



**Annual Conference**  
**February 24, 2024**

**igniting the  
power within:  
nurturing  
unity and  
compassion  
in education**

**Utah Cultural Celebration Center**  
**1344 W 3100 S**  
**West Valley City, UT**

**[www.utahname.org](http://www.utahname.org)**



# Welcome!



[www.utahname.org](http://www.utahname.org)

Welcome to the 2024 Utah Chapter of the National Association for Multicultural Education (UT NAME) annual state conference. With great excitement, I welcome you to this year's conference - *Igniting the Power Within: Nurturing Unity and Compassion in Education*. The UT NAME Board and 2024 Conference Committee have prepared a conference for you that embraces the diversity, equity, and inclusion work you embrace as UT educators.

In 2024, we face a barrage of challenges in pre-K through higher education classrooms that could be divisive. However, educators such as you show compassion and dedication to unity and creating space within your classrooms where all students feel they belong.

Your passion and commitment to multicultural education and how you nurture students' ever-growing minds are sparking change. The very change needed to ignite a transformation and unification of students. Students in your classrooms today are tomorrow's leaders. These leaders will ignite a conflagration of change and embrace a society of diversity and inclusion.

May you each take something from this conference that energizes your commitment to multicultural education and fosters growth within you and your students. Thank you for coming to the UT NAME 2024 Conference and continuing to pursue life-long learning and dedication to integrating diversity, equity, and inclusion in your classrooms.

Sincerely,  
Courtney K. Clausen  
Chair, 2024 Utah NAME Conference Committee



# Schedule of Events



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- 8:30 am** Conference Welcome - Great Hall  
Courtney Clausen & Mia Kang
- 8:45 am** Opening Ceremonies - Great Hall  
Conner Bonlon
- 9:45 am** Panel Discussion - Great Hall  
Moderator: Lissette Blanchard, Counselor, Provo School District  
Panelist: Angela Belle, Counselor, Alpine School District  
Panelist: Brandt Haberman, Jordan School District  
Panelist: Delanie Wu, Jordan School District
- 10:45 am** Breakout Session #1
- 11:45 am** Lunch + Award Winners + Entertainment - Great Hall  
Conlon Bonner
- 12:45 pm** Breakout Session #2  
**1:45 pm** Breakout Session #3
- 2:45 pm** Endnote Address - Great Hall  
*Teaching On The Hardest Edges Of Love*  
MJ Kraus, Omaha Public Schools
- 3:45 pm** Closing Remarks
- 4:00 pm** UT Name Business Meeting



# Endnote Session

02.24.2024 | 2:45 - 3:45 PM



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## Teaching On The Hardest Edges of Love

We care so much, but how much can we hold? How do we deepen our capacity for connection to better serve our kids? Join MJ, a former teacher, university professor, and now school counselor to identify strategies for bringing more compassion and unity to your classrooms and why it matters.

*MJ Kraus is an engaging school counselor from Omaha, NE; her main priority as a counselor is to facilitate student success in the classroom and help students become lifelong learners. She has is committed to providing empathy and facilitating growth for all students. She is a strong advocate for shame resilient classrooms, and she believes vulnerability and courage are essential elements to building true community and authentic relationships.*

## Exemplary Educator for Diversity Lorena Jiménez



Ms. Jiménez is a 3rd grade teacher at the Edith Bowen Laboratory School. She is from Aguascalientes, Mexico, and truly loves her Mexican heritage. She loves sharing her culture and language in all ways possible. She grew up in rural Idaho and has lived in the states since the age of four. She attended Utah State University as a first-generation college student and loves being an Aggie! She loves learning and teaching and has taught 4th and 5th grades in traditional and Spanish Dual Immersion settings.



# 2024 Essay Contest Winners

## Grades 6-9

### First Place

*Igniting The Power Within*

by Clark Skousen

Edith Bowen Lab School

## Grades 10-12

### First Place

*Positive Change*

by Christopher "CJ" King

Independence High School

### Second Place

*The Essence of Edith Bowen*

by Serene Park

Edith Bowen Lab School

### Second Place

*Untitled*

by Lachlan Murray

Ridgeline High School

## With special thanks...

- Mia Kang, UT NAME President
- Andrew Goodman, Conference Co-Organizer
- Rozanna Sagg, Vendors
- Gwen Creek-Ericson, Proposal/Essay Review
- Daphne Davis, Essay Review
- Belinda Talonia, Essay Review
- Conlon Bonner, Master of Ceremonies
- Charlene Lui, George Miller donation
- Utah Cultural Celebration Center
- Tom Roche, Cultural Celebration Center
- The Baygo Collection - Las Vegas Vacation Rentals, Swag Bags

## Vendors

- Zinn Education Project
- American Indian Services
- Utah Valley University
- Cultivate Consultancy
- Southern Utah University
- Native Arts and Crafts



# About Utah NAME...

Utah NAME, Utah Chapter of the National Association of Multicultural Education, has been organized to operate exclusively for charitable, benevolent, scientific, literary, cultural, and educational purposes, including but not limited to: advancing a philosophy of inclusion that embraces the basic tenets of cultural pluralism; promoting cultural and ethnic diversity as a state-wide and national strength; fostering equity for all regardless of race, ethnicity, color, national origin, ancestry, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, socioeconomic status, marital status, language, disability, or immigration status; promoting professional and social exchanges between people from all academic disciplines and diverse educational institutions and occupations who advocate for multicultural education; and representing and addressing the needs of the multicultural education community.

# Our Mission...

The mission of Utah NAME is to promote and support education that is multicultural as a means of achieving full academic potential of every learner in Utah by:

- sharing knowledge and resources
- fostering an appreciation for diversity
- advocating for educational equity

The organization shall have, in furtherance of the aforesaid purposes, all of the powers conferred upon corporations pursuant to the provisions of Utah 503c Nonprofit Corporation Law and the laws governing NAME.



# Become A Member...

When you sign up as a member of the National Association for Multicultural Education (NAME), you automatically become a member of the Utah Chapter of NAME.

Benefits of Membership:

- Free subscription to NAME's quarterly journal, Multicultural Perspectives;
- Reduced registration for NAME's annual conference;
- Reduce registration for Utah NAME's annual conference;
- Opportunity to participate in state and local chapters, regional affiliates, and national committees;
- Participation in the election of officers, board of directors, and regional directors.

## Board Members

Mia Kang, President  
Courtney Clausen, President-Elect  
Lissette Blanchard, Treasurer

At-Large Members:

Conlon Bonner  
Gwen Creek Erickson  
Andrew Goodman  
Mike Patch  
Jackie Thompson  
Gabriela Ulloa  
Bryan Waite

Charlene Lui, National NAME  
Executive Director

## Conference Committee

Courtney Clausen, Chair  
Lissette Blanchard  
Conlon Bonner  
Gwen Creek Erickson  
Daphne Davis  
Yemina Geroli  
Andrew Goodman  
Mia Kang  
Michelle Love-Day  
Bianca Mittendorf  
Rosie Morreale  
Eileen Quintana



# Utah Cultural Celebration Center

In 2003, the Utah Cultural Celebration Center (UCCC) was created to provide a place where people from all walks of life can come together and share ideas; inspire, nurture, and learn from one another; enjoy arts and cultural experiences; concerts and performing arts. It is also a place for businesses, individuals and other groups to gather for conferences, seminars, ceremonies, and other special events.

In 2012, the Utah Cultural Celebration Center Foundation was created to support the work of the West Valley City Division of Arts and Culture through programming that included art exhibits, concerts, and public education programs that were traditionally housed at the Utah Cultural Celebration Center.

In 2019, the board of directors made the decision to change the name of the Utah Cultural Celebration Center Foundation to the West Valley Arts and Cultural Foundation or West Valley Arts. For many years, the Utah Cultural Celebration Center has functioned as the primary facility to the Division of Arts and Culture providing events, arts programming, and arts educational opportunities for West Valley citizens and the greater Wasatch Front. Recently, we have grown to include the West Valley Performing Arts Theatre, and we have embarked on an exciting city-wide public arts program. The decision to change our name reflects our growth as an organization, desire to be more inclusive of our community, and better demonstrate our mission and purpose.





# Breakout Session #1

02.24.2024 | 10:45 - 11:35 AM



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## **Creating Space For Belonging: Addressing Displacement Through Native American Arts**

*Presenters: Brenda Beyal, Emily Soderborg, & Yvette May, Brigham Young University ARTS Partnership Native American Curriculum Initiative*

Arts can tell hard stories. Native American boarding schools created intergenerational trauma of displacement. Students today experience adversities such as divorce, domestic violence, bullying, racism, etc. which mimic the impact of displacement, and can leave them feeling lost, afraid, and hopeless. The Native American Curriculum Initiative embraces the restorative properties of the arts and provides opportunities to transform classrooms into healing spaces.

## **T'áá hwó ají t'é - It depends on me.**

*Presenters: Analyssa Allison & Natalie Billie, Nebo School District*

When Native American students are given opportunities to pursue academic and cultural interests, enthusiasm and a love for learning increase, we accomplish this through our program activities, such as grade monitoring, Leadership Day, and the annual Awards Ceremony. This results in higher academic achievement. This is the beginning of educational sovereignty.

## **Pathways of Social Impact: A Framework for Cultivating Student Interest, Agency, and Care for Social Impact**

*Presenter: Sean Crossland, Utah Valley University*

In this session, we will explore the Pathways of Social Impact framework - a model used by over 50 higher education institutions across the United States, including three Utah institutions, the Utah Commission on Service & Volunteerism, and various other organizations. The framework has been used in a range of student leadership programming and curriculum and is regarded as a valuable heuristic for students to examine their predispositions and interest in the ways in which social change happens.

**Main Level  
204**

**Main Level 205**

**Plaza Level  
Suite C**



# Breakout Session #1

02.24.2024 | 10:45 - 11:35 AM



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Plaza Level  
Suite D

## Using Structured Academic Controversy To Help Students Listen, Disagree, & Agree

*Presenters: Axel Ramirez & Kalani Eggington, Utah Valley University*

Those in this workshop will participate and learn how to conduct their own Structured Academic Controversy (SAC) for students in elementary, secondary, and higher education classrooms. This technique focuses on teaching controversial topics through a lens of understanding the other side (compassion) in order to reach consensus (unity) on an issue. This presentation is significant because it focuses on helping students learn how to listen, disagree, and agree in a positive way by using textual evidence. Today's SAC will focus on issues dealing with excavating Mayan archaeology sites but this strategy can be used in a variety of content areas with different topics.

Plaza Level  
Suite E

## Trans 101 Workshop

*Presenter: Erika-Danielle Lindstrom, Utah State University*

This workshop focuses on terminology, myths, gender affirmations, laws, and other key issues that impact the trans/non-binary community. Participants will learn about various obstacles trans students can experience while navigating higher education.

Plaza Level  
Ballroom B

## Say My Name, Say My Name

*Presenter: Raven Cromwell, Utah Valley University*

This interactive workshop will teach why it is important to use students' preferred names and to pronounce them correctly. Children's books, YouTube videos, and research will be shared with participants explaining why names are so important. Participants will complete an activity exploring their own names and reflecting on the power of names.

Plaza Level  
Ballroom C

## Creating Culturally Sustaining Classrooms for Multilingual Learners

*Presenter: Marilee Coles-Ritchie, Westminster University*

We all have the power within us to nurture unity and compassion for our Multilingual Learners (English Learners). In this session, we'll dive into specific ways to create a culturally sustaining classroom (CSC) specifically for MLs that also benefits all learners in your classroom. We will connect the key components of CSC to supports for MLs.



# Breakout Session #2

02.24.2024 | 12:45 - 1:35 PM



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**Main Level  
204**

## **Reflections On A Native American Language Immersion Program**

*Presenter: Virgil Johnson, Tooele County School District*

In this session, you will be learning about how an Immersion Program for Native American students in Tooele County School District integrates the Goshute Language into the school curriculum. In addition, the presenter will walk you through the different activities and learning methods that the students take part in within this language immersion program

**Main Level  
205**

## **The ACT and ELLs: Another Viewpoint**

*Presenter: Jonathan Blake Heaton, Cache County School District*

Standardized tests, including the ACT, are often considered problematic when it comes to English Language Learners (ELLs). While this is true, there are reasons and ways teachers can and should help ELLs achieve on the ACT. There are supports offered that may help students gain access to post-high school academic opportunity.

**Plaza Level  
Suite C**

## **Applying Emotional Savvy to Classroom Practice Using Teaching Cases**

*Presenters: Rachel Carlsruh & Laurel Dias, Utah Valley University*

In this interactive workshop participants will read and discuss teaching cases focused on the emotional aspects of teacher-student classroom interactions. Discussions will focus on the authenticity of the cases, and ways that teachers' and students' emotional savvy - understanding the nature of and responses to emotions - inspires inclusive and humane educational spaces.



# Breakout Session #2

02.24.2024 | 12:45 - 1:35 PM



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**Plaza Level  
Suite D**

## **How Pandemic Politics Paved the Way for Anti-DEI Legislation**

*Presenter: Brianne Kramer, Southern Utah University*

This presentation will discuss the historical aspects of curricular control such as book banning and policies that rejected equity measures in schools, and will provide a present-day framework that highlights how the pandemic and current legislative and policy efforts are intertwined.

**Plaza Level  
Suite E**

## **Undocumented and Queer: Supporting the Educational Dreams of Undocuqueer Youth In K-12 and Higher Education**

*Presenter: Sonny Partola & Beatriz Trejo, University of Utah*

This presentation explores sexuality and immigration status to illuminate the experiences of undocumented, queer—"undocuqueer"—students in the U.S. We analyze heteronormativity and illegality to better understand how anti-immigrant and anti-queer ideologies intersect to inform the experiences of undocuqueer youth. Through analyzing immigration status and sexuality, we propose future directions for supporting undocuqueer students.

**Plaza Level  
Ballroom B**

## **Empowering Pre-Service Teachers: Navigating Language Learning In Diverse Classrooms**

*Presenters: Kelsey Deklerk, Salt Lake Community College with Joshua Hall, Eric Lemmert, Marlene Rivera, Micaela, Schembri, & Macey Smith*

This conference session will feature a dynamic group of pre-service teachers who have immersed themselves in the challenges and triumphs of working with language learners within diverse populations. Through a reflective exploration of their experiences, the speakers will share insights into what worked effectively, the hurdles they encountered, and the ongoing training and information they believe are crucial for success in this unique educational landscape.

**Plaza Level  
Ballroom C**

## **What's On Your Bookshelf? Picture Books About Gender Roles & The Importance of Acceptance**

*Presenters: Andrew Goodman, Utah Valley University & MJ Kraus, Omaha Public Schools*

This session will examine how gender roles are portrayed in children's literature. Participants will learn how to choose books with engaging gender role representations and how these diverse contexts can lead to meaningful conversations about acceptance within the safe space of classrooms.



# Breakout Session #3

02.24.2024 | 1:45 - 2:35 PM



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**Main Level  
204**

## **Utilizing An American Indian Lens to Teach American History**

*Presenter: Franci Taylor, University of Utah*

Balance is a key cultural tradition in most American Indian communities. However, the dominant curriculum used for teaching of American history the concept of balance, unity, and community is often diminished. Frequently the teaching of subjects such as American history is presented only from the dominant society's mono-cultural perspective. Today it is becoming increasingly difficult to present an alternate or more nuanced interpretation of the shared history of the occupant of North America. This presentation is based on thirty plus years of multicultural teaching and research. This presentation will offer ways to empower classroom teachers in K through post secondary classrooms to create a compassionate presentation of difficult historical eras and subjects. The presentation will focus on one specific historic event, but, it will offer a template on how to adapt to other multicultural situations. Using contemporary media, and techniques a more compassionate and encompassing understanding can be accomplished. Today I will use the example of the award winning movie, Killers of the Flower Moon" to review how American history can be more inclusive and empathetic to different perspectives. Killers of the Flower Moon, is an award winning film that deals with a horrific example of corruption, and abuse of members of the Osage Nation. It will highlight key concepts such as sovereignty, cultural awareness, elimination or ignoring of historical events and counter narratives. It will include audience participation and involvement. Samples of possible classroom materials will be provided.

**Main Level  
205**

## **Culturally Responsive Pedagogy In A Junior High History Classroom**

*Presenter: Marie Bardsley, Utah Valley University*

This presentation focuses on how to empower students of color within a classroom. I will spend half the time sharing what I did within my own classroom and the data that resulted, and the other half time guiding a reflection on how you can implement principles that will empower your diverse students in your classroom.

**Plaza Level  
Suite C**

## **Empire State of Mind: Five Ways to Build A Unified Team Mind of Influencers**

*Presenter: Khalil Sikander, Alpine School District*

An Empire State of Mind is not just a mindset, it's a culture. A mindset that is culturally driven is necessary for a group of individuals to become unified. Though our individual cultures may differ, our goal should be to teach and learn how to share and engage with others to seek a path of understanding.



# Breakout Session #3

02.24.2024 | 1:45 - 2:35 PM



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**Plaza Level  
Suite D**

## **Clinical Experiences and Teacher Preparedness to Work With Multilingual Students In Inclusive Classrooms**

*Presenters: Hamed Shafiei & Mike Patch, Utah Valley University*

This study explores the challenges faced by an early career teacher instructing a multilingual learner (ML) in a mainstream classroom. Conducted in a southeast US state mandating ML teacher preparation, it employs narrative inquiry to explore the teacher's experiences. Findings highlight the complexities an early career teacher encounters with ML students.

**Plaza Level  
Suite E**

## **Igniting Power and Unity Through Centering Teacher and Student Voices In Professional Development**

*Presenter: Wendy Wakefield, Utah Valley University*

This presentation highlights findings from a study in which K-12 teachers participated in STEM professional development and observed and discussed culturally responsive teaching with a mentor teacher and students. The participating teachers found students' experiences especially eye-opening and powerful in helping them understand how to become more responsive and equitable in their own classrooms.

**Plaza Level  
Ballroom B**

## **Beyond the Classroom: Empowering Educators Through Community Collaboration for Holistic Family Support**

*Presenter: Taylor Dexter, Providence Hall Charter School*

This session is based around a Community Action Plan (CAP) that focused on bringing together community stakeholders to address the needs of immigrant youths and their families. In particular, this presentation will discuss the ways in which schools, city officials, and non-profit organizations can collaborate to provide effective adult education.

**Plaza Level  
Ballroom C**

## **Empowering Educators to Realize DEI In Their Teaching Practice**

*Presenter: Bryan Waite, Utah Valley University*

This session is designed to empower educators on how to actualize issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion in their classrooms and how to approach difficult topics and conversations with students and parents.

