



School Social Work
Association of America



25th National School Social Work Conference April 6-9, 2022—Chicago, IL

Presented by the:

School Social Work Association of America

SSWAA is proud to introduce our **Keynote Sessions** and **Speakers** for the 2022 National Conference:

Thursday, April 7th, 2022, Keynote

“Leveraging Transformative Social and Emotional Learning...From Imagining to Actualizing an Educational System Rooted in Love and Justice”:

Dr. Bloodine Barthelus and Dr. Alexandra Skoog-Hoffman

Description: Over the past two years, our communities, and our students have navigated persistent trauma. We have all managed the reality of pervasive inequity and injustice; and have realized the need for honest conversations and authentic action towards reimagining an educational process that centers people first; is committed to justice; and elevates the voices of all, beginning with those who have been historically marginalized. Social and emotional learning (SEL) provides a way for communities to advance these and other goals that are determined by local schools, families, and communities. CASEL has been refining one specific form of SEL implementation that concentrates SEL practice on transforming inequitable settings and systems and promoting justice-oriented civic engagement—which we are calling “Transformative SEL.” Join us in this keynote address where we will deepen our collective understanding of transformative SEL, its focal constructs and the power that it holds to shift the current centrality of power of a few to that of all. Learn with us as we draw clear connections from transformative SEL to the SSWAA values and demonstrate the opportunities that exist to mitigate educational inequities by centering the identities, voices, and actions of students, caregivers, community organizations, and educators...all through a lens of reflection, continuous improvement, and overall wellbeing.



Dr. Bloodine Barthelus, Director of Practice Innovations, (she/her) currently serves as the director of practice innovations at CASEL. In that role, she uses her experience of integrating social and emotional learning (SEL) and equity to help codify and map out aligned language, approach, and technical assistance to CASEL partners supporting the implementation of SEL in service of equity. Prior to joining CASEL, Bloodine was a school counselor in Tulsa Public Schools, Gwinnett County Schools, and Alexandria City Schools, where she was successful in developing programmatic solutions to increase student achievement and growth. She went on to become a district department lead in DC Public Schools as a director of school climate and social emotional learning.



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Dr. Alexandra Skoog-Hoffman, Director of Research-Practice Partnerships, (she/her) leads the design and enactment of district- and school-level continuous improvement technical assistance efforts at CASEL in the effort to explore how social and emotional learning can be leveraged to promote equitable learning environments and equitable developmental outcomes for students. In her role, she directs key practice-focused research initiatives designed to support and scale the processes and impacts of high-quality SEL implementation in partner districts, schools, and communities. Prior to joining CASEL, Alexandra was a high school educator in DC Public Schools, and a district consultant at TNTP, a full-service educational consulting firm, where she consulted with district and school leaders on instructional program and initiative implementation, and evaluation.

Friday, April 8th, 2022, Keynote

“Building Authentic Alliances Through Critical Conversations”

Dr. Karen Rice, PhD, LSW, ACSW

Description: Intergroup dialogue is the process of bringing together individuals from different social identity groups to engage in and process social issues. Through the exploration of differences and commonalities, and the examination of the effect of discrimination, power, and privilege, group members collaborate to identify common ground in order to promote equity and justice.



Dr. Karen Rice, PhD, LSW, ACSW, serves as the Chair of the School of Social Work and DSW Director at Millersville University of PA and is trained in the Intergroup Dialogue approach.

Saturday, April 9, 2022, Keynote Panel

“What is Safety from the Lens of Teens”

Aaron Mallory

Description: The goal of the discussion is to educate participants on the safety challenges young people encounter daily, and how systematic and institutional racism creates unsafe environments within their communities. Additionally, the discussion will highlight strategies and ideas from students on how school social workers can help students create a sense of safety.



Aaron Mallory, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of GRO Community. Aaron founded GRO Community to assist males, particularly males of color that are often misunderstood and outcasted within our society. Aaron has over ten years in the field, working with specifically African American males with diverse behavior challenges. Aaron has provided direct service work at UCAN within their transitional living shelter for young adult males, HRDI as a child and adolescent therapist, and Youth Advocate as an advocate. Aaron has served in leadership roles at HRDI as the Clinical Supervisor within the Child and Adolescent Department and Clinical Director at Heartland Alliance, READI initiative. Aaron obtained his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering at Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and a Masters in Social Work from the University of Chicago. Aaron is also a licensed clinical social worker under the state of

Illinois regulatory board.