Students
- 3:15–3:30 **Closing**  
*Upcoming Events*  
*Raffle Winners*  
*Featured Student Poet: Charday Adams*



## *Educational Justice and the “College for All” Agenda*



### **Dr. Jeannie Oakes**

Jeannie Oakes is director of Educational Opportunity and Scholarship Programs at the Ford Foundation. Her U.S. and global portfolio focuses on transforming the quality of secondary schools and helping students from poor and marginalized communities gain access to quality higher education. Until fall 2008, she was presidential professor in educational equity at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), Graduate School of Education and Information Studies. At UCLA, Dr. Oakes directed the Institute for Democracy, Education, and Access and the University of California’s All Campus Consortium on Research for Diversity. Her research addressed the impact of education policies on the opportunities and outcomes of low-income students of color. Dr. Oakes is the author of 20 scholarly books and monographs and more than 125 other publications. Her book *Keeping Track: How Schools Structure Inequality* (Yale University Press) was honored as one of the Twentieth Century’s most influential books on education. Her most recent book, edited with Marisa Saunders, is *Beyond Tracking: Multiple Pathways to College, Career, and Civic Participation* (Harvard Education Press).

Dr. Oakes received the 2001 Outstanding Book Award from the American Educational Research Association, the National Association for Multicultural Education’s Multicultural Research Award, and the Distinguished Achievement Award from the Educational Press Association of America. She is also the recipient of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference’s Ralph David Abernathy Award for Public Service and, most recently, the 2002 World Cultural Council’s José Vasconcelos World Award in Education. Dr. Oakes is a member of the National Academy of Education.

**Morning Workshops 11:00 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. (alphabetized by workshop title)**

Workshop & Presenter Information	Location
<b>Sergio Cuellar</b> - <i>The Campaign for Quality Education</i> - power -	Alumni Center: West Conference Room
<b>Dr. Kadhira Raja</b> - <i>Create Success: Unlocking Potential of Urban Youth</i> - pedagogy -	Alumni Center: AGR Hall
<b>Dr. Margarita Berta-Avila and Dr. Karie Mize</b> - <i>The Critical Pedagogy Framework: Discussing Arizona &amp; Other Hot Topics Through One's Curriculum</i> - pedagogy -	New Conference Center: Conference Room A
<b>Sammy Nuñez</b> - <i>Healing the Hood: Changing the Odds</i> - policy -	Alumni Center: Allewet Room
<b>Amaya Noguera and SAYS Poet-Mentor Educators</b> - <i>Know Your Writes: Hip-Hop Literacy, Leadership, and Empowerment</i> - power -	New Conference Center: Upstairs Conference Room
<b>Sandy Holman</b> - <i>Race, Reading, and Power to the People</i> - power -	Alumni Center: Founders Room
<b>Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding</b> - <i>Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Youth Serving Systems</i> - policy -	Hyatt Conference Room
<b>Stephanie Francis and Edith Crawford</b> - <i>Using extraORDINARY Stories to Inspire and Empower Students</i> - pedagogy -	New Conference Center: Conference Room B

**Afternoon Workshops 1:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.**

Workshop & Presenter Information	Location
<b>Dr. Viki Montera</b> - <i>Democratic Assessment as Advocacy</i> - policy -	New Conference Center: Conference Room A
<b>Dr. Jann Murray Garcia and Vajra Watson, EdD</b> - <i>Education as a Matter of Life or Death: A Health Perspective on Schooling and Social Justice</i> - power -	Alumni Center: Allewet Room
<b>Cory Jones and Billy Aydlett</b> - <i>Equity Work at Jedediah Smith, a Superintendent's Priority School in the Sacramento City Unified School District</i> - pedagogy -	Alumni Center: Founders Room
<b>Ashley Powers Clark</b> - <i>Images and Identities: Examining Educational Opportunities for Immigrant and Refugee Youth through Participatory Photography</i> - policy -	Alumni Center: West Conference Room
<b>Chuck Mendoza</b> - <i>Organizing in Communities of Color</i> - power -	New Conference Center: Conference Room B
<b>Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding</b> - <i>Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Youth Serving Systems</i> - policy -	Hyatt Conference Room
<b>Dr. Lisa William-White</b> - <i>Spoken Word Poetry as Radical "Literocratic" Research in the Academy</i> - power -	Alumni Center: AGR Hall

# Morning Workshops

## ***The Campaign for Quality Education***

Location: Alumni Center, West Conference Room

Sergio Cuellar, Statewide Campaign Director, Californians for Justice

This workshop will introduce the Campaign for Quality Education (a statewide coalition of organizations advocating for a high quality education for all students in California), discuss current issues and trends in education policy, and inform participants of opportunities and strategies to engage their community in state-level policy advocacy.

## ***Create Success: Unlocking Potential of Urban Youth***

Location: Alumni Center, AGR Hall

Dr. Kadhira Raja, Teacher, Grant High School

In 2009, below grade level students in a math class at Grant High School outperformed students across the state on the statewide California Standards math exam and closed the achievement gap in terms of race and income. What was the secret? Think C.R.E.A.T.E.! C.R.E.A.T.E. is the instructional model that Dr. Kadhira Rajagopal has used to uplift hundreds of inner city African American and Latino students from a history of failure to consistent success. The success story of the students through the C.R.E.A.T.E. instructional model has been recognized at the state and national level and also captured in a recently published book: *Create Success! Unlocking the Potential of Urban Students*. This model can help any teacher of any subject area to unleash the potential of his or her students. In this workshop, Dr. Raja, 2011 California Teacher of the Year, will share the magic of C.R.E.A.T.E. with the audience through interactive discussions, dynamic demonstrations, and video. Finally, Dr. Raja's students themselves will share their stories of success and answer questions.

## ***The Critical Pedagogy Framework: Discussing Arizona & Other Hot Topics Through One's Curriculum***

Location: Conference Center, Conference Room A

Dr. Margarita Berta-Avila, Associate Professor, Sacramento State University

Dr. Karie Mize, Associate Professor, Western Oregon University

In today's data-driven era of accountability, curricula should represent marginalized groups inside our schools. While

various forms of practices have contributed to changes, often the voices of communities most affected remain absent. An alternative approach, like participatory/critical pedagogy framework, provides space for students and teachers to share in the responsibility and the recognition of developing knowledge in a collaborative manner. This session will 1) share benefits and challenges of utilizing this approach in addressing current educational and social problems and 2) engage attendees in a dialogical activity that explores curriculum and how it serves to support our communities.

## ***Healing the Hood: Changing the Odds***

Location: Alumni Center, Allewet Room

Sammy Nuñez, Executive Director, Fathers & Families of San Joaquin

The presentation will apply race and gender as a filter to better understand the root causes and develop solutions for boys and men of color. Participants will learn practical ways that organizations and communities can build a stronger multicultural youth movement to promote youth empowerment and social change focused on reducing societal violence by effectively incorporating boys and young men into the community-building process.

## ***Know Your Writes: Hip-Hop Literacy, Leadership, and Empowerment***

Location: Conference Center, Upstairs Conference Room

Amaya Noguera, SAYS Coordinator, UC Davis, and SAYS Poet Mentor Educators

In this workshop, SAYS staff and poet-mentor educators will lead you through an interactive workshop that links together school discipline practices, policies, and procedures with the larger juvenile justice system. We will critique the school-to-prison pipeline as well as offer teachers new tools for reaching and teaching today's students to address this educational crisis. At SAYS, engagement and leadership development are a critical part of our prevention, pedagogy, and classroom strategies. Altogether, we create a platform for social justice both inside and outside the walls of schools.

**Race, Reading, and Power to the People**

Location: Alumni Center, Founders Room

Sandy Holman, M.S., Director, The Culture C.O.- O.P.

The role of “race” in educational success is still a taboo subject. Yet “racialized” expectations, a student’s ability to read, along with quality of culturally competent teachers and leadership, are huge determinants of student success. This workshop will examine how the aforementioned factors, combined with racialized, historical, and institutionalized practices, perpetuate what is called the “Achievement Gap.” We will examine why most current efforts to improve student achievement, particularly among students of color, are failing to make significant progress nationally. Our own roles in inadvertently maintaining the status quo in our schools and community, to the detriment of vulnerable groups in society, will also be briefly examined.

**Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Youth Serving Systems**

Location: Hyatt Conference Room

Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding, Chair of the

Department and a Professor of Women’s and Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University

Dr. Cameron-Wedding will discuss how stereotyping, implicit bias and colorblindness can influence decision-making and result in patterns of discrimination in child welfare (and across all youth-serving systems including juvenile justice and education). Much of the bias that occurs in child welfare is unintentional. Even people who believe they treat everyone the same can discriminate in subtle but consequential ways. Bias reflected in language, attitudes and actions however slight can affect the application and interpretation of policies and procedures that contribute to racial disproportionality and disparities.

**Using extraORDINARY Stories to Inspire and Empower Students**

Location: Conference Center, Conference Room B

Stephanie Francis, Institute for Advancing Unity (IAU)  
Edith Crawford, Institute for Advancing Unity (IAU)

Innovative educators need cutting edge material to engage their students. IAU staff will showcase publicly

available teaching tools designed to empower youth to discover their unique voices and work together to foster justice and harmony (e.g., videos, interactive games, and standards based curriculum available via the *championsofunity.org* website). Presenters will highlight the extraORDINARY People series—short videos of diverse youth and adults who have made a positive difference using nonviolent tools for social change. The stories highlight a number of diverse social issues including LGBT-straight student relations, environmental justice, and bullying, and demonstrate how the individuals took nonviolent action through expression, protest, organizing, forgiveness, advocacy, embracing culture, and volunteerism. Join the Institute for Advancing Unity in exploring how you can integrate these compelling standards-based resources into an equity-inspired curriculum.

**Resources and Recommended Reading From the Workshop Presenters**

*And What Do You Mean By Learning* – Seymour Sarason

*The Art of Critical Pedagogy* – Duncan-Andrade and Morrell

*Beats, Rhymes and Classroom Life* – Marc Lamont Hill

*Be the Hero You’ve Been Waiting For* – Yvonne and Rich Durtra-St. John

*Beyond the Bake Sale* – Henderson and Mapp

*The Color of Wealth* – Meizhu Lui

*Courageous Conversations about Race* – Glenn Singleton and Curtis Linton

*Create Success* – Dr. Kadhira Rajagopal

# Afternoon Workshops

## ***Democratic Assessment as Advocacy***

Location: Conference Center, Conference Room B

Dr. Viki Montera, Assistant Professor, Sonoma State University

Assessment has become synonymous with testing. However, educators recognize it as far more than that. Principles of learning and democracy guided the development of an alternative assessment process at one progressive K-8 school. This session describes an action research project that sought to assess students' learning in action. This offered families and community members a deeper look at the learning process. The activities advocated a democratic student-centered view of learning and assessment by involving focus groups of families, students, educators, and community members, thus illustrating an assessment process that moves beyond the numbers.

## ***Education as a Matter of Life or Death: A Health Perspective on Schooling and Social Justice***

Location: Alumni Center, Alletwet Room

Dr. Jann Murray-Garcia, Consulting Professor, Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, UC Davis  
 Dr. Vajra Watson, Director of Research & Policy for Equity, UC Davis School of Education, CRESS Center

We define Institutional Trauma (IT) as the emotional and psychological violence and disruption done to a child/adolescent's sense of self at the hands of the very entities funded and mandated to protect, teach, and otherwise serve them. How does this injury happen and manifest itself in the daily lives of students? How can your classroom be a site of radical healing? Come explore these issues with a K-12 educator and a pediatrician in this interactive forum.

## ***Equity Work at Jedediah Smith, a Superintendent's Priority School in the Sacramento City Unified School District***

Location: Alumni Center, Founders Room

Cory Jones, Assistant Principal, Jedediah Smith Elementary and Billy Aydlett

Jedediah Smith Elementary School was selected in 2010 to be one of five Superintendent's Priority Schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District. This presentation will review the redesign initiatives of the school and how race and equity work is central to the changes sought by the school's leadership.

The five main topics to be covered will be:

1. The Priority School Initiative In Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD)
2. The Historical/Cultural Perspective of Jedediah Smith Elementary in SCUSD
3. The Redesign Plan for Jedediah Smith: The Lens of Equity
4. Implementation of Equity Work at Jed Smith: Year One.
5. Future Plans for Equity Work/Reflections of Redesign Efforts.

## ***Images and Identities: Examining Educational Opportunities for Immigrant and Refugee Youth through Participatory Photography***

Location: Alumni Center, West Conference Room

Ashley Powers Clark, Graduate Student, UC Davis

This study investigates how adolescent immigrant and refugee youth negotiate their national, political, and social identities. It aims to understand how political, historical, and social processes affect perceptions of self and opportunities for the future. Refugee and immigrant represent two distinctly different political identities. Legislatively, refugees have access to resources such as a pathway to citizenship and support from community-based organizations that other immigrants may not have. Drawing on theories of identity politics, this study compares the resettlement experiences of refugee youth from the former Soviet Union to the experiences of Mexican immigrant youth through their participation in after-school participatory photography workshops.



**Organizing in Communities of Color**

Location: Conference Center, Conference Room B

Donnell Jordan, Community Outreach/Human Rights  
Regional UniServ Staff, California Teachers Association  
(CTA)

On behalf of the CTA, the Community Outreach Department will focus this workshop on equity issues. The workshop will attempt to focus the participants on two major issues: (1) The importance of communities of color becoming more active in support of their local schools. This entails practical ideas that participants can use to collaborate with the school and staff and (2) Understanding the realities of the present budget crisis and political landscape.

**Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Youth Serving Systems**

Location: Hyatt Conference Room

Dr. Rita Cameron-Wedding, Department and a Professor of Women’s and Ethnic Studies at Sacramento State University

Dr. Cameron-Wedding will discuss how stereotyping, implicit bias and colorblindness can influence decision-making and result in patterns of discrimination in child welfare (and across all youth-serving systems including juvenile justice and education). Much of the bias that occurs in child welfare is unintentional. Even people who believe they treat everyone the same can discriminate in subtle but consequential ways. Bias reflected in language, attitudes and actions however slight can affect the application and interpretation of policies and procedures that contribute to racial disproportionality and disparities.

**Spoken Word Poetry as Radical “Literocratic” Research in the Academy**

Location: Alumni Center, AGR Hall

Dr. Lisa William-White, Associate Professor, Sacramento State University

Merging the social sciences and the humanities – blending narrative, radical performance text and popular culture, the power of Spoken Word moves qualitative research methodologies forward to include the voices of a new generation of scholars. This workshop is intended to push the boundaries for envisioning the possibilities of storytelling as research, while demonstrating, in form and

content, the possibility of Spoken Word as a radical, “literocratic” research practice for 21st century scholars: those who wish to de-marginalize local and cultural epistemologies.

**Resources and Recommended Reading From the Workshop Presenters Continued**

*The Critical Pedagogy Reader* – Antonia Darder

*Ethnic America* – Rita Cameron-Wedding

*Keeping Track* – Jeannie Oaks

*Funds of Knowledge* – Norma Gonzales

*Grandpa, Is Everything Black Bad* – Sandy Holman

*Growing Up Bilingual* – Ana Celia Zentella

*Institutions, Ideologies and Individuals* – Rita Cameron-Wedding

*March Students* – Julie Figueroa

*Other People’s Children* – Lisa Delpit

*Pedagogy of the Oppressed* – Paulo Freire

*The Politics of Survival in the Academy* – Lila Jacobs

*Street Soldiers* – Joseph Marshall

*The Power of Mindful Learning* – Ellen Langer

*Teaching to Change the World* – Jeannie Oaks

*Women Without Class* – Julie Bettie

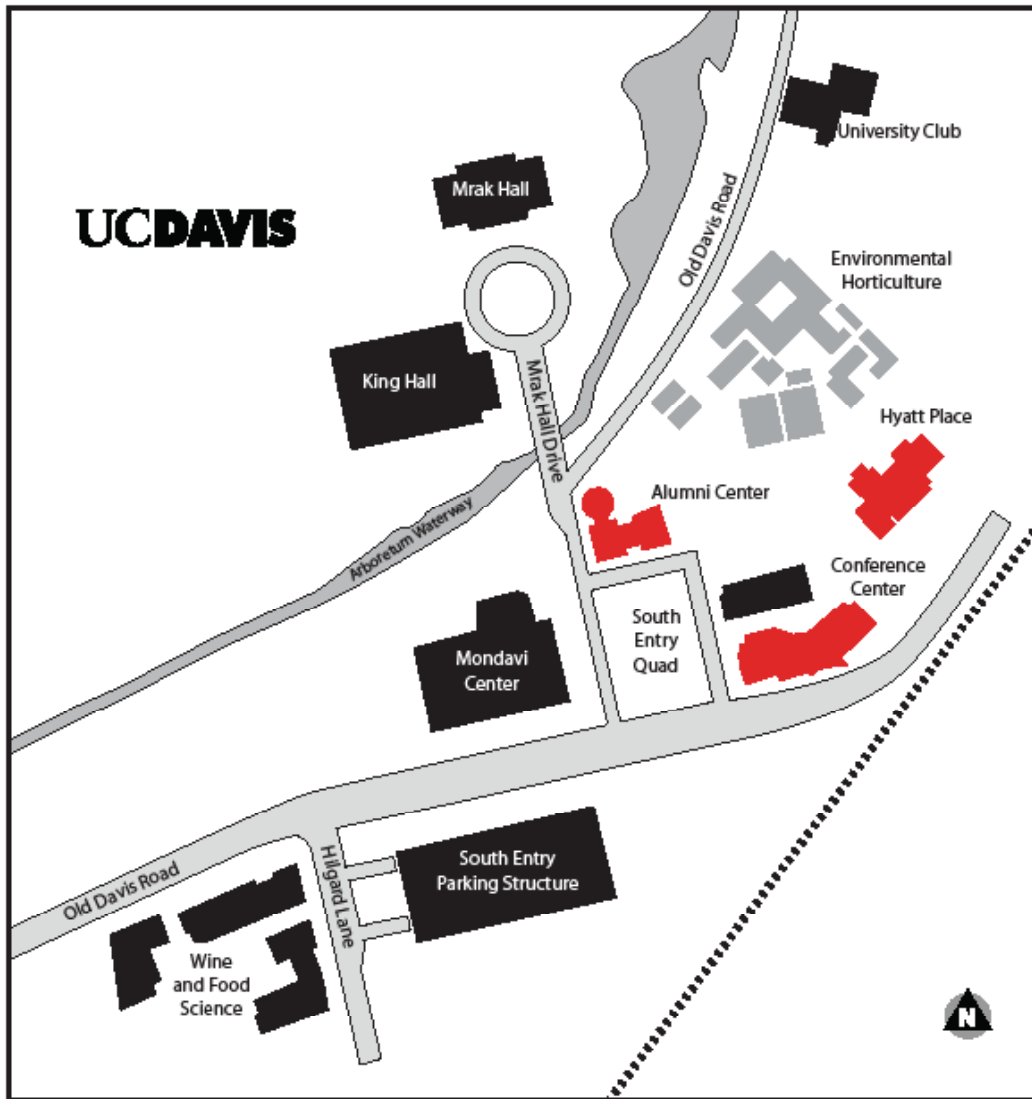
*Writing in Rhythm* – Maisha Fisher





# Equity Summit Map

(All workshops are within a 1 minute walking distance.)



## Morning Breakout Sessions:

Race, Reading, and Power to the People: Holman..... Alumni Center, Founders Room  
 The Campaign for Quality Education: Cuellar.....Alumni Center, West Conference Room  
 Healing the Hood: Nunez.....Alumni Center, Allewelt Room  
 Create Success: Raja..... Alumni Center, AGR Hall  
 The Critical Pedagogy Framework: Berta-Avila/Mize..... Conference Center, Conference Room A  
 Using extraORDINARY Stories to Inspire: Francis/Crawford..... Conference Center, Conference Room B  
 Know Your Writes: Noguera.....Conference Center, Upstairs Conference Room  
 Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Youth Serving Systems: Cameron-Wedding ..... Hyatt Conference Room

## Afternoon Breakout Sessions:

Equity Work at Jedediah Smith: Jones/Aydeltt ..... Alumni Center, Founders Room  
 Images and Identities: Clark .....Alumni Center, West Conference Room  
 Education as a Matter of Life or Death: Murray-Garcia/Watson.....Alumni Center, Allewelt Room  
 Democratic Assessment as Advocacy: Montera..... Conference Center, Conference Room A  
 Organizing in Communities of Color: Mendoza..... Conference Center, Conference Room B  
 Bias: Impact on Decision-Makers in Youth Serving Systems: Cameron-Wedding ..... Hyatt Conference Room