

Presenter Bio's

Dr. Eric Cooper

Dr. Cooper is the President of the National Urban Alliance for Effective Education (NUA). He served in a similar position as Executive Director for the NUA at Columbia University's Teachers College and as Adjunct Associate Professor for 7 years. Prior to this position, he was the Vice President for Inservice Training & Telecommunications for the Simon & Schuster Education Group. He has worked in the capacities of Associate Director of Program Development and Research for the College Board, Administrative Assistant in the Office of Curriculum for the Boston Public Schools, and Director of a treatment center for emotionally disturbed students, in addition to working as a teacher, researcher, counselor, and Washington Fellow. He received Bridgeport Connecticut's 2005 ABCD Community Service Award. He was the first educator to receive the 2008 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. award from the Israeli Consulate of New York City, Dr. Cooper received a B.A. from City University (NYC) with a major in Psychology, an MA in Special Education, an Ed. M. in Educational Administration, and a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Studies, all from Columbia University's Teachers College.

Dawn Fedora

Dawn Fedora, M.Ed., is a career educator who has served in K-12 in Minneapolis and Eden Prairie as a fourth and fifth grade classroom teacher, a gifted education specialist, a technology instructor, a literacy interventionist, an instructional coach, and a K-12 new-teacher mentor. Ms. Fedora has taught courses at Hamline University as an Adjunct Professor in both Authentic Assessment and Curriculum Differentiation. She currently is a Clinical Supervisor of student teachers at the University of St. Thomas. Ms. Fedora is a Thinking Maps® Trainer, certified in Cognitive Coaching and Peer Coaching practices, an Endorsed NUA Coach, NUA mentor, and Regional Coordinator. Ms. Fedora was named a Teacher of the Year and also received a Minnesota TIES (Technology and Informational Educational Services) Exceptional Teacher of the Year Award. Ms. Fedora earned her BA in Elementary Education and her MA in Children's Literature at the University of Minnesota.

Elizabeth Hillstrom

Ms. Hillstrom has been a high school English teacher for 18 years in District 197, Cook County, Esko, and Edina. She is a Nationally Board Certified teacher. She holds a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Minnesota, advanced certification from the University of Minnesota in Teaching Writing and Critical Literacy. She has had extensive work with the National Urban Alliance, the Pacific Education Group, and Solution Tree PLC; she has served on district equity teams and facilitated equity training.

Dr. Rev PM Crowley Hillstrom

Dr. Rev Hillstrom is one of this country's foremost indigenous scholars leading systemic change for educational excellence and equity. Through the pillars of his CLEAR model (Culture, Learning, Equitable, Achievement and Responsive) he guides districts in generating the equity consciousness needed for conceptual, behavioral and structural transformation. Dr. Rev Hillstrom's undergraduate studies in Music and American Indian Studies at Augsburg University gave rise to his Masters' studies at Bethel University in Ethnomusicology and eventually lead to a Doctorate in Teaching and Learning from the University of Minnesota. Dr. Hillstrom is currently the president of Intercultural Innovations Inc. (home of the CLEAR Model and the CLEAR Solutions Framework) and serves Osseo Area Schools, MN as the Director of Educational Equity.

Jonathan Kim

Jonathan Kim, Education Issues Specialist, has been with Education Minnesota since July 2018. Jonathan oversees the FIRE program, which consists of leading the work with racial equity professional development, facilitating the Racial Equity Advocate cohort, (now in its second year), and shaping Education Minnesota's online learning opportunities. Jonathan spent 12 years teaching middle school band and serving in various leadership roles (e.g. department chair, curriculum writing, building rep, LCAT) in the Osseo school district. After Osseo, Jonathan spent one year in Minneapolis Public Schools as an instructional coach for River Bend (setting 4 EBD grades K-8) and Lake Nokomis-Keewaydin.

Dr. Allison LaBree

Allison LaBree is an Education Issues Specialist with Education Minnesota. The primary focus of her work includes developing and coordinating the professional development opportunities within Minnesota Educator Academy. Other areas of focus include leadership development, engaging and supporting early career educators, and supporting policy development. Allison has her doctorate in Critical Pedagogy and is an educator on leave who spent over 20 years teaching middle school social studies and science at the Forest Lake Area Learning Center. She is passionate about innovative instruction which provides diverse opportunities for all learners. Additionally, she was active in her local union most recently serving as president for 7 years.

Dr. Jean Lubke

Dr. Jean Lubke is the Executive Director of the East Metro Integration District / Equity Alliance MN in the Twin Cities (MN). Dr. Lubke has also held district Curriculum and Instruction Director positions in Eden Prairie, St. Paul, and Rochester, MN districts. She created and led the corporate training and development department for Imation after it was spun off from 3M. Dr. Lubke holds a BS in Elementary Education from Moorhead State University, an MA in Curriculum from the University of Minnesota, and a PhD in Curriculum Systems and Adult Learning from the University of Minnesota.

Ann Mock

Ann has spent her entire career in Osseo Area Schools, 20 years teaching 6th, 2nd, and 4th grades and special education. In addition, she was a Curriculum Integration Specialist at our STEM Magnet school and most recently, she has been an Assistant Principal and Principal for the last 12 years. She holds a Bachelor of Science from St. Cloud State University in elementary education, a Masters of Education from the University of Minnesota, and received her principal license from St. Mary's University. Ann also is certified through the National Institute of School Leadership, which is in partnership with the University of Minnesota.

Elizabeth Ness

Beth joined Osseo Area Schools as principal of Elm Creek Elementary in 2015. Prior to this, she was a principal in Minneapolis Public Schools for four years. She has 15 years of teaching multiple grade levels, two years as a literacy coach and two years as an administrative intern at Minneapolis Public Schools. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in elementary education with a minor in French from the University of Minnesota-Duluth, a Master of Arts in curriculum and instruction from the University of St. Thomas, and a STEM certification from St. Catherine University. She received her principal license from the University of Minnesota.

Jackie Roehl

Jackie Roehl has been teaching at Edina High School since 1998. She was named the 2012 Minnesota Teacher of the Year, recognized for her work with Culturally Responsive Teaching. Having earned undergraduate and Master's Degrees from the University of St. Thomas, Jackie is currently a PhD candidate at Walden University. Jackie's dissertation research is exploring how teachers build student social media skills so that students gain sociopolitical empowerment. Jackie has also earned Train the Trainer certificates through Thinking Maps, Inc. and the National Urban Alliance.

Ann Schwartz

Ann Schwartz, MAED, spent the first 20 years of her career in the financial services industry. Her 15-year career in education included teaching high school and middle school, language arts and social studies; peer coaching an NUA Mentor, and the Regional NUA Project Director. Ms. Schwartz is certified in Cognitive Coaching, has a Bachelor of Arts in Communications from the University of Minnesota, and her Master of Arts in Education at the College of St. Catherine.

Dr. Aldo Sicoli

Dr. Aldo Sicoli currently serves as the superintendent of Roseville Area Schools. Dr. Sicoli was previously the superintendent of Robbinsdale Area Schools in Robbinsdale, MN, and also served in leadership roles in school districts in Minnesota and Nebraska, including assistant superintendent, high school and middle school principal, assistant principal, social studies and business education teacher, and coach. Dr. Sicoli holds an Ed.D. and B.A. from the University of Minnesota, an MBA from Texas Tech University, and an MA in Teaching from the University of St. Thomas.