



BREAKOUT SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Target Audience of each session: **A** = All, **E** = Elementary, **M** = Middle School, **YFS** = Youth and Family Services, **H** = High School, **C** = College/University

Breakout Sessions I: Friday, November 18, 2:15 – 3:30 p.m.

All are Welcome: Religious Diversity and Interfaith Cooperation at Lasallian Schools (A)

Frances M. Sweeney, Ph.D., Vice President for Mission, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA
Karin McClelland, Director, Mission and Ministry Center, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA

This breakout session was developed in response to the Huether 2022 call for meeting signs of the times, and within two particular considerations: first, the 12 declarations in the *Declaration on the Educational Mission: Challenges, Convictions, Hopes* (2020) and second, the research about students' perspectives on religion, spirituality and belonging. Considering the changing perspectives on religion and demographics of religious background of our students and their families, this interactive presentation is intended to offer some understanding of what "interfaith cooperation" is, as well as why and how it can be relevant within our Lasallian Catholic context. Participants will be invited to share and develop strategies for making interfaith cooperation visible and active at their schools.

Fill Your Cup (A)

Amy Wienand, LCSW, Director of Family Support Services, Central Catholic High School, Pittsburgh, PA

"Do not have anxiety about the future. Leave everything in God's hands for he will take care of you."
(Saint John Baptist de La Salle) We experience many stressors in the classroom, in our homes and in our communities. It is often challenging to put things in God's hands as the Founder has instructed. How do we ensure that we can handle the stress and pressure presented to us? We hear about self-care but what does it really mean? How can we ensure that we are taking care of our own needs in addition to the needs of our students, administrators, colleagues and family? How does humor, positive outlook and gratitude impact our self-care? In this presentation, you will have an opportunity to learn healthy ways to see stress, anxiety and difficult times for a more positive life.

Inclusive Communities and our Lasallian Catholic Identity (H)

James Spillman, Principal, St. Joseph's Collegiate Institute, Buffalo, NY

At the 2022 Lasallian Association of Secondary School Chief Administrators Conference, Mike Daniels and James Spillman led a meaningful dialogue around this topic area with Lasallian secondary school leaders. The goal of this session is to involve other Lasallian educators and ministers in dialogue around many of the same topics, with a particular focus on how we can compassionately and empathetically support LGBTQ+ students in our school communities. Throughout this session, connections will be made to the work of "Without Exception," a national network of Catholic school educators and ministers

engaged in dialogue with the spirit of Pope Francis' vision for accompaniment: "We are all called to love everyone, without exception."

Navigating the Indignity of Microaggressions (A)

Kiah Johnson Mounsey, Director of Equity and Inclusion, La Salle Catholic College Preparatory, Milwaukie, OR

Psychology professor Derald Wing Sue defines racial microaggressions as "the brief and commonplace daily verbal, behavioral and environmental indignities that communicate hostile or derogatory racial slights and insults to people of color." In our institutions, how can we learn to recognize the negative effects on a cognitive, social and emotional level? How can we see that consistent exposure to microaggressions stifles motivation for those in our community? Take home remedies for correcting these microaggressions and practical strategies for what to do or say when you are the target of, witness to or agent of microaggressions.

Sharing Our Stories: On Identity, Relationality and Equity (A)

Erika Whitehead, Assistant Principal, Legacy Team Chair, Catalyst Circle Rock, Chicago, IL
Thomas Kingsbury, Faculty, Biomedical Science, Legacy Team Chair, Catalyst Maria, Chicago, IL

In this session, we will reflect on our identities as Lasallian educators, explore the impact of identity upon our practice within our ministries and regroup ourselves in the commitment to "right relationship," closing equity and achievement gaps by developing action steps. Presenters will discuss the experiences that have shaped their outlook on education, how they "show up" as educators in an urban school setting and how their lived experiences have transformed them in their push for equity. Participants will then reflect on their own lived experiences by taking a deep dive into their identities as Lasallian educators (whether in an urban, suburban or rural setting). They will discuss how developing a shared identity can empower a culturally responsive practice through relationship-building. Participants will also reflect on the obstacles and opportunities they have experienced in their journey toward equity and attainment. The presenters will share resources and invite participants to identify practical next steps that they may take back to their ministries.

Breakout Sessions II: Saturday, November 19, 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Addressing Social, Emotional and Spiritual Learning Through Advisories (H)

Christine Buell, Assistant Principal for Student Life, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco, CA

Nicole Nastari, Dean of Students, Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, San Francisco, CA

While the concept of advisories is not new, we have reconfigured them to provide a vehicle by which to address the social and emotional needs that have emerged for our students from the pandemic. As current research has suggested, teenagers are more anxious than ever and in need of more support and education. Advisories create a space in which we can promote wellness strategies, address social-

emotional learning and deepen community connections across class levels. Throughout the school year, we use the time and space in advisory to explore various topics: diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, positive relationship strategies, neurodiversity, stress management, mindfulness and community-wide spirit activities. Furthermore, advisories create high-impact leadership opportunities that further promote the development of intellectual, social and emotional skills. We will cover the practicalities of organizing lesson plans, selecting and training student advisory leaders and community-wide involvement that make this programming so effective.

Connecting Lasallian Students to Communities and Careers (C)

*Jacqueline Martin, Coordinator of Campus Ministry and Social Action, Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY
Benjamin Boivin, Director of Undergraduate Admissions, Manhattan College, Riverdale, NY*

A new program at Manhattan College combines purposeful community engaged work, paid internships, career preparation, co-curricular education and life-changing experiences. The Jasper Corps program is a unique community-to-career partnership between Financial Aid and Campus Ministry and Social Action. The program provides financial resources to empower local community partner organizations while building upon the college's external relationships. Through Jasper Corps, Manhattan College prepares students to become purposeful lifelong learners as they enter the workforce after graduation. This program allows students to engage with Lasallian core principles of concern for the poor and social justice, inclusive community and quality education. The presenters will share ways participants can implement a similar program on their campuses.

Lasallian Educators as Equity Educators: Strategies for Advancing DEIB (A)

*Alexandra Walton, Director for Inclusion and Belonging, Saint Mary's College High School, Berkeley, CA
Carol Ann Gittens, Ph.D., Dean, Kalmanovitz School of Education, Saint Mary's College of California, Moraga, CA*

This breakout session was developed from the more comprehensive Lasallian Summer Institute for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) offered in summer 2022 at Saint Mary's College of California. Building on Huether 2021, where the emphasis was on inclusion and belonging, the presenters will offer an interactive session for Lasallian educators who are curious about what DEIB means, who want to begin or advance their own professional development in DEIB and who want practical DEIB strategies to bring back to their schools. The presenters will strive to create a safe space where all questions and perspectives are welcome, where we are committed to linking DEIB to our Lasallian Catholic heritage and where participants can deepen their awareness and approaches of this critical topic for our times.

Lasallian Students Gather to Explore Community Trauma and Healing: An Integral Approach (M, H, C, YFS)

*Brother Brian Henderson, FSC, Lasallian Mission, Formation and Animation, West Catholic Preparatory High School, Philadelphia, PA
Owen Schugsta, Faculty, Religion and Social Studies Departments, La Salle College High School, Wyndmoor, PA*

The Philadelphia Area Lasallian Ministries group (PALM) has initiated a pilot program, A Lasallian Response to Violence, where group members seek to understand if the principles of the trauma-informed care movement could be applied to our unique Lasallian cultures. Simply, can education and treatment sensibilities meaningfully marry in promoting strategies for combating social injustice? Also called the Sanctuary Model, trauma-informed care skill-based sensibilities present a clear framework to build a response with the complexity of understanding necessary to counter social injustice. In reflecting on this pilot program, we will ask if such an experience can be applicable to our schools. If so, how? There may be “something more” that can be added to classrooms in addressing social injustice.

Laughter May be the Best Medicine for Lasallian Formation (A)

Doug Brummel, Pastoral Director, Mullen High School, Denver, CO

Sometimes laughter is the best medicine! Get ready for some fun, unexpected surprises and a creative look at a fresh approach of how we could do Lasallian formation with our educators. Building community among all areas of our staff can help the invisible become visible, encountering the Christ in everyone. The truth is, students watch how staff members treat each other and by that authentic example, they are led. In this session, participants will gain a new approach of doing Lasallian formation on the local level.