

AEE West Region

Ready to Connect and Have Fun?

Join Us at the 2023 West Region Conference!



March 3rd -5th

Creating Just and Transformative Cycles of Experiential Education for All!

UC Santa Cruz's Center for Agroecology

[Location Cowell Ranch Hay Barn](#)

Our regional conference will be held at UC Santa Cruz's 30 acre Farm and Garden, Come connect in this amazing and historical location for experiential education, share wisdom, and advance ways to build comm-UNITY!

Our Conference Theme:

The experiential education model is inherently cyclical, weaving intergenerational context and insights. This year's gathering centers on generative questions for our community of practice that ensure our models speak to the communities we teach and live within. Guiding questions include, how do we grow our programs and models through a process of ideation, action, and reflection that is intersectional and equity driven? Secondly, how do we as educators and students attain our goal to provide a learning environment in which everyone can thrive? We invite you to join this fun and incredible gathering while we reflect upon experiential education furthering how we can continue to grow transformative cycles together!

What is a WRAEE Conference?

This conference is geared toward educators, teachers, counselors, outdoor guides, environmental educators, camp leaders, group facilitators and anyone interested in experiential methodology. Experiential education is a philosophy and methodology in which educators purposefully engage with learners through direct experiences and reflection in order to increase self-knowledge, develop skills and clarify values.

What is AEE?

The Association for Experiential Education (AEE) is a nonprofit, professional membership organization that supports the highest caliber of professionals in the fields of experiential education. AEE has been transforming education since 1972 and currently has 1,500 members in 33 countries engaged in more than 15 areas of professional practice. Collectively, our members impact more than 2.8 million learners annually. For more information, check out www.aee.org/west.

Conference Registration Includes:

- Interactive musical playnote reception and meal Friday night
- Continental Breakfast Saturday and Sunday
- Lunch and snacks on Saturday & Sunday
- Interactive Keynote and dinner on Friday evening
- Entertainment on Saturday night
- All workshop sessions

Registration Fees:

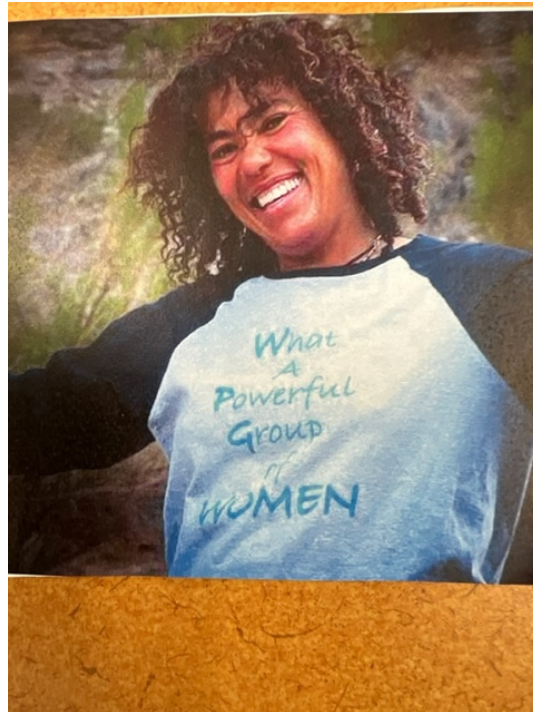
FREE: For presenters and onsite support/service crew volunteers

Early Bird deadline 2/15	After Early Bird
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Member \$50● Non-member \$75● Student Member \$40● Student Non-member \$50● Presenter \$0● Service Crew \$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Member \$65● Non-member \$85● Student Member \$50● Student Non-member \$60● Presenter \$0● Service Crew \$0

Scholarships:

We are excited to offer accessible rates for this year's WRAEE conference including supplemental scholarships to ensure ALL can join us at this incredible event! Registration goes to cover our costs for hosting this amazing conference with regional partners. Please share with colleagues, friends, and in your networks. **If you are interested in a scholarship please send an email to:**

wraeeconference@gmail.com



Nina Roberts Scholarship Fund

Nina Roberts was and still is my soul sister. The intersection of our lives, loves, passions, connection to the outdoors, adventure and social justice bound us together through time, space, heart and now beyond the veil. Some of our early work together focused on diversity & humanistic risk management. We trained, published and presented workshops at Aee, the Wilderness Risk Management conferences and combined our consulting business. Our synergy, love and collaboration was a gift to both of us and we knew we had some serious work to do to try to make the world a more just an equitable place and space in the experiential/adventure education and beyond. Our most recent project was to publish a text book focused on social justice and the outdoors. We were in final talks with Rutledge publishing, when Nina's cancer flared. We had to fall back and regroup, and thus we reimagined a DEIB field guide, which you will learn more about at the conference. It was a true labor of LOVE and captures Nina's spirit/legacy throughout.

In 2016, Nina and Terry asked me to be the keynote at the AEE West conference when I moved to the Northbay of California (thank you Nina) and with an open heart, I accepted. Nina was a fixture at AEE regional conferences throughout her career and at many AEE conferences across the U.S. Naming a scholarship after her in the AEE west region is fitting, as she spent much of her impactful career in at San Francisco State University and supported the work that of AEE by bringing numerous students and colleagues alike.

I close by sharing information on many of Nina's collective accomplishments and legacy below. I hope you invest in buying the DEIB field guide to help spread social justice concepts and lived experiences expressed by those who took risks of sharing their stories.

The Inspiration for this DEIB field guide was Dr. Nina Roberts, a longtime professor, mentor, scholar, and advocate in the SFSU Department of Recreation, Parks & Tourism (RPT) passed away after battling cancer. Nina was a passionate and inspiring leader, a longtime park professional and an advocate, a renowned researcher, and a sought-after expert nationally recognized for her work and commitment to social and environmental justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion with a desire to break down barriers relating to park access and recreation opportunities on public lands. Nina's primary focus in her career was on experiential learning and connecting urban communities with public lands. She knew that parks are important to our country's well-being and that public spaces had to be accessible and inclusive for everyone. This project was underway when she passed, but her colleagues, friends and family have carried this through to completion to continue environmental and social justice education.

Please carry Nina's social justice torch forward. She's cheering us on...you can bet on that.

Lodging/Camping

Free Camping available at [Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park](#)

Camping spots will be available at Henry Cowell State Park at no cost. Please check the box during registration to indicate if you would like to reserve a camping spot. We have equipment available; tents, sleeping pads, and sleeping bags. Once you register, you will receive a google form to request items you need.

There will also be affordable lodging at Paradox Hotel which is not from our venue.
Contact Terry @ 831-601-6952 for a special conference rate at the Paradox Hotel!

[Paradox Hotel](#)

If you would like assistance in finding transportation, a roommate or carpool option, please call Terry @ 831-601-6952 or Kym @ 831.234.2046.

Food Schedule and Menu

WRAEE MENU

FRIDAY DINNER

BBQ CHICKEN AND ROASTED VEGGIES
WITH SALAD AND JAMAICA

SATURDAY BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST BAR
COFFEE AND TEA
GRANOLA BOWLS WITH YOGURT
BAGELS AND SPREADS

SATURDAY LUNCH

DIY SANDWHICH BAR, SNACKS, AND SALAD

SATURDAY DINNER

TACO BAR WITH CCS WORKSHOP SALAD AND JAMAICA
CHICKEN TINGA
SWEET POTATO
RICE
BEANS
SALSA
CHIPS

SUNDAY BREAKFAST

BREAKFAST BAR
COFFEE AND TEA
GRANOLA BOWLS WITH YOGURT
BAGELS AND SPREADS

SUNDAY LUNCH

DIY SANDWHICH BAR, SNACKS, AND SALAD

**THANKS TO THE WRAEE SERVICE CREW AND
THE UCSC CENTER FOR AGROECOLOGY**

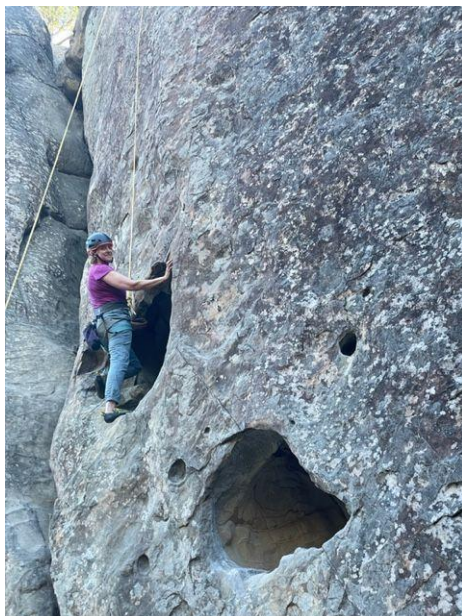


Daily Schedule

Friday March 3	Description	Location
2:00-2:45 pm	Registration Check-in	Hay Barn
2:45-3:00 pm	Presenters Meeting	Hay Barn
3:00-3:45 pm	Welcome and Opening	Hay Barn
3:45-4:00 pm	Break, walk to workshops	
4:00-5:30 pm	Workshop/Activity Session 1	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
5:30-6:00 pm	Break (Register if not registered yet)	
6:00-7:00 pm	Dinner BBQ	Farm Center
7:00-8:30 pm	Rhythm Well Community Building	Hay Barn
Saturday March 4	Description	Location
8:00-9:00 am	Registration Check-in & Breakfast	Hay Barn
8:30-8:45 am	Presenters Meeting	Hay Barn
9:00-9:20 am	Day 2 Opening/Announcements	Hay Barn
9:20-9:30 am	Break, walk to workshops	
9:30-11:00 am	Workshop Session 2	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
11:00-11:15 am	Break, snacks walk to workshops	Hay Barn
11:15 am-12:45 pm	Workshop Session 3	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
12:45-1:30 pm	Lunch and Break	Hay Barn
1:30-2:15 pm	Keynote	Hay Barn
2:15-2:30 pm	Break, walk to workshops	
2:30-4:00 pm	Workshop Session 4	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
4:00-4:15 pm	Break, walk to workshops	

4:15-5:45 pm	Workshop Session 5	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
5:45-6:00 pm	Break, get ready for dinner	
6:00-7:30 pm	Dinner	Hay Barn
7:30-9:00 pm	Adventure Film/Star Walk	Hay Barn
Sunday March 5	Description	Location
8:00-9:00 am	Registration Check-in & Breakfast	Hay Barn
9:00-10:30 am	Workshop Session 6	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
10:30-10:45 am	Break	
10:45 am-12:15 pm	Workshop Session 7	Hay Barn/Gatehouse/ Farm
12:15-2pm	Lunch, Planning Team Session, Closing, & Community Clean-up	
2:30-5:30 pm	Post-Conference Workshops	Cowells Beach

Keynote Speaker 2023



Let's Walk the Talk Together: Moving beyond Rhetoric toward Action

Dr. Mary Breunig has spent more than two decades as an outdoor/experiential education professor and Director of Social Justice and Equity Studies at Canadian universities. Since 2019, she has been teaching at California State University - Sacramento on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Miwok, Wintu, Maidu, Nisenan (southern Maidu), and Patwin Native peoples. Her scholarship focuses on social and environmental justice, schoolyard pedagogy, student-directed teaching and learning, and Freirian Praxis. Mary is a NOLS and Outward Bound instructor. She is a climber, cyclist, avid paddler, place-based enthusiast, and urban flaneur. Find out more at marybreunig.com

Far too often experiential educators claim that they are justice-oriented in their programs, classrooms, facilitation, therapeutic practices, and backcountry field experiences, yet a deeper dive into experiences of people from marginalized intersectional background often proves otherwise. How are we serving and underserving people with various self-perceptions of body positivity, from varying age demographics, cultural backgrounds, races, gender self-identifications & expressions, religious backgrounds, primary language, socioeconomic classes, educational backgrounds, and geographic locations? How can we integrate consideration of these factors to offer truly transformational experiences to our students, clients, participants, and in our communities of practice? This keynote will experientially explore opportunities to move beyond just talking about these topics to identifying actionable, transformative ways to expand upon our experiential praxes.

Daily Program Schedule/Activities and Workshops

Friday Workshops

****Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site****

Workshop SESSION 1 - 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Get to Know your Peers

Creating a space where people get to know each other through games. A variety of games that can be played to any level of age. These games are an easy way to liven up the day and can be implemented into teaching moments. Each game will get each individual thinking about how they can get the most in their personal goals.

Presenters: Vue Yang, Briseyda Perez Guzman

Strand: AEE Leadership Development

The Map to Wholeness: Come Play a New Transformation Initiative

Where are you in the process of transformation? Transformation follows an elusive and arduous pathway that causes a fundamental structure of the self to dissolve and to be reformed, resulting in an entirely new you (think butterfly). In this session, the author will share her research findings (across 15 years) that illuminate the psychospiritual process of transformation. Specifically, she will share her Figure-8 Model and the 13-phases of transformation through story. Together, we will play a transformation initiative to bring it to life. And together, we will play with the "8" to co-create transformation games and initiatives together.

Presenter: Suzy Ross

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

The Rec Resilience Model: Why adding challenge and stress works

Stress levels are up. Academic workloads are massive. Our collective cups of anxiety are bubbling over the brim. So why ask students to join us on an outdoor adventure - to sleep on the ground, be cold, be hot, poop in the dirt, and all with a group of complete strangers?! Because challenge works.

In this workshop we'll share our Rec Resilience Model, which is grounded on the simple equation that Challenge + Support yields increased Resilience. That increased resilience returns with us to campus, expanding our capacity to tackle the day-to-day challenges, while walking alongside a supportive community.

Presenters: Dustin Smucker and Sabina Javier

Strand: Adventure-Based Programming

Saturday Workshops

****Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site****

Workshop SESSION 2 - 9:30-11:00 am

Utilizing Experiential Learning to Build Skills in Treatment Services Part 1

The purpose of this workshop is to help attendees explore foundational models of Experiential Theories and how to apply them in skill building aspects of treatment. This workshop will show participants how the application of the Experiential Learning Cycle and Comfort Zones can assist client's confidence in overcoming adversity and dysfunction in their lives, while being sensitive to the various challenges or trauma that the client has endured. The hope is that attendees will consider how to be intentional in providing therapeutic support, and choosing activities that help clients maximize skill building.

Presenters: Kinsey Metts MS and Leonore Hernandez

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

Mindfulness in the Outdoors

Explanation of what is mindfulness. Why it is so important that we practice it and teach this to our students. - How Mindfulness can be applied in an outdoor program. - What tools can we give our students to take home and practice on their own. - Tangible skills you'll receive after being part of the workshop: * Better understanding of mindfulness. * Being able to explain what it is. * Workshop ideas to bring to your classroom or work environment.

Presenter: Raul Sanchez

Strand: Body/Mind/Spirit

Advancing DEI through culture

Have you attended a DEI training that didn't feel...right? That it actually maybe hurt more than it helped? Data shows that this is a common outcome of DEI trainings. In many ways DEI work hyperfocuses on some aspects of culture while ignoring others - specifically the shared culture groups need to build together in order to accomplish their goals. In this session we'll discuss some DEI practices that no longer resonate, and share some skills to help advance these conversations in your organization and community.

Presenter: Rohan Shahani

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

Workshop SESSION 3- 11:15-12:45 pm

Utilizing Experiential Learning to Build Skills in Treatment Services Part 2

The purpose of this workshop is to help attendees explore foundational models of Experiential Theories and how to apply them in skill building aspects of treatment. This workshop will show participants how the application of the Experiential Learning Cycle and Comfort Zones can assist client's confidence in overcoming adversity and dysfunction in their lives, while being sensitive to the various challenges or trauma that the client has endured. The hope is that attendees will consider how to be intentional in providing therapeutic support, and choosing activities that help clients maximize skill building.

Presenters: Kinsey Metts MS and Leonore Hernandez

Strand: Therapeutic Adventure/Adventure Therapy

Kikori-Play.Connect.Reflect.Grow.

Kikori is a community-driven platform that is revolutionizing education through experiential and social emotional learning for all. In this workshop, we will familiarize participants with the app and all of its features. We will all have an opportunity to practice and share with the group!

Presenters: Kymberly Lacrosse and Bryn Lottig

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

From Food Security to Food Justice & Sovereignty: Using Collaborative Storytelling to map the foodscape

While contemporary conversations around food access often center on food security, food justice & sovereignty advocates call attention to the right of people to define their own food and agriculture systems through democratic processes. By shifting our mindsets from a food security to a food sovereignty way of thinking, we can uncover historic issues of inequality that have shaped our present foodscapes and work collaboratively to promote food justice at every step of the system from field to plate. In this workshop, participants will share stories of their own understandings of the food system as a part of a collaborative process to map the food system and suggest opportunities for increased food sovereignty in the future.

Presenters: Briseyda Perez Guzma, Vue Yang, Dr. Leah Joyner

Strand: Environmental Education/Nature Study

Workshop SESSION 4 – 2:30-4:00 pm

Co-Creating Just and Transformative Experiential Praxes by Walking the Talk.

This workshop will build upon the keynote. Mary will facilitate a session on how to move beyond just talking about the topics of social justice and transformative experiential education to identifying actionable, transformative ways to expand upon your experiential praxes. Key definitions will be introduced and a series of activities will explore this topic in depth. Participants will leave with takeaway learning that they can immediately integrate and apply to their own programs, facilitation, classrooms, and backcountry expeditions.

Presenter: Dr. Mary Breunig

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

Rewilding a Child

The idea of rewilding means reframing the context in which we live. It means reshaping the way children are educated. The connection between “nature” and critical child developmental experiences is disappearing. This is especially apparent in marginalized communities which are often devoid of trees and natural spaces. Rewilding an urban area evokes empathy by focusing on the whole child while harnessing their wellbeing and inspiring them to place value on nature. As a National Geographic Certified Educator and 2019 Grosvenor Teacher Fellow, I invite you to reimagine urbanized landscapes and share opportunities to rewild a child.

Presenter: Lyanne Abreu

Strand: Environmental Education/Nature Study

How to Facilitate Healing and Supportive Environments for Individuals with Disordered Eating Habits

Students with disordered eating often struggle to participate in wellness activities in ways that are actually beneficial. Eating is indulgence, exercise is punishment, and one’s body is a source of shame, anxiety, and discomfort. However, in outdoor recreation, food is important sustenance and the body is a celebration of one’s capability. Recreation leaders have the opportunity to promote this second mindset, and the way they talk about these things can have big impacts. Our workshop dives

into the tensions between these two realities through stories, discussion, and coping strategies, and walk away with a renewed compassion for others and yourself.

Presenters: Kinley Hartigan and Talia Akiba

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Workshop SESSION 5 – 4:15-5:45 pm

Fresh Biz Collaboratory - The game that changes how you play, work and live!

Are you ready for a paradigm shake-up? What about unlocking higher levels of collaboration, creativity, & proactivity in your team and organization... all while playing and having fun. Do you love to play games? Game of flying learning is taken to a new level with this board game experience that is transformational in terms of conceptual possibilities regarding collaboration, come, play, witness, experience, exhilarate, join the flow and be transformed!

Presenter: Jonathan “Joc” Clark, PhD

Strand: Social Justice and Ethics

Engaging, interactive and reflective strategies that provide a learning environment in which everyone can thrive!

This highly interactive session will include multiple strategies and techniques to engage your students in learning, participation and inquiry that you can use right away! Learning these will empower you to structure a safe and fun learning environment that allows your students time to reflect on and construct their own learning - integral parts of the experiential learning cycle. We'll be examining and participating in activities for constructing meaning, critical thinking, problem solving and discussion that incorporate multiple intelligences and different learning styles all at once. This is for all experience and knowledge levels. You don't want to miss this!

Presenter: Susie Edwards

Strand: Art and Science of Teaching

Tossing Topics: Experiential education in a Kitchen

Hungry for something you can feel good about? Come cook with the Cowell Coffee Shop (a non-transactional cafe run through the UCSC Basic Needs Program and the Center for Agroecology) where teams of interns are taught to create seasonal and culturally relevant dishes from school farm produce. CCS teaches interns kitchen basics like knife skills and proper food handling and cleaning, along with more complex topics like exploring cultural flavor palettes and the versatility of our locally grown ingredients. This workshop will be an example of the unique pedagogical approach CCS employs.

Presenters: Sage Hirsch and Vivian Gerstein

Strand: Schools and Colleges

Sunday Workshops

****Workshop Locations will be posted at the conference site****

Workshop SESSION 6 – 9:00-10:30 am

Orienteering in Schools

Orienteering education is a physically active learning experience that develops map reading and map navigation skills. While orienteering is traditionally done in the forest or wilderness, in collaboration with school teachers, Navigation Games has created orienteering-based curricula that can be used everywhere, including in urban schools. Through our orienteering lessons, students gain confidence at navigating in both familiar and new places. In this workshop we will play an outdoor team orienteering game using a map of the campus. We will discuss how to create orienteering-based learning in your programs. Come dressed to spend time outdoors.

Presenters: TBD

Strand: Schools and College

Connection Before Content: EE in Action Part 1

Do you sometimes feel like you don't know how to integrate experiential learning into your day-to-day work? Do you experience a gap between your intentions and implementation? Do you want to grow your facilitation skills and your EE muscles? In this workshop, we will explore and create ways to practically and intentionally infuse our current work and future work with opportunities that will maximize learning and of course fun! An assessment tool, a rubric and a template will be provided!

Presenter: Kymberly Lacrosse

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Tools and practices for a Balanced Life

Combining therapeutic movement practices, written skills and tools for organization and general assessment, we will enliven the spirit of your body and projects! Be they personal or professional, balance is ESSENTIAL! Awaken the body somatically, we will share what we experience and develop an on-going practice that works for you and your lifestyle or physical needs. Once in our bodies, we will tap into ideas and utilize tools to help gain new invigorating perspective which can lead to more creativity, success and fulfillment of our Visions and ideal outcomes.

Presenter: Bernadine Rosso-Galarneau

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Workshop SESSION 7 - 10:45 am-12:15 pm

Circle Up! Empowering Girls in Outdoor Adventure Education

Come on course with me! Experience a “day in the life” of a participant in a girls’ outdoor adventure program. Engaging and informative hands-on workshop, featuring a sample of empowering, girl-positive activities that help make outdoor programs enjoyable, meaningful, and memorable. Using circles as our theme to create an inclusive environment, we’ll “circle up” to highlight various course components, such as check-ins, activity debriefs, conflict resolution, self-expression, and affirmations. Basic understanding of outdoor education programs helpful, but no previous knowledge or skills required. Open to all.

Presenter: Susie Barr-Wilson

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Connection Before Content: EE in Action Part 2

Do you sometimes feel like you don't know how to integrate experiential learning into your day-to-day work? Do you experience a gap between your intentions and implementation? Do you want to grow your facilitation skills and your EE muscles? In this workshop, we will explore and create ways to practically and intentionally infuse our current work and future work with opportunities that will maximize learning and of course fun! An assessment tool, a rubric and a template will be provided!

Presenter: Kymberly Lacrosse

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Quick and Easy Riddles

Have you ever been in charge of a group of kids or adults and felt a bit of a lull during transitions? In this workshop we will learn and practice a number of different riddles designed to make kids use their brains and think outside the box to come up with an answer. They are a great way to fill a couple minutes and keep your group engaged on the go

Presenters: Sammy Webb and Apex Adventure Staff

Strand: Facilitation/Processing

Post Conference Workshop SESSION - 2:30-5:30

Water Adventure Sports *Sign up required

Plenty of us have bucket lists for things to do or places to see; that's a given. But how many of us have a bucket list for water sports?

Water sports come in all shapes and sizes. They are fun, thrilling, and unique experiences..

Feeling like you need a challenge? Why not push the boat out (excuse the pun!) and experience something new. Introduction to Ocean Swimming, Paddle Boarding, Surfing. Sign up for details and info about access to wetsuits, paddle and surfboards.

Presenters: Miranda Fry, Kyle Macdonald and Terry Williams

Strand: Adventure Based

WRAEE 2023 Workshop Presenter Bios

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Mary Breunig has spent more than two decades as an outdoor/experiential education professor and Director of Social Justice and Equity Studies at Canadian universities. Since 2019, she has been teaching at California State University - Sacramento on the traditional and ancestral homelands of the Miwok, Wintu, Maidu, Nisenan (southern Maidu), and Patwin Native peoples. Her scholarship focuses on social and environmental justice, schoolyard pedagogy, student-directed teaching and learning, and Freiran Praxis. Mary is a NOLS and Outward Bound instructor. She is a climber, cyclist, avid paddler, place-based enthusiast, and urban flaneur. Find out more at marybreunig.com

Lyanne Abreu

Lyanne was an environmental science teacher for 18 years and is currently the Outdoor Coordinator at a title 1 elementary school in San Jose, California. Her goal is to embolden teachers and children in becoming stewards of the planet while advocating for an equitable world.

Talia Akiba

Talia is a fifth year UC Santa Cruz student. She works at the UCSC Adventure Rec as a Rec Leader, Rec-ceptionist. While in outdoor leadership, Talia has worked on changing her relationship with food and movement while creating communities centered around compassion and empowerment.

Susie Barr-Wilson

Susie Barr-Wilson is passionate about empowering girls and women through outdoor adventures. Susie brings over 20 years experience in recreation programming and experiential education, and she is the Founder & Director of Chrysalis Girls Adventures, a new outdoor education organization in the SF Bay Area.

Jonathan “Joc” Clark, PhD

Educator, facilitator and process consultant. Specialized in creating collaborative working environments, leadership and organization development. PhD in Leadership and Change Management. MEd in Organization Development. BA in Psychology and Spanish. Joc is bilingual, English & Spanish. Currently a faculty member at California State University, Chico.

Susie Edwards

I have 27 years experience teaching in elementary schools in the greater Sacramento area. I received my Bachelor's degree in Child Development and Teaching Credential from CSU, Sacramento. Currently, I'm presenting powerful engagement and motivation strategies addressing different learning styles to empower students and educators.

Miranda Fry

Miranda has been a presenter for WRAEE for several years. She is an outdoor educator with a decade of extensive experience living and playing on the water. Sailing, SUP, ocean kayaking, and surfing. Since 2020, she has also been ocean swimming, white water kayaking, and rafting

Vivian Gerstein

Vivian is a second year Plant Sciences and Environmental Studies double major and Kitchen Manager at Cowell Coffee Shop who loves mountain biking, nerding out on nature, and sharing her love of cooking and trying new foods with anyone who will listen.

Briseyda Perez Guzman

Student in Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Administration 148 class. We inspire, mentor and prepare the next generation of leaders to respond to 21st century opportunities and challenges in their respective communities of practice.

Kinley Hartigan

Kinley is fourth-year student at UCSC and has been working at Adventure Rec as a Trip Leader and Rental Manager. She has found the outdoors to be a healing place for her relationship with food and hopes to foster that experience for others.

Leonore Hernandez

Leonore is passionate about the world of skill building and creating in the moment empowerment experiences for others. She has been an instructor in many forms of fitness and incorporates this into her work using therapeutic movement and wellbeing in connecting the mind and body.

Sage Hirsch

Sage is an Earth and Planetary Science major. He is the Event Coordinator and Internship/Volunteer Coordinator for Center for Agroecology's Cowell Coffee Shop, and the Museum Education and Outreach Intern for the experiential learning-based UCSC Norris Center.

Sabina Javier

Sabina is in her fourth year at UC Santa Cruz where she works as a trip leader for the Adventure Rec program. Sabina truly believes there is no better place to push and discover one's true limits than the wonderful natural world

Leah Joyner

Dr. Joyner is an Assistant Professor at California State University, Sacramento. Her research interests include community participatory action research, environmental justice, and food apartheid & sovereignty. Dr. Joyner has worked extensively with non-profit, government, and industry partners on collaborative community engaged initiatives ranging from strategic participatory planning processes with the NPS, to agritourism and food equity related education projects across the U.S. and internationally.

Kymberly Lacrosse

I have been a game changing leader for over thirty five years. I facilitate engaging workshops that activate the infinite potential within each of us! Being in a workshop with me is really fun.

Bryn Lottig

I am the co-founder of Kikori, an app for educators that aligns experiential education activities with teaching and social emotional standards. I am a sought-after expert in experiential education and an Adventure Program Coordinator at Arbor Vitae-Woodruff, an Expeditionary Learning school

Kyle Macdonald

Kyle is the founder of both Bay Area Wilderness Training and Outdoors Empowered Network and was a water sports guide for 10 years. He is now an avid paddleboarder, who loves to explore the San Francisco Bay, and often paddles outside the Golden Gate Bridge

Kinsey Metts MS

Kinsey is dedicated to helping maximize the skill building component of treatment services with at-risk children through various Experiential Learning Methods. Kinsey currently provides oversight and training to treatment providers at Redwood Community Services in Ukiah, CA, serving as the Manager of Rehabilitation Services

Suzy Ross, PhD

Suzy Ross is an Associate Professor of Recreation Therapy at San José State University. Her research examines the phenomenon of transformation, the subject of

her book, *The Map to Wholeness*. She specializes in trauma and leads study abroad where students learn traditional healing called *pujillay*.

Bernadine Rosso-Galarneau

I've been supporting, guiding, coaching, mentoring and witnessing the power and potency of women of all ages for over 25 years. As an entrepreneur, I have been a massage therapist, Ontological Coach and founded a rite of passage program for teen aged girls.

Rohan Shahani

Rohan is a consultant and trainer dedicated to increasing the physical and emotional well being of students and clients. He is passionate about communication, risk management, and DEI.

Raul Sanchez

Raul studied Finance and International Business and very early on pursued a career in banking. After almost 4 years in banking, I decided to embark in a self discovery adventure. After which I started Eco-Experience Program.

Dustin Smucker

Dustin has committed over half his life to the belief that saying yes to challenges is always worth it, particularly when in a supportive community. Dustin currently serves as a Program Manager of Adventure Rec at UC Santa Cruz.

Sammy Webb

I am a recent college graduate excited to share some fun riddles with you all. I have worked with kids at summer camp, after school programs, and through work with Apex.

Vue Yang

Recreation, Parks, Tourism and Administration student at Sac State. went to UC Merced for first year of college but came back to Sac to finish GE at CRC and finally transferred to Sac State to major in RPTA.

Terry Williams

Terry as the founder and CEO of The Children Are Our Future contributes over 35 years of experience in leadership, experiential education and community building in her work with people from diverse backgrounds within schools, non-profit organizations and

corporations. Her greatest joy is doing work that inspires greatness, authentic leadership and makes a difference in the people's lives.



A very special thank you to our hard-working, fun and committed conference committee!!! Tim Galareau, Jessica Barber, Kymberly Lacrosse, Terry Williams, Sage Hirsch, Miranda Fry, Francis Ge, Jani Jackson, Vue Yang, Raul Sanchez, Adria Vidales, Logan Falley, Jen O'brien.