

# Social Justice and Equity Institute

Fall 2018

Intentional Activism:  
Leadership, Literacy and Social Justice

## Keynote Speakers



Kenneth Magdaleno, Ed.D.

Founder/CEO

Center for Leadership, Equity, and  
Research



Gilberto Q. Conchas, Ph.D.

Professor, School of Education

Director, Community Engagement &  
Student Success

University of California, Irvine

Thursday, November 1, 2018

8:00AM - 2:45PM

Oxnard, CA

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Center for Leadership Equity And Research

**CLEAR**

# MEETING ROOMS

Pavilion
Arbor
Trellis
Gazebo

## WIRELESS INTERNET

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# WELCOME

Welcome to the Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR) Social Justice and Equity Institute. We are grateful that you have taken the time to join us as we continue the "Praxis" or "intentional activism" required to impact the barriers towards promoting a society that celebrates and promotes access, opportunity, respect and well-being for all. Thank you to MyOn/Renaissance for joining us on this important endeavor. It is courageous members and partners we need to change the manner with which "things have always been done." These are challenging times that call for open and honest discussions and action regarding issues of social justice including race, ethnicity, culture, and gender equity. Join with us today as we continue the journey.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Magdaleno, Ed.D.  
Founder/CEO

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	Registration & Continental Breakfast	Pavilion
9:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.	Opening Keynote & Welcome Kenneth Magdaleno, Ed.D.	
9:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.	Break/Transition	
9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.	Breakout Session I	Pavilion, Arbor or Trellis
10:30 a.m. – 10:45 a.m.	Break/Transition	
10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Breakout Session II	Arbor or Trellis
11:30 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	Break/Transition	
11:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Presentation of Life Time Achievement Award	Pavilion
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Networking	
1:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Afternoon Keynote Gilberto Conchas, Ph.D.	
1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Panel Leadership, Literacy and Social Justice	
2:30 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	Closing and Final Reflection	

# Opening Keynote & Welcome



**Kenneth Magdaleno, Ed.D.**  
**Founder/CEO**

Dr. Kenneth R. Magdaleno is the Founder/CEO of the Center for Leadership, Equity, and Research (CLEAR), a nonprofit active in the Central Valley and throughout the state of California whose primary goals are the development of Social Justice educational leaders, the development of leaders of color through mentoring, addressing inequities in school discipline and researching the impact of positive leadership models on underrepresented groups. Dr. Magdaleno most recently served as Director of the Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at California State University, Fresno and has also served the students of California as an elementary school principal, middle school teacher, assistant principal and principal, high school teacher, coach, and guidance counselor in addition to his role as a professor at Fresno State. His published works include *Factors Impeding the Social and Academic Progress of African American Males in Foster Care*; *Educational Leaders and the Acknowledgement Gap (Journal of School Leadership, 2015)*, *Equation for Access (Cabinet Support + Staff Mentorship) = A Leadership Pipeline (International Mentoring Association, 2014 with Dr. Cynthia Teniente – Matson)* and *Mentoring Latina and Latino Leaders in Keeping and Improving Tomorrow’s School Leaders* (Rowman and Littlefield Education, 2010). His primary research interests are areas of critical race theory, social justice, leadership mentoring and developing educational leaders of color.

# Afternoon Keynote



**Gilberto Q. Conchas, Ph.D.**  
**Professor, School of Education**  
**Director, Community**  
**Engagement & Student Success**  
**University of California, Irvine**

Gilberto Q. Conchas obtained a Ph.D. and M.A. in Sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, Berkeley. He is currently Professor of Educational Policy and Social Context at the University of California, Irvine. Prior to UCI, Dr. Conchas was a faculty member at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Senior Program Officer for the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Conchas is an expert on qualitative research methods, with a particular focus on case study methodology. Conchas' research focuses on inequality with an emphasis on urban communities and schools. Numerous scholarly journals have published his work. He is the author of seven books, including *The Color of Success: Race and High-Achieving Urban Youth*, *Small Schools and Urban Youth: Using the Power of School Culture to Engage Youth*, *StreetSmart SchoolSmart: Urban Poverty and the Education of Boys of Color*, and *Cracks in the Schoolyard—Confronting Latino Educational Inequality*. Dr. Conchas has been a Visiting Professor at the University of Southern California, San Francisco State University, University of Washington, University of Barcelona, Spain, and the University of California, Santa Barbara and Berkeley.

# BREAKOUT SESSION I

## 9:45 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

### **Educators Doing Justice Integrating the Social Justice Standards Pre-K-16+**

*Pavilion*

This session explores the role of the Teaching Tolerance Social Justice Standards, and how they can be integrated with the Common Core State Standards. Attendees will participate in an activity that elucidates how the domains of Identity, Diversity, Justice, and Action are invoked in creating change.

Active learning has no boundaries. This workshop presents participants with a framework for examining assumptions, beliefs, and values in the learning environment. They will become familiar with Educators Doing Justice (EDJ), a local community based organization of critical educators. EDJ uses these techniques and methodologies through its Professional Development action arm to effect change in schools. EDJ defines 'educator' as anyone who works to support learners of all ages in our communities; everyone is a potential educator.

Attendees will become familiar with Teaching Tolerance's Social Justice Standards and project-based learning. Bringing social justice into the classroom environment has the intended consequence of decolonizing the learning experience and promoting peace, diversity, inclusion, and equity. Recognizing that each person is the expert of their own experience, and all people's stories are equally valued, is the starting point for this session.

The ultimate goal of social justice/peace education is action fueled by critical thinking and dialogue. Participants are encouraged to offer their various contexts for consideration and discussion and to brainstorm opportunities to promote social action and change in their communities. Participants will leave this session with a knowledge of Social Justice Standards as framed by Teaching Tolerance, project-based learning, and ideas for implementation in a variety of settings. It is anticipated that all participants will be actively engaged because active learning has no boundaries.

**Danna Lomax**, Teacher at Ventura Unified School District & Lecturer at CSU Channel Islands

**Brittnee Veldman**, Professor at CSU Channel Islands

**Monica Pereira**, Librarian at CSU Channel Islands

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## **Literacy: Access and Equity as a** *Arbor* **Social Justice Obligation for African American Students**

African Americans (AA) students comprise of 16 % of students enrolled in U.S. Schools (National Center for Education Statistics, 2017). AA students, however, perform lower than all of their counterparts in reading (National Center for Education Statistics, 2017). As evidenced by the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP), only 20% of AA students in grade four and 18% of AA students in grade eight are reading at a proficiency level.

This presentation will move beyond the current conversations, whereas jails can predict how many beds will be needed based upon third grade reading scores or students who do not learn to read by third grade are more than likely to drop out of school (Lyons, 2001). The focus of the presentation will be on providing actions for educators and leaders on ways to value students who speak African American English (AAE). AAE, spoken by approximately 80% of AAs, is a variation of Academic English with

its own rules. A mismatch exists between the language that is spoken at home and the language required for school. While many other minority students receive English Language Learning services, AA students do not receive any services for being AAE speakers. Additionally, research has shown that teachers set low expectations for speakers of AAE. This presentation, therefore, will provide data from various schools' leadership on their perspectives of speakers of AAE and provide executable actions for school leadership to increase the literacy outcomes for AA students because providing support is a social justice obligation!

**Ramona T. Pittman, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor of Literacy at Texas A&M University-San Antonio

**Lawrence Scott, Ph.D.**, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership at Texas A&M University-San Antonio

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## **Supporting Emotional Regulation of: *Trellis*** **Trauma-Impacted Students The Moral Imperative of** **Social Emotional Learning in Supporting Student Livings** **in Conditions of Poverty**

In this workshop, participants will:

- Understand how students living in conditions of poverty are at-risk of systematic punitive responses and how a shift in perspective is necessary to support their needs
- Review common examples of strategies, practices and resources that support trauma-impacted students through social emotional learning

**Chris Ridge**, Director of Pupil Services at Oxnard School District



# CLEAR Leadership Mentoring Program

The CLEAR Leadership Mentoring Program is a leadership development and mentoring program that provides current and future leaders with veteran mentors who will guide and support them as they continue to develop leadership skills. Both protégés and mentors are also provided expert training in the area of “praxis” or “intentional activism.” This activism is meant to change the manner in which “things have always been done” in order to address ongoing equity issues in schools and communities.

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Learn more at [CLEARvoz.com](http://CLEARvoz.com)



# BREAKOUT SESSION II

10:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

## **Transformative Leadership Through the Lens of Social Justice and Equity**

*Arbor*

True change goes beyond courageous conversations. Change takes courage, persistence and an unflappable belief in the “WHY.” The lives’ of children in the school system depend on our organizational and personal beliefs and is why Transformative Leadership matters. Transformative leaders challenge the status quo in a way that impacts the system. In our presentation we will share the application of Transformative Leadership that changed an organization from adult-school centric to student-community centric by using the Tools of Cultural Proficiency (Nuri-Robins, Lindsey, Lindsey, and Terrell, 2012).

**Peter Flores III**, Director of Student Services of Santa Maria Joint Union High School District

**Joe Domingues**, Principal of Santa Maria High School

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## **Reinventing the School Year**

*Trellis*

How can we, as a system, reshape the school year so that children get what they need from us? If we believe that it is the system - not the children - that requires fixing, how can we transform the system to ensure that ALL children acquire – and maintain – the foundational literacy skills that are necessary for success?

Participants will learn about the key drivers in a summer literacy program for African American and Latino students in Fresno that led to an average growth of 4.9 months over the course of a five-week program. Learn the power of repurposing funds, recruitment, partnering with parents, and setting individual student goals. It CAN be done!

**Valerie Martinez**, Principal at Baird Middle School in Fresno Unified School District

# Presentation of Lifetime Achievement Award

Join us in celebrating the lifetime achievements of Dr. Ken Magdaleno. This recognition is for the vast contributions of Dr. Magdaleno in the field of education and social justice.

Dr. Magdaleno has served in multiple leadership roles that have spanned from kindergarten to higher education. During Dr. Magdaleno's career, he has always been at the service of students, spanning from teacher to dissertation chair.

During his career, there have been thousands impacted by his compassion, advocacy, empathy and goal of ensuring every student find their inner spark.

As a social justice trailblazer, Dr. Magdaleno has always voiced and acted with the highest integrity and professionalism to ensure students that may be voiceless, are spoken for.

Thank you Dr. Ken Magdaleno for a lifetime of extraordinary service.

**A Very Special Thank You to:**

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# Panel: Leadership, Literacy and Social Justice



**Angelica M. Ramsey, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent, Pleasant Valley School District**

A champion and advocate of children, Dr. Angelica M. Ramsey has served as the Superintendent of Schools for the Pleasant Valley School District since July 2016. Prior to joining PVSD, she served as an associate superintendent, chief academic officer, principal, assistant principal, teacher and athletic coach in California and Texas. Prior to entering the field of education, she briefly served in the US Army as a paralegal specialist.

Under her leadership, PVSD created and published a three-year strategic plan entitled Vision 2020: Excellence for All. The plan outlined newly formulated goals, articulated commitments aligned to LCAP priorities, and identified specific strategies to meet goals. The District also published a Master Facilities Plan which led to a successful \$119 MIL school bond measure to ensure 21st century learning environments, upgrades to aging infrastructure, and implementation of safety measures.

Dr. Ramsey resides in Camarillo with her husband, Daryton. She is active in the community with the Rotary Club, Optimist Club, Chamber of Commerce, and the Boys and Girls Club. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of the Pacific, a master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, an educational specialist degree in teaching and learning from Liberty University, and a doctorate of education in educational leadership from Liberty University. Her dissertation was entitled, "Nuestra Voz: A Critical Ethnographic Study of Latina School Leaders".



**Cesar Morales, Ed.D.**  
**Superintendent, Oxnard School District**

Dr. Cesar A. Morales is Superintendent for the growing Oxnard School District, with approximately 17,000 students. He has served the public education system as a high school teacher, middle school Special Education teacher, middle school counselor, Assistant Principal, Learning Director, Principal, and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources prior to his current role of Superintendent. He also served as a part-time instructor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles teaching Organizational Management courses in the Educational Administration program.

Dr. Morales earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Loyola Marymount University, a Master of Arts Degree in Educational Administration from Loyola Marymount University, and a Doctorate in Education from University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). As a doctoral student, his research interests included resiliency theory, school access and equity, parental involvement and college going culture. He is active in the community. Presently, Dr. Morales serves as a Commissioner on the Ventura County First 5 Commission that focuses on early childhood development, early literacy and wrap around services to children from birth to 5 years old.

Dr. Morales is a former mentor in the California Association of Latino Superintendents and Administrators (CALSA) and former Southern California region representative. He recently finished his term as President for CALSA. Most recently, Dr. Morales was recognized by EdWeek as being the recipient of the “Leaders to Learn From” Superintendent Award which is a national recognition given in Washington, D.C.



**Robin Freeman**  
**Asst. Superintendent (Retired)**

Robin I. Freeman, M.S. Ed., served as an educator for 42 years. Her career included roles as high school and junior high school teacher, reading specialist, assistant principal, principal, director and assistant superintendent. Her most recent position was Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services for the Oxnard School District.

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Robin is a product of the Chicago Public Schools. She believes in the power of public education and her career focused on providing a quality education for all students in the districts where she served.

Robin is a servant leader and has volunteered with many community-based and national organizations including Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Big Brothers Big Sisters, International Reading Association, her church council, HOA board of directors and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. She also serves as Adjunct Professor in the Graduate School of Education at California Lutheran University.

Recently retired, Robin looks forward to continuing to serve as a support for students, teachers and administrators.



**Joe Domingues**  
**Principal of Santa Maria High School**

Upon transitioning from the United States Navy active service, Joe entered the field of public education in the Monterey County area. Thereafter, he was employed by the Salinas Union High School District at Salinas High School as a teacher of History, AVID and head varsity wrestling coach.

In 2006, he started his administrative career in the Salinas Union High School District as Interim Assistant Director of Mission Trails Regional Occupation Program (ROP). From 2006-2008, he served as Assistant Principal for the Community Education Center (*continuation/alternative high schools*) in the Soledad Unified School District and was appointed Principal of Soledad High School and served from 2008-2010.

In 2010, he returned home to Santa Maria, CA where he was appointed principal of his alma mater, Santa Maria High School and continues to reside as principal.

Joe is a graduate from the *Center for Culturally Proficient Educational Practice (CCPEP)* and has coauthored several ACSA Leadership articles titled, "*Overcoming Barriers to Change*" and "*Leading from the Fields: Transformative Leadership from Santa Maria.*" Joe has also been a presenter at the International Cultural Proficiency Institute, Santa Barbara County Education Office, Santa Maria Bonita School District, Allen Hancock College and CAFE. Recently, Joe was selected to become a Senior Associate for the *Center for Culturally Proficient Practice*. Additionally, he is a co-leader for the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District Culturally Proficient cohort teams. Joe Domingues holds a B.A. degree in Social Science, M.A. degree in Education from Chapman University and is currently a Doctorate of Educational Leadership candidate at the University of Phoenix. His proposed dissertation is titled: *A MIXED METHOD STUDY EXPLORING ORGANIZATIONAL CULTURE AS AN INFLUENTIAL ELEMENT IN LATINO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT.*

# MY CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS

Five big ideas to take home to my school, district, organization or business:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_

Top three things I'm going to share with one other person:

1) \_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_

# MY CONFERENCE TAKEAWAYS

Great people I met at the summit (names and e-mail):

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Additional notes:

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- Explore research-driven insights and best practices
- Participate in hands-on professional learning sessions
- Get a sneak peek at the latest from Renaissance<sup>®</sup>

**WHEN**

**November 7**  
8:30am - 2:30pm

**WHERE**

**Mission Inn Hotel & Spa**  
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**WHEN**

**November 8**  
8:30am - 2:30pm

**WHERE**

**Renaissance Clubsport**  
Walnut Creek Hotel  
2805 Jones Road  
Walnut Creek, CA

**Reserve your seat! Space is limited.**

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