

LEC 2023 Breakout Session Presenters

Joanna Abrantes, Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine, CA

Joanna Abrantes is currently serving as the Director of English Language Education at Crean Lutheran High School. She has had over 15 years of experience in the classroom, working with high school and university students in both the U.S. and China.



Dr. Amanda Beaver, Trinity, Lutheran School, Litchfield Park, AZ

Dr. Beaver has served in a variety of roles, including teacher, curriculum specialist, academic coach, adjunct professor and assistant principal. She currently serves at Trinity Litchfield Park as assistant principal and is blessed to partner with the teachers and staff to encourage professional growth through professional development and coaching. Dr. Beaver firmly believes that effective schools are created by pouring into teachers: providing substantial opportunities for professional growth, creating a collaborative and supportive culture, and encouraging spiritual growth. She holds a doctorate in Performance Psychology, with research focusing on supporting resilient teachers.

Kevin Buelmann, Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry

Kevin Buelmann is the new Executive Director at Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry. He has served as a DCE, camp director, and pastor at churches and camps in Illinois, Nebraska, and Montana and now at the Shepherd's Canyon Retreat Ministry near Phoenix, Arizona. Shepherd's Canyon is an LCMS RSO that offers week-long retreats that provide spiritual and emotional support for ministry workers and spouses in the midst of various stages of burnout, stress, depression, compassion fatigue, and conflict. Kevin and his wife, Tawn, gained first-hand experience with Shepherd's Canyon when they came for a counseling retreat when Kevin was burned out from taking on too much responsibility during a pastoral vacancy right at the beginning of the COVID pandemic.

Dr. Sue Buster, Immanuel Lutheran School, Riverside, CA

Prior to coming to ILS, Dr. Buster served as the Director of Professional Development at a nearby public school district. Dr. Buster graduated from Christ College, Irvine (now Concordia

University, Irvine) in the university's first class of teachers. She served seven years teaching in two Lutheran Elementary Schools in LA County. She earned a master's degree from Cal State LA and a doctoral degree from the University of La Verne. She holds a Multiple Subject, an Administrative and a Special Education state teaching credential. She lives in Riverside with her husband of 42 years. Her two daughters, son-in-law and two grandchildren live less than 4 miles away. Sharing the Gospel and love for Jesus in all settings throughout her life have been a blessing.

Julie Buuck, Faith Lutheran Middle School & High School, Las Vegas, NV

In addition to serving as the Vice President of the Board of Directors of Hope & Care Outreach, I currently serve as the Director of Student Life at Faith Lutheran Middle School and High School in Las Vegas, NV. I feel called to help students discover their gifts, mentor the growth of those gifts, and empower them to use their gifts to serve others as they honor the Lord, Jesus Christ. I have been married to my college sweetheart for 37 years. I have 3 grown children, 2 grandchildren and 2 in-loves. I completed my undergraduate work, Associates degrees in Legal and Medical Studies and my Bachelor's degree in Business Management, from Concordia University Wisconsin, and my graduate work, Masters in Student Affairs from Grand Canyon University. Although I began my career in the world of business, it seems the Lord had other plans for me as I've been blessed to work in student ministry, collegiate & secondary admissions and education; and I am so grateful for the journey. I love to travel and have been blessed to have many opportunities to serve on and lead numerous mission projects and teams, typically consisting of young adults/teens, through local service, as well as through national and international missions all over the world. I feel blessed to be invited to be a part of what God is doing in Liberia and feel called to participate in His plan for the future of His children and the Lutheran churches and schools of Liberia through Hope and Care Outreach here in the United States.

Dr. Tanya Calendo, Christ Greenfield Lutheran School, Gilbert, AZ

Before beginning her service as Principal at Christ Greenfield in Gilbert, Arizona in 2014, Tanya Calendo served as Principal, Vice Principal, and K-8 Teacher at several Christian schools in Illinois and Connecticut. She has a heart for families and is passionate about opportunities for family ministry in Christian schools! Tanya received her B.A. in history and elementary education from Concordia New York, her MS. Ed in Counseling from Northern Illinois

University, and her D. Min. at Kairos University. She and her husband Joe are in the midst of raising three sons (20, 18, and 15 years old) and one puppy.

Mark Cheney, Faith Lutheran Middle School & High School, Las Vegas, NV

Mark Cheney is a Certified Mental Performance Consultant (CMPC) and the Director of Mental Performance at Faith Lutheran MS & HS in Las Vegas. Prior to starting the mental performance program at Faith, he worked as a mental conditioning coach at IMG Academy. In his private practice, he draws on 25 years of teaching and coaching experience to inform his work with college teams, business leaders, and rising youth athletes.

Robby Cherry, Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine, CA

Robby Cherry is in his 13th year in ministry at Crean Lutheran High School and currently teaches AP Calculus AB and BC and serves as a co-department chair for mathematics. Robby founded and continues to lead Crean Lutheran's Math Olympiad Team. Additionally Robby serves as the head cross country and track and field coach for the Crean Lutheran Saints. Robby has a BS degree in Mathematics that he earned from Westmont College and a Masters degree in Education earned at Lipscomb University. Robby completed his Colloquy with Concordia University and is a Called Lutheran teacher.

Adam Coughran, M.A., Safe Kids Inc.

Adam Coughran is an industry leader in safety and security training for schools, businesses, and organizations. Adam is a veteran of Southern California law enforcement who utilized his expertise to found Safe Kids Inc., an organization dedicated to helping deter crime and mitigate violence in PreK-12 schools. He's been recognized as one of the "Go-To" experts for national media outlets, appearing on NBC's Today Show, ABC's Good Morning America, FOX's Nancy Grace, HLN's Michaela, CBS This Morning, and numerous live interviews in addition to being a contributing author to Newsweek Magazine.

Dr. Lori Doyle, Concordia University Irvine

Dr. Lori Doyle works as Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University Irvine where she serves as Director of the Master of Arts in Educational Leadership program and Assistant Director of the Servant Leadership Institute. She has completed and managed extensive curriculum development projects at the university and serves as Subject Matter Expert for courses in multiple MA programs. Lori has taught at several universities over the past

twenty-two years, but her career began as a high school English and theology teacher and curriculum writer. She holds a California Clear Credential in Secondary Education, MAEd in Curriculum and Instruction, and a PhD in Psychology with an emphasis in Cognition.

Sharon Dunn, MTSS Leadership Consultant, LLC

Sharon Dunn is a former principal of a high poverty elementary school. During her tenure as principal, her instructional expertise substantially improved reading outcomes, evidenced by improved ELA CAASPP results. Her leadership expertise and school data were highlighted in the DIBELS (Acadience) Newsletter nationwide and the 95 Percent Group Overview Guide. She was featured in Glean Education's- Educational Leadership podcast, Unpacking Progress: What it Takes to Raise School Literacy Rates, Reading Science Academy webinar with Dr. Stephanie Stollar and California Reading Coalition panel webinar. She presented her school's literacy improvement at the California Department of Education Title 1 Conference- Wild About ESSA, the Association of California School Administrators Mid-State Conference as well as the National ESEA Conference - 2021 and 2022. The Reading League, National, featured Sharon for The Reading League's Defining Guide: A Call to Action for Administrator's video. She is co-creator of the Facebook Social Learning Group: Science of Reading for Administrators – What Teachers Want You to Know! She is a founding board member of The Reading League California. Sharon supports schools/districts with instructional leadership for improved reading outcomes as a MTSS Leadership Consultant.

Elena Fox, Christ Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ

Elena Fox is the author and creator of the Wise Men Seek the Savior Advent Activity kit for families and children. A graduate of Grand Canyon University, she has over 20 years' experience as a classroom teacher for children of all ages. She is passionate about helping children to see God's hand at work in their daily lives, often sharing object lessons she has discovered within the glorious world God created for His children. Elena is currently serving as the Preschool-4th grade music teacher and handbell director at Christ Lutheran School in Phoenix, Arizona.

Janie Friedl, Immanuel Lutheran School, Riverside, CA

Before coming to ILS, Janie Friedl retired from the public school system in 2022 with 40 years experience. Ms. Friedl graduated from the University of La Verne in 1982 where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Studies. Her career in education began in Palm Springs USD at the elementary and middle school levels. Upon transferring to Moreno Valley USD, she

continued to teach at the middle school level. She earned a Master's Degree in Teaching and Learning from National University in 2007. Ms. Friedl also spent time working at the Riverside County Office of Education as a Math Program Specialist, in Hemet USD at Western Center Academy Charter School, as an Induction Coach working with beginning teachers and as a Math Coach at the middle school level. She lives in Menifee with her husband of 16 years and numerous canines and felines. Serving the students, parents and teachers of ILS has been a wonderful addition to her educational career.

Steve Gruenwald, Concordia Plan Services

Steve Gruenwald is a 1984 Concordia, Chicago, graduate with a BA in Lutheran Secondary Education. For 12 years he taught English, speech and drama in Lutheran high schools. In 1996 he joined Concordia Plan Services as a Communication Specialist and writer/editor of Better Health. In 2006 Steve completed requirements to be a Certified Health and Wellness Manager, and is the Director of Worker Wellness for Concordia Plan Services

Carmen Hauser, Christ Lutheran School, Costa Mesa, CA

Carmen Hauser is a music specialist at Christ Lutheran Costa Mesa. Carmen has taught music, dance, and theater for over 20 years (California, Illinois, Texas and Tennessee) and was Teacher of the Year in 2004 for Una Elementary School in Nashville, TN. Carmen is a Nationally Board-Certified Teacher (2021). Mrs. Hauser has received training in various music methodologies including all levels of Kodály and Orff training. Together, Christian and Carmen have written and directed five musicals for children, two of which were awarded grants. They wrote and produced a CD entitled, "Johnathan Craine and the Thing That Goes Bump in the Jungle," which received awards as the Best Children's Education Award category (ages 4-8) and Best Children's Spoken Word CD (ages 8-12) from the Children's Music Web Awards contest. Carmen has also led and directed numerous summer performing arts camps in Tennessee, Texas and Illinois.

Christian Hauser, Concordia University Irvine

Dr. Christian Hauser is an adjunct Professor of Music at Concordia University. He completed his Ph.D. in music education from the University of North Texas received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Belmont University in Nashville, Tennessee. Dr. Hauser is Kodály certified (Level II) and has completed all three levels of Orff certification (University of Memphis). He serves as coordinator of Music Education at Concordia University, oversees the

NAfME (National Association of Music Education) chapter, and supervises student teachers. In addition to teaching all the music education methods courses, he has taught Orchestration & Arranging, Music of World Cultures, Music Technology, Survey of Western Music, Exploration of Music and private composition lessons. Dr. Hauser has taught at Concordia University Irvine for 3 years and previously at Concordia Chicago for 9 years. He is also an active composer. He wrote a 20-minute orchestral composition *The Circus Train*, which has been performed by the Houston, Colorado Music Festival, Sioux City and Nashville Symphony Orchestras as part of their Young Person Concerts. He received a commission from the Nashville Ballet Company to compose a jazz ballet which was performed over 30 times throughout Metro-Nashville Public schools as part of the Ballet's educational outreach. He also has received two grants to compose, direct and produce children's musicals. He wrote and produced a CD entitled, "Johnathan Craine and the Thing That Goes Bump in the Jungle," which received awards as the Best Children's Education Award category (ages 4-8) and Best Children's Spoken Word CD (ages 8-12) from the Children's Music Web Awards contest in 2004. Dr. Hauser also serves as the the director of worship at Light of Christ Lutheran Church. He plays organ, piano and guitar; additionally, he conducts, arranges and composes music for each Sunday worship service. Dr. Hauser is an active clinician and researcher. He has presented at Lutheran Education Conference, Lutheran Education Association Conference, Texas Music Educators Association Conference, Illinois Music Educations Conference, Desert Skies Research Symposium, Chicagoland Lutheran Educators Association, and American Orff-Schulwerk Association's National Conference. His research interests include creativity, composition, and technology. He also loves every and any outdoor activity, especially platform tennis, ultimate frisbee and skiing.

Emily Hollendonner, Christ Greenfield Lutheran School, Gilbert, AZ

Emily Hollendonner has been serving as a teacher at Christ Greenfield since the spring of 2009. She was awarded Teacher of the Year through the Pacific Southwest District in 2017. Her passion is for middle school students and loves to see their growth and development throughout their time at Christ Greenfield. She and her husband, Dan, enjoy spending time as a family which includes their son (13) and daughter (4). She has a B.A. in Elementary Education from Concordia University Chicago and a M.A. Ed in Differentiated Instruction from Concordia University, St. Paul.

Geoff House, Grand Canyon University

Coach House works as an Instructional Designer for Universal Engineering Sciences, one of the nation's fastest-growing engineering firms. Prior to starting at UES in October, he had the privilege of leading the development of 15 new degree programs as an Instructional Designer for Grand Canyon University. Coach House also serves at his kids' school, North Valley Christian Academy, in the areas of academic advising, missions, and athletic coaching. With experience coaching elementary, middle school, high school, collegiate (Arizona Christian University), and professional (Germany) basketball teams, his favorite team to coach thus far was his daughter's 4yr old coed team. At all grade levels and ages, Coach House believes the classroom, the court, and the workplace are all incredible environments to teach others what it means follow Jesus.

Sara Johnson, Curriculum Design and Implementation

Sara Johnson has served in education for over 18 years. Sara began her career as an elementary teacher in urban, Title 1 school districts throughout North Carolina. She later applied that experience as a curriculum developer and editor at a supplemental educational publishing company, creating resources to meet students' literacy and mathematics needs as well as support teachers in their professional learning. Her professional background includes coaching, professional speaking, and curriculum design and implementation. Sara holds a master's degree in curriculum, instruction, and design from California State University at Fullerton and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Wake Forest University.

Eun Chu Kim, Pacific Southwest District

With over 23 years of experience in K-12 and higher education, Mrs. Eun Chu Kim is passionate about building authentic partnerships and creating supportive environments for learning where students are engaged, nurtured, and challenged. After earning her Master's Degree and teaching credential from UCLA, Mrs. Kim taught in multiple school districts and was recognized for her dedication and leadership. She received a state waiver to mentor teachers as an ELA TOSA, worked as a literacy specialist, and coached and mentored teachers as an Adjunct Professor at Pepperdine University and Concordia University, Irvine. By faith, Mrs. Eun Chu Kim responded to a personal call to start a non-profit ministry with her husband, Dr. Eugene Kim, in Los Angeles, an educational outreach to homeless women and children. There, she co-founded a preschool, after-school program, career and college counseling center, and a house church whose Friday night services were attended by Salvadorian neighbors and the women and children they served during the week. Mrs. Kim moved to Shanghai with her family

to serve Christ's mission in China, consulting with school start-ups, training Chinese teachers, and working at Concordia International School in Shanghai. After repatriating to the U.S., she completed her second Master's Degree in Educational Administration and received an Administrative Credential from Concordia University, Irvine. Mrs. Kim served as Vice Principal of Academics at Crean Lutheran High School, where she helped attain the National Blue Ribbon Distinction in 2023. Mrs. Eun Chu Kim serves as the Superintendent of Innovation at the Pacific Southwest District.

LeeAnne Lavender, Educational Consultant

LeeAnne is an educational consultant, coach and facilitator for international educators. She specializes in storytelling, digital storytelling, service learning and global citizenship, and she loves partnering with schools and teachers to create learning experiences that have impact and lead to deep learning and service as action. You can learn more about LeeAnne at <https://www.leeannelavender.com/>.

Kevin Marousek, Zion Lutheran School, Anaheim, CA

Currently teaching middle school at Zion Lutheran School in Anaheim, CA, Kevin Marousek is a native Southern Californian. Baptized and confirmed Lutheran, Mr. Marousek attended Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. His first experience teaching was as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Central Asia. He has taught at Lutheran schools in Cerritos and San Diego, as well as the Los Angeles Film School in Hollywood, CA. His favorite part of teaching are those moments when students grasp and master concepts for the first time. In 2019 he was married to Susan (who serves as Zion's ECEC director). Mr. Marousek's hobbies and interests include reading, technology, vinyl records, and trying to figure out how to teach his two cats to not climb on the curtains or scratch the furniture.

Liesl McConchie, Author & Educational Consultant

Liesl McConchie is an international expert on how the brain learns, and co-author of best-selling book Brain-Based Learning with Dr. Eric Jensen. She has been published in ASCD's Educational Leadership journal and been the guest on over a dozen podcasts. With over 20 years of experience in education, Liesl bridges her knowledge of how the brain best learns with her experience of teaching math to create tangible strategies to support teachers and schools across the globe. She has a rich background in education that includes creating new schools, leading whole-school reforms, delivering workshops to educators, and speaking at conferences. Liesl

brings the highest quality of research, professionalism, and engagement to all her contributions to the field of education.

Dr. Sandy Mercier, Concordia University Irvine

Sandy Mercier is an Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University Irvine and has served as full-time faculty for ten years. She is the Director of both the Curriculum & Instruction and Learning, Design, & Technology Master of Arts in Education programs. Sandy earned her EdD in Adult Education from Capella University in June 2022. She and her husband of twenty years, Nathan, have been blessed with three children and are members of St. John's Lutheran Church in Orange, CA.

Karen Merritt, M.A., LPC

Karen Merritt is a Licensed Professional Counselor who holds a Bachelor of Science in Multi-Disciplinary Studies from Texas Tech University and a Master of Arts in Professional Counseling from Liberty University. By combining her background in Education and Theology with Christian Mental Health practices, she offers Christ-Centered Biblically based counseling to children, families, and other educators. Along with her day-to-day duties as a School Counselor at St. Paul Lutheran School in Ft. Worth, TX, she leads staff development workshops as well as parenting seminars for schools across the country. Karen has also been a keynote, featured, and session speaker at various conferences throughout the country. Additionally, Karen has been a contributing writer for a Biblical Social Emotional Learning Curriculum.

Sarah Moyer, Crean Lutheran High School, Irvine, CA

Sarah Moyer has had over 20 years of experience in international education at the higher education and high school levels. Sarah is thrilled to have the opportunity to continue using her gifts to serve the needs at Crean Lutheran High School in Irvine, CA as their Director of Faculty.

Cora Nash, Saving Grace Lutheran Preschool, Queen Creek, AZ

I currently serve as the ECE Director at Saving Grace Lutheran Church. I moved to Queen Creek AZ in June 2022 after accepting a call to Saving Grace to start a brand new preschool that serves the Queen Creek/San Tan AZ community. Previous to this, I served at The Family of Faith Lutheran Church in Houston TX as the Dir of Operations over 2 ECE centers. I served at The Family of faith for 12 years. During that time the church expanded from 1 center to 2 which I helped to plan and start. Previous to that I worked in corporate America in the technology field.

I am wife of Rick for 32 years and mom to Sofia and Nathan and mom in law to Caleb. I am also grandma to Cora Grace age 2 and Luka John, 1. I love serving at Saving Grace. My favorite part is building relationships with our families and partnering with them to teach and care for their children. I am a continual work in progress dedicated to following God's will as best as I can.

Julia Parsons, Orange Lutheran High School, Orange, CA

Julia Parsons is in her 17 year in ministry at Orange Lutheran High School and currently teaches AP Literature. She also serves as the English department chair and a curriculum coach on the Instructional Support Team. She has her BA in English and Communication Studies from Westmont College, and her teaching credential and MA in English Literature from CSULB.

Rev. Dominic J. Rivkin, Pacific Southwest District

Rev. Dominic J. Rivkin serves as the Mission Executive for the Pacific Southwest District of the LCMS. Dominic is called to support existing ministries as they create new faith communities that intentionally proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to their neighbors. This includes developing strategies and partnerships and equipping leaders to engage our densely populated, culturally diverse, and rapidly growing region. His ongoing study is in movements of Spiritual formation in the early, Reformation era, and current Christian Church with an applied project focused on identity and purpose to follow. Dominic and his wife Cassie reside in Los Angeles, enjoying the excitement of the city as much as they love exploring the trails and mountains of Southern California.

Michael Schafer, Christ Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ

Michael obtained his undergraduate degree in psychology from Concordia University Irvine and his Master's Degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Phoenix. Michael is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the State of Arizona and has worked in private practice, hospitals, residential treatment centers, and as the School Counselor at Christ Lutheran School in Phoenix, Arizona. At Christ Lutheran School, Michael has been directly involved in developing the Social and Emotional Learning Program for the 4th through 8th grade students.

Steve Schedler, Founder of Voice In The Vineyard Ministries

Steve served as a DCE for 38 years and recently retired to focus attention on Voice in the Vineyard Ministries. He served 38 years as a DCE, most recently at St. Paul's Pacific Beach. He

has two children, Jennifer, a Lutheran School Teacher in Las Vegas and Alan, an engineer in San Diego.

Mark Schulz, Retired Pastor

Mark Schulz has been involved in Lutheran ministry since his graduation from Concordia College in River Forest, IL, in 1980. He was a junior high teacher, youth leader, and athletic director for twelve years before attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. Following seminary he served three different congregations as pastor, including 21 years as Senior Pastor of Trinity in Lisle, IL before his retirement in 2021. In addition to his undergraduate and seminary education Mark has a degree in communications from the University of Illinois and is a graduate of the Pastoral Leadership Institute. He is passionate about leadership in the church – especially as it relates to keeping the church focused on its mission. In retirement Mark continues part time involvement in ministry, focused on helping churches show God’s love and grace to the LGBTQ community. When not involved in ministry you are likely to find him spending time with his family. Or you might find him engaged in two of his favorite pursuits, golfing and cheering for Chicago sports teams, win or lose!

Kelli Shipp, NWEA

The belief that all children have a purpose and can succeed molded her life . For over 30 years, she has dedicated her life specifically to make a difference for children. Her journey has included time as an elementary classroom teacher ranging across 5 different grades. During this time, she became a K-12 Reading Specialist, tutored students after school with individualized learning plans, and orchestrated math camps for both struggling and gifted students. In wanting to have an impact that reached beyond her own classroom, she invested in whole school student success by supporting other teachers, in their quest for excellence, as a mentor teacher and developed curriculum that was grade level aligned. This grew into her becoming a professional learning consultant to schools across the United States while supporting future teachers as an Adjunct Professor. Throughout her career she has worked with a diverse range of students from different cultures that stretched from Title 1 to affluent schools, in multiple school environments that included private, charter, and public schools, and across multiple states. Teacher certifications have been granted to her from Arizona, California, and Colorado with SEI endorsements. No matter the setting, she has utilized data to drive instruction and has seen high growth in struggling, at level, and gifted students. She personally experienced the benefit of using MAP in the classroom and depended on MAP data to inform instruction

decisions and set growth goals with the students. Additionally, she led and trained her team and other grade level teachers to utilize MAP data to achieve the same high results in student growth. Kelli attended Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona and obtained a BS in Elementary Education with a Computer Science emphasis. She also attended Western Governors University where she obtained a MS in Curriculum and Instruction.

Chris Singer, President/CEO of Lutheran Church Charities

Rev. Chris Singer is the President/CEO of Lutheran Church Charities. Chris spent over twenty-five years working in senior pastoral leadership roles within The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS). Together with his wife, Jeanette they have five adult children living and studying in Texas and California, and a chocolate Labrador named Harvey.

Cindy Steinbeck, Author & Founder of Voice In The Vineyard Ministries

Cindy, a retired DCE, owns Steinbeck Vineyards and Winery in Paso Robles, CA. She and her husband, Steve Schedler, founded Voice In The Vineyard Ministries that offers care and encouragement for church workers. The vineyards provide the perfect resting space for DCEs and other church workers to rest, grow, and be encouraged.

Nathan Stevens, Christ Greenfield Lutheran High School, Gilbert, AZ

Nathan Stevens is in his eighth year in school ministry. He was a teacher and a principal at Beautiful Savior in Colorado before joining CG in 2020. He will be leading the launch of the CG micro-high school as the High School Director. Nathan is excited to extend his ministry to the high school while also continuing to serve in the grade school in various capacities. He is a graduate of Concordia, Irvine and expects to graduate in the spring of 2024 from Kairos University with a master's in Christian Leadership.

Kimberly Stockton, Senior Education Advisor

Kimberly Stockton is a Senior Education Advisor and student advocate skilled in educational leadership, curriculum development, professional learning design, and instructional support around the shifts, principles, and fundamentals of the Science of Reading and English Language Arts instruction for grades prekindergarten to grade 12. Kimberly is passionate about building capacity in educators by guiding and supporting effective and equitable instructional practices to improve learning outcomes for all students.

Lauralyn Vasquez, Beyond Technology

Lauralyn Vasquez M.Ed <https://www.linkedin.com/in/lauralyn-vasquez/> Lauralyn is a motivational speaker and author, passionate about healthy digital citizenship and safety, AI in and for the classrooms, and making sure that everyone has the digital literacy skills they need for success. While in college, she discovered technology and how it helped her succeed in academia. Very few had computers at that time. She sold her car to purchase her first computer. No longer did her learning struggles inhibit her from college success. From then on, she knew that getting the right technology and instruction into the hands of learners would be a significant game changer in their academics and life. She holds a BA in Sociology, Certificate in Leadership and Spiritual Direction and a Masters in Teaching and Learning with Technology. Currently, she is Director of Operations and Educational Services with Beyond Tech Ed, writer and speaker on keeping our kids safe and balanced with technology and responsibility with technology into the classroom. Guest on the podcast: Digital Citizenship Lavish Hope Blog Posts: 10 STRATEGIES FOR TEACHERS TO USE "AI": Personalized Assistance for You and Your Students - Curriculumtrak ChatGpt, Revolutionizing Education or Setting Students Up for Failure? 5 Reasons why 'I Wonder Statements' help students learn How can educational leaders lead in digital citizenship? Talks/Presentations now on YouTube: Digital Citizenship, Digital Literacy and keeping our Students Safe: Principal Forum Rancho Community Church - Forever Changed The Table - Mom's group in Temecula, CA Guest author in three different published spiritual works: Fresh Start New Day She is Called, Women of the Bible Series Equity-Based Hospitality Series

Dr. Tom Zelt, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, CA

Tom is the lead pastor at Prince of Peace in Fremont, CA. He is an author, producer of educational materials used internationally, and a Guest Instructor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He is the founder of Impact Biblical Resources. His background is in education. He is married to Sue with two grown children (all in education), and seven grandchildren.