



**BEST PRACTICES
CLEARINGHOUSE**

- Lessons from the Field -

Free to Learn Miniseries: Creating Welcoming School Environments

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Katy Joseph

Acting Director, Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Katy Joseph is the Acting Director of the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, located within the Office of the Secretary of Education. Before joining the Biden-Harris Administration, Ms. Joseph served as the Director of Policy and Advocacy at Interfaith Alliance, where she led national faith-based coalitions for LGBTQ+ rights, religious equality, and robust public education.

Dr. Kathleen Ethier, PhD

Director, Division of Adolescent and School Health, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)



Dr. Kathleen Ethier is a social psychologist and the Director of CDC's Division of Adolescent and School Health in the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention.

She has served as a leader at CDC in adolescent health as well as other capacities since 1999. Prior to joining CDC, Dr. Ethier spent six years on the research faculty at Yale University studying HIV, STDs, and unplanned pregnancy prevention among women and adolescents. Her research has primarily focused on psychosocial, behavioral, and environmental factors related to adolescent mental and physical health. Dr. Ethier earned her PhD in social psychology from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.

Dr. Patti Hershfeldt

DEI Amplifier, California Technical Assistance Center on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (CaTAC PBIS); Founder, Sage Learning Solutions



Dr. Patti Hershfeldt is the DEI Amplifier for CaTAC PBIS and Founder of Sage Learning Solutions. She has been affiliated with the Center on PBIS since 2010. Dr. Hershfeldt co-chairs the APBS High School Network that supports high schools with implementation of SW PBIS/MTSS and aims to bridge connections between implementers and researchers. Additionally, she has a strong professional focus on equity of experiences for all learners and authentic inclusion of student voice. Dr. Hershfeldt is a former high school special education teacher of 15 years and a mom to 2 daughters.

Cheryl Greene

Senior Director, Welcoming Schools, Human Rights Campaign Foundation



Ms. Cheryl Greene has spent her career in education and is passionate about providing educators the tools to create LGBTQ+ and gender-inclusive classrooms where all children can thrive. As the Senior Director of The Human Rights Campaign Welcoming Schools Program, she leads the most comprehensive, bias-based bullying prevention program in the nation to provide LGBTQ+ and gender inclusive professional development, lesson plans, booklists and resources specifically designed for educators. The program uses an intersectional, anti-racist lens dedicated to actionable policies and practices. Under her leadership, the educators trained have impacted over 10.5 million students.

Ms. Greene has also done extensive research on bullying prevention strategies and has led district and statewide initiatives to address bias based bullying and worked to establish a bullying prevention certificate program at the collegiate level.

Dr. Michael Konrad

Principal, Pueblo Gardens PreK-8 School, Tucson Unified School District, AZ



Dr. Michael Konrad is an educator with over 25 years of experience in a career that has spanned teaching and administration at all levels K-12 including working as the Director of Middle Schools for the Tucson Unified School District. He has returned to school leadership at a beautiful PreK-8 school in south Tucson where his focus is on improving student outcomes through community support. He first brought the Welcoming Schools program to his school in the summer of 2022 to provide comprehensive bias-based bullying prevention strategies to his staff and community.

Silvia Torres

Program Manager, School Partnerships, Family in Schools, CA

Email: storres@familiesinschools.org



Over the past fifteen years, Silvia Torres has cultivated a specialized focus on higher education, school districts, and non-profit organizations. As a seasoned leader, she has consistently directed her endeavors towards cultivating partnerships with a primary objective of enriching family involvement and engagement to bolster the lifelong success of students. Serving as the Schools Partnerships Program Manager at Families in Schools, Ms. Torres assumes a pivotal role in overseeing multi-year grants and has supported over 30 school sites to improve and enhance their family engagement efforts.

Dr. Julie Goldman

Director, Equity Curriculum and Instruction, San Diego County Office of Education, CA



Dr. Julie Goldman, Director, Equity Curriculum and Instruction for the San Diego County Office of Education, supports educators to implement culturally and linguistically responsive instruction in TK-12 classrooms. As part of this role, she co-leads the program design, professional learning, and curriculum development for the Writing Redesigned for Innovative Teaching and Equity (WRITE) Institute, a National Academic Excellence Model.