



King County

Racial Equity and Reengagement

King County Reengagement Provider Network Institute
Feb. 9, 2018 - Tukwila Community Center Banquet Hall

Goals

1. Better understand the experiences of students of color in our programs and communities
2. Learn about practices and approaches that can support racial equity

Agenda

- 8:30 – 9:00 Registration, breakfast and networking
- 9:00 – 9:30 Welcome, background and ice-breaker
- 9:30 – 9:45 Demographics on the diversity of students of our region and network
- 9:45 – 10:15 Key themes from Latinx student listening sessions
- 10:15 – 10:30 Break
- 10:30 – 11:15 Youth Voices
- Ilene Torres (Federal Way Open Doors)
 - Abigail Garcia (Federal Way Open Doors)
 - Marcina Banda-Duenas (SEA/Career Link)
 - Anakaren Cordero (SEA/Career Link)
 - Juanita Martinez (Highline Schools)
 - Elena Bautista (Highline Schools)
 - Palmira Palma (Highline Schools)
 - Danika Martinez, Moderator
- 11:15 – 12:00 Racial justice self-assessment (individual reflection & small group discussion)
- Lunch
- 12:45 – 2:00 Round one workshops (descriptions and locations on back)
- 2:00 – 2:15 Break
- 2:15 – 3:30 Round two workshops (descriptions and locations on back)
- 3:45 – 4:15 Sharing and action planning
- 4:15 – 4:30 Announcements, closing and evaluations

Workshop Descriptions

Round One: 12:45 – 2:00	Round Two: 2:15 – 3:30	Room
Race, Culture and the Brain: Understanding & Dismantling Structural Racism (DOUBLE SESSION) <i>Anita Garcia Morales, Racing to Equity</i>		Meeting Room B
Start With Us: Linking Research and Practice to Better Support Our Black Youth <i>Shelby Cooley, CCER and Monica Matthews, Life Enrichment Group</i>	Start With Us: Linking Research and Practice to Better Support Our Black Youth <i>Shelby Cooley, CCER and Monica Matthews, Life Enrichment Group</i>	Banquet Hall A
Latinx History in the Pacific Northwest <i>Hanne Makhani, King County EER and Rocio Martinez, El Centro de la Raza</i>	Latinx History in the Pacific Northwest <i>Hanne Makhani, King County EER and Rocio Martinez, El Centro de la Raza</i>	Banquet Hall B
Speak Your Language: Celebrating the Power of Bilingualism <i>Nimco Bulale, One America and Alma Meza, Renton Technical College</i>	Speak Your Language: Celebrating the Power of Bilingualism <i>Nimco Bulale, One America and Alma Meza, Renton Technical College</i>	Banquet Hall C

Race, Culture and the Brain: Understanding and Dismantling Structural Racism (DOUBLE)

What is the connection between the brain, culture and cognition? How does our individual racial lens impact the way we interact with others? In this interactive, adult-focused learning experience, we will explore these questions more deeply. The implicit bias (we all have absorb/carry this) betrays us and manifests into microaggressions that get in the way of the work we want to do. Participants will have the opportunity to explore and practice how to interrupt microaggressions, how to interrupt racism.

Start With Us: Linking Research and Practice to Better Support Our Black Youth

In this workshop, learn about what Black high schoolers in South King County and South Seattle say they need from the education system through key findings from the *Start With Us* research project. Then hear from a local practitioner about how these themes can be addressed through intentional, culturally relevant program design.

Latinx History in the Pacific Northwest

For this workshop, we will learn about the Chicano movement in the Pacific Northwest and how its organization and community involvement sparked the flame in our communities to come together and form El Centro de La Raza. As an organization grounded in the Latino community, our mission is to build unity across all racial and economic sectors, to organize, empower, and defend our most vulnerable and marginalized populations and to bring justice, dignity, equality, and freedom to all the peoples of the world. Learn about El Centro de la Raza and our 45-year journey with 49 programs and wrap around services.

Speak Youth Language: Celebrating the Power of Bilingualism

Learn about the value of bilingualism as a student asset and what you can do to support home language maintenance and pride in cultural identity in your classrooms and programs. Participants will receive an overview of the *Speak Your Language* campaign and tools, developed by One America and a coalition of ELL partners to build public will and positive messages around bilingualism for students, parents, educators and policy makers. Alma Meza from Renton Technical College will then share how she builds home language and cultural identity into her high school completion courses with both youth and adults.

Presenter Bios

Nimco Bulale is an Education Program Manager at OneAmerica, the state's largest immigrant and refugee advocacy organization. She is passionate about closing the achievement gap in education, organizing in, and advocating for and with a diversity of immigrant communities. Moreover, Nimco is committed to working to address the root causes of injustice, building power, and creating equitable change in her community.

Shelby Cooley joined CCER in 2015 and conducts secondary data analysis for longitudinal studies, annual reporting and ad-hoc research projects. Her doctoral research training examined school climate, the emergence of racial bias, fairness, racial identity and contexts that enable youth to challenge negative group norms. Her prior professional work spanned community participatory research on social-emotional development in low-income communities in New York City and Washington, D.C., as well as consulting work on racial bias with Teaching for Tolerance and [CNN](#). She has been conducting research with public schools since 2007. As a researcher examining bias and prejudice – ubiquitous experiences in the lives of many children – she is a proponent of bridging information and views data and collaborative research as a means of youth advocacy. Shelby is a southeast Seattle native and daughter to K-12 teachers in the Renton and Kent school districts.

Hannelore “Hanne” Makhani works as Re-engagement System Manager with King County's Department of Community Human Services. In this role, she brings together public and private partners to strengthen the local re-engagement system, which serves opportunity youth ages 16 to 24. Previously, she worked for the YMCA of Greater Seattle, where she provided executive leadership to branch operations as well as a large portfolio of youth development and education programs. Hanne also worked for OneAmerica, a nationally-recognized immigrant and civil rights advocacy organization. Her work there included securing federal and state government funding to implement a statewide citizenship campaign and leading community organizing efforts to increase immigrants' participation in civic life. Hanne hails from Ecuador and migrated to the U.S. at age 17, without a high school diploma. After getting back on track and receiving her BA, she started her career with the U.S. Senate in Washington D.C. She went on to work for a number of nonprofit agencies and think tanks before landing in local government. She holds a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Washington and lives in Seattle with her family.

Rocio Martinez has been at El Centro De La Raza for 3 years as a Smoking Cessation Program Coordinator. Most of her job is spent on educating the public, and most importantly, health providers on the health disparities that marginalized communities face. She is currently working with the state department and policy makers to make sure funds are allocated in budgets for culturally sensitive education and material. She also provides feedback on contracts and work plans from regional health providers on the best ways to tap into marginalized communities. Rocio graduated from University of Washington with a double major in Sociology and American Ethnic Studies with a concentration in Chicano Studies.

Monika Matthews, Life Enrichment Group

Alma Meza earned her Master's Degree in Computer Science from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California in 1993. She moved to Seattle in December of 1998 with plans to learn English and to return to Mexico to continue with her Doctoral studies. Life circumstances changed that and she decided to stay in Seattle. Alma worked as a teacher in Mexico and has experience in various industries and in different capacities here in the United States. She has experienced the most joy working in the education system here in the US. She worked at Highline College, South Seattle College and Central Seattle College prior to accepting a full-time tenured position at Renton Technical College where she has been active in different college roles and committees. Alma is committed to assisting students to realize their dreams of further education and the pursuit of a better quality of life. She works tirelessly to support and encourage students and staff, alike. She actively strives to be the voice of students who live in vulnerable situations. Her philosophy in life is that we all have greatness within us and she seeks to bring out the best in all whom she encounters.

Anita Garcia Morales brings a variety of experience to her race/equity anti-racist work. For the first 21 years of her life, Anita's experience as a migrant farm worker took her across the country and up and down the western states. Living in depressing conditions in labor camps, doing all manner of field work, being the perpetual new kid in class and sensing the "otherness" to which her family and ethnic group subjected were what shaped Anita's racial, class and cultural lens. Anita was bent on becoming a teacher from a very early age, beginning a running mental list of all the things she would provide for her future schoolchildren that were missing for her and her siblings. Anita received her B.A. and Teaching Degree from the University of Washington. After 27 years in the classroom, Anita moved to the District level as a racial equity strategist with the Department of Equity & Race Relations. Anita is also a Courage & Renewal Facilitator, an instructor for the Seattle Teacher Residency program (UW Teacher Prep Program), a Lead Trainer for Class Action and a Certified Positive Discipline Associate for Educators and Parent/Guardians. The common thread that runs through all that Anita does is her focus on social justice and equity. Anita is a co-founder in *Racing 2 Equity and Social Justice Consulting Firm*.