

7<sup>th</sup> Annual  
Liberation-Based Healing Conference  
October 19-20, 2012

Friday, October 19

- 9:00-9:30      **Welcome and Opening Ritual**  
Andraé L. Brown, Rebecca Chaisson  
“Place of Our Ancestors” Drum Group
- 9:30-11:00    **Dialogues on Liberation-Based Healing Practices**  
Michael Yellowbird, Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe, Teresa McDowell  
Moderator: Nocona Pewewardy
- 11:00-12:30   **Crushing the Spirit: Examining Colonizing Symbols and Representations in Civic Life**  
Cornel Pewewardy, Jose Cruz  
Moderator: Judith Lewis
- 12:30-1:30    Lunch  
Film screening and dialogue: *Bullying: The Roosevelt Story*  
Cole Reynolds, Rakeem Washington, Charles Je’Quan Master Knight, Andre McCowan,  
Lamar Elobt, Jessica Heap  
Moderator: Allegra Warren
- 1:30-3:00     **Transformation Healing Across Intersections of Gender, Race, Class, and Sexual Orientation**  
Rhea Almeida, Lisa Dressner, Andraé L. Brown  
Moderator: Rebecca Chaisson
- 3:15-4:30     **Dialogues in Liberation**  
Marisol Garcia, Laura Burney Nissen, Fred Newdom  
Moderator: Michelle Maher
- 4:30-5:30     **Reflections and Closing Ritual**  
Rebecca Chaisson, Judith Lewis

Saturday, October 20

- 9:00-9:30      **Welcome and Opening Ritual**  
Lisa Dressner, Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe
- 9:30-11:00    **Youth Will Lead: Youth Empowerment, Leadership Development and Accountability**  
Multnomah Youth Commission: Marc Fernandes, Ana Meza, Violeta Alvarez, Jose Lopez Delgado  
Moderator: Ohlaysha Hicks
- 11:00-12:30   **Dismantling Systems of White Supremacy: Rebuilding Systems of Civic Engagement and Accountability**  
Gabby Santos, Tim Logan, Heather Horizon Greene  
Moderator: Andraé Brown
- 12:30-1:30    Lunch  
Play: *Hand of Time*  
Moderator: Sunshine Dixon
- 1:30-3:00     **The Next Big Thing: Community Activism in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**  
Se-ah-dom Edmo, Rev. Cliff Chappell, Angela Nusom  
Moderator: Lisa Dressner
- 3:15-4:30     **We Are Over Comers, Activists, & Advocates Through our Testimony: Survivors of Sex Trafficking Heal Through the Use of Their Voices**  
Jeri Williams, Elisia Lopez, Rachel Hestmark  
Moderator: Pilar Hernandez- Wolfe  
Room: 1 (Auditorium)
- How Can We Create Systemic, Transformative Change?**  
Malika Edden, Michelle Lewis, Debra Kester, Lori Lawrence  
Moderator: Michelle Maher  
Room: 2
- We the People... Addressing Bias and Promoting Accountability in Institutions**  
**Jeffrey Jones; Judith Mowry**  
Moderator: Jose Cruz  
Room: 3
- 4:30-5:00     **Reflections and Closing Ritual**  
Rhea Almeida, Michael Yellowbird

# Session Descriptions

Friday, October 19, 2012

**9:00-9:30 Welcome and Opening Ritual**

Ritual performed by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde "Place of Our Ancestors" Drum Circle

**9:30-11:00 Dialogues on Liberation-Based Healing Practices**

Liberation-based healing approaches are grounded in diverse historical contexts and offer various alternatives for intervention. In this panel, presenters will discuss key concepts and principles for practice addressing issues of identity, legacies of colonization, contemporary inequities and de-linking healing through decolonizing methodologies.

**11:00-12:30 Crushing the Spirit: Examining Colonizing Symbols and Representations in Civic Life**

This panel will examine the impact of symbols that have defined and constrained the existence of marginalized groups in the United States through media, policy, and civic life. Presenters will discuss strategies for self-representation and for reclaiming and re-signifying symbols in Native American's traditions and representations, African American norms of masculinity, and heteronormativity across cultures.

**12:30-1:30 Lunch**

**Film Screening and Dialogue: *Bullying: The Roosevelt Story***

Roosevelt's Sun School GSA Program, in partnership with Multnomah Youth Commission, The Black Student Union and PFLAG created an informational video on their thoughts of bullying and how to be a catalyst for change. Commentary and dialogue provided by film producers and Roosevelt High School student representatives.

**1:30-3:00 Transformational Healing Across Intersections of Gender, Race, Class, and Sexual Orientation**

Therapeutic practices and community action are viewed in bifurcated columns of scholarship. Transformational healing requires that direct practice bridge this gap and creates whole communities of intersecting identities equipped with strategies to create social change through action. Embracing, engaging with and developing community resources as central to this process. This presentation will offer strategies that go beyond working with the individual and single family in isolation to form diverse communities of resilience and resistance.

**3:15-4:30 Dialogues in Liberation**

Liberation involves moving beyond the politics of solidarity and working towards practices of decolonization. In this panel, presenters will examine strategies for developing systems of social justice and equity in education, policy, mental and physical health, and spiritual practices.

**4:30-5:30 Reflections and Closing Ritual**

A reflective and participatory environment is a landmark of this gathering. Students and graduates from colleges and universities will share their observations and reflections about the process and the content of the day's panels and activities from local and national perspectives. Their reflections will promote the expansion of the vision for social justice curriculums that interrupt systems of oppression within academic and agency contexts.

Saturday, October 20, 2012

**9:30-11:00 Youth Will Lead: Youth Empowerment, Leadership Development and Accountability**

This workshop highlights the creativity and resilience of young people and how they demonstrate their leadership in disrupting systems of oppression and work to empower their communities to address issues of domestic and community violence, education, health and wellness. Youth will also provide insights into strategies designed to develop leadership amongst young people and promote accountability amongst themselves and larger systems which impact their lives. This workshop will highlight the complexity and creativity of some of Portland's best and brightest.

**11:00-12:30 Dismantling Systems of White Supremacy: Rebuilding Systems of Civic Engagement and Accountability**

This workshop will engage participants in working groups to create generate ideas and collaborate around programs, practice, and policy initiatives towards the larger goal of interrupting white supremacy. Areas of focus will be immigration, policing, incarceration, health care, and voter registration and human rights.

**12:30-1:30 Lunch**

**Play Presentation: *Hand of Time***

This is a moving account of lives in crisis, when the gaps in service widen, and seem to swallow families alive. It also reveals the possibilities of groups, families, and individuals to use unique tools that serve to bring peace and possibility into once volatile situations.

**1:30-3:00 The Next Big Thing: Community Activism in the 21st Century**

Our future depends on sharing power and knowledge among all stakeholders including parents, service providers, activists, consumers, healers, and community members. Sharing power and developing solidarity coalitions is critical to developing healing communities guided by empowerment and accountability. Panelists will discuss their vision for transformative change through the use of education for critical consciousness, building progressive coalitions, inviting progressive allies from dominant groups, and inserting social action strategies.

**3:15-4:30 Series of Sessions**

**Session 1: We Are Over Comers, Activists, & Advocates Through our Testimony: Survivors of Sex Trafficking Heal Through the Use of Their Voices**

Join us as you hear from 3 survivors about their roads to healing through the use of their voices and work both personally and globally. They will share their experiences, as they moved from victim and survivor to activists and organizers working to address the issues of human sex trafficking, here in our local community and across the country. What tools did they use on their paths out of the darkness? How do they work to address the issue today through forming partnerships with the police and courts to becoming advocates in the politics of the work?

**Session 2: How Can We Create Systemic, Transformative Change?**

This session will provide a space for attendees to explore how injustice gets upheld within our institutions, communities, helping professions, and ourselves. We will discuss what strategies and tools have been used successfully in dismantling the customs, cultures, and microaggressions that further cycles of oppression.

Facilitated by Master of Social Work student panelists, the session will be framed with some examples of barriers and strategies for transformation, and then opened up for a larger discussion with attendees who are interested in sharing their challenges, as well as strategies, in working toward social change. The goal is for participants to walk away with a better understanding of what significant shifts are happening locally in institutions, organizations, communities, and individuals, and to leave with new tools and strategies others are using to create real, transformative change.

### **Session 3: We the People... Addressing Bias and Promoting Accountability in Institutions**

We will explore how various institutions (schools, legal, public and private business and governments) support disparities with policy, practices and programs. We will discuss how to address these biases as they occur in our lives and how to promote and create systems of accountability in these institutions. This dialogue will provide an opportunity for all of us as established and/or emerging activists to use our resources to create change and accountability.

### **4:00-4:30      Reflections and Closing Ritual**

Engaging in rich tapestries of dialogue, reflection and action is a hallmark of this Conference. We invite the audience to reflect on their experiences and pose questions for dialogue as participants return to their communities with new insights gleaned from the conference.

## Presenters

**Rhea V. Almeida, LCSW, Ph.D.**, founder of Institute for Family Services, is a family therapist, Columbia Graduate and creator of the Cultural Context Model, a Liberation Based Healing Perspective. Dr. Almeida is internationally and nationally acknowledged for her work on Intersectionality, which addresses the matrix of power, privilege and oppression in therapeutic and policy practices. In 2005 she received the American Family Therapy Academy Distinguished Award for Innovative Contributions to Family Therapy. For her cutting edge work in Liberation Based Healing, Dr. Almeida has been invited to expand scholarship in Ecuador, Jamaica, India, Sweden, South Africa and the United States. She has provided consultation and training to educational institutions, human service agencies and businesses. She has been featured in the Los Angeles Times, CNBC, National Public Radio, USA Today, and Pure Oxygen. She serves on the Council on Racial, Ethnic and Cultural Diversity (CRECD) at Council on Social Work Education and is the author of numerous journal articles and three books: *Expansions of Feminist Theory Through Diversity*, *Transformations in Gender and Race: Family and Developmental Perspectives*, and co-author of *Transformative Family Therapy: Just Families in a Just Society*.

**Violeta Alvarez** was born November 12, 1996 in Tlalnepantla, Estado de Mexico, Mexico. She came to the United States with her family as a 9 year old. English is her second language. Currently, Violeta is 15 years old. She attends Catlin Gabel School as a sophomore. She has been participating in the Multnomah Youth Commission for two years and is actively involved with the Youth Against Violence Committee as a second year Co-Chair. She loves to dance and Frutistas from Taco Bell are her favorite thing in this world. She believes that people should do good things without expecting anything in return.

**Andraé L. Brown, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling, co-director of Affinity Counseling Group (New Jersey), and a research fellow for the Council on Contemporary Families. Dr. Brown's research agenda focuses on the development of treatment models that use the supportive structures of families, schools and communities to address trauma, violence and substance abuse. His research and clinical interests also include resilience in street-life-oriented Black men, the psychosocial development of adolescents living in the urban context, liberation psychology and cultural equity in service provision. Dr. Brown holds several grants to develop and implement re-entry and restorative justice services for youth and families involved in the justice system. In addition to teaching and training, Dr. Brown's work includes engaging community members and advocates, mental health providers and various institutions to utilize the resilience that exist within individuals, families and communities to bolster their mental health and wellness. Such efforts include community talks, lectures, organizational trainings, and Participatory Action Research.

**Laura Burney Nissen, Ph.D.** is an Associate Professor of Social Work at Portland State University. She has been active at the national level of juvenile justice and behavioral health care reform in her work founding and leading an RWJF demonstration project called "Reclaiming Futures," where she served in that capacity for 12 years and remains now as a senior advisor. Her research and practice interests lie in developing strength-based, culturally-relevant, equity centered, and community-anchored positive youth development opportunities and resources for young people. Additionally, she has multiple foci in organizational and system innovation and change, reform history and strategies specific to child-serving systems, leadership in social work practice, and the evolution of social work education.

**Rebecca Chaisson, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor at Tulane University School of Social Work. Dr. Chaisson has extensive experience as an educator, supervisor and administrator in both the private and public sectors. She has taught courses in social work practice, diversity, oppression and social justice, and has conducted psychoeducational and other community seminars and workshops. She has experience as a clinician with individuals, families, and groups. Her current interests include social justice from the micro to macro levels of practice, diversity, health and mental health, and social work education. Recently, she developed a course using the “Cultural Context Model” (CCM) in an undergraduate social work service-learning course and is demonstrating the use of an adapted CCM to engage social work students in activism. Further, she is integrating aspects of the CCM in graduate level social work courses.

**Cliff Chappell, M.Div.** is a civil engineer and has been in ministry for 34 years, 24 of those as Senior Pastor. He has served as the pastor of the St. Johns All Nations Church of God In Christ in Portland, Oregon since 2002. He is intentional about growing a multi-cultural, multi-ethnic church, and has a passion for racial reconciliation, stamping out domestic and sexual violence, and seeing broken hearts healed through the love of Jesus Christ. He serves as Co-Director of L.E.A.P. of Faith and is an Advisory Council Member to The Institute for the Theology of Culture: New Wine New Wineskins. Pastor Chappell lives in Vancouver, Washington with his wife Diana of 36 years; they have three children and four grandchildren.

**Jose A. Cruz, MBA, LCSW**, holds a LCSW and M.B.A. He currently is pursuing a PhD in Public Health, is an Addictions Consultant, and a presenter at the 5 day Certified Tobacco Treatment Specialist Training at UMDNJ. Jose is also a faculty member at the Institute for Family Services (IFS) and Progresando En Comunidad, a program under IFS that provides comprehensive services to Hispanic families. He has a wide range of experience in providing access to health and mental health services for populations dealing with issues such as HIV/AIDS, domestic violence, immigration issues, and tobacco dependence. With a cross-over in business and public health education, Jose is deeply engaged in replicating models of healing that are sustainable and just.

**Sunshine Dixon** is passionately engaged in service to the nonprofit and public sectors having served both large and small organizations. She is an astonishing creative thinker who uses her creativity, wit, and humor to help others move towards their dreams. A significant portion of Ms. Dixon’s focus is concentrated toward advancing programs and services that assist women, teens, and families with moving from public dependency to self-sufficiency. Among the hallmarks of Ms. Dixon’s consultation work within the nonprofit and public sectors are her tailored stage productions or “Philanthro-plays”, highlighting the empowering work of local non-profits. She has produced plays and staged readings for locally. This year she will showcase her newest piece, one written specifically for the Liberation-Based Healing Conference called “The Hands of Time”. She is a playwright, and her other skills include training, coaching, discussion facilitation, and fundraising. An experienced fundraiser, Sunshine has assisted numerous organizations with securing local resources to support their causes.

**Lisa Dressner, LCSW** founded Affinity Counseling Group, a private community-based mental health center, in March 2000, and replicated the Cultural Context Model to work with families impacted by incarceration. She has developed clinical programs for professionals and institutions in the areas of liberation based healing and community organizing, including the Zakee Bowser Foundation and the Raritan Bay YMCA. She has joined Dr. Almeida in presenting nationally and internationally on domestic and community violence, creating therapeutic healing communities, juvenile justice clinical practice and reform, and presented at the national White Privilege Conference. She is committed to training students and professionals in the mental health field in the areas of cultural equity, including the study of white privilege and integrating social justice in clinical practice.

**Malika Edden** is a second year M.S.W. student at Portland State University. She was drawn to social work because of her passion for engaging in community, and supporting individuals and families in creating lives that are self-directed. Family, community, laughter, dance and empowerment are things that drive her life. Through social work, she hopes to blend her love for laughter and her desire to live in an anti-oppressive community.

**Se-ah-dom Edmo** was born and raised in the Portland-Metro area and has strong ties with local and regional Native communities. She is the coordinator of the Indigenous Ways of Knowing program at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling. Se-ah-dom has worked extensively with AmeriCorps, OMSI and OHSU's School of Medicine where she coordinated the Diversity Achievement Programs assisting students from groups underrepresented in medicine to pursue medical careers. She was active as a descendent of the Celilo community in preparations for the commemoration of 50 years since the inundation of Celilo Falls (March 10, 2007).

**Lamar Elobt, Jessica Heap, Je'Quan Knight, and Andre McCowan** are former and current Roosevelt High School students who participated in creating an anti-bullying video in hopes of creating a catalyst for change within their community. Lamar is an engaged and active member of Roosevelt's Gay-Straight Alliance. Jessica, a recent Roosevelt graduate, was a very active member of the Gay-Straight Alliance during her time at Roosevelt. Je'Quan and Andre are engaged and active members of Roosevelt's Black Student Union. These students are also seen as leaders among their peers and a positive representation of what Roosevelt students are able to accomplish.

**Marc Fernandes** has had the great opportunity to work with youth for over fifteen years. His educational background in Clinical Psychology and Multicultural Counseling, as well as his passion for education, equity and positive youth development, has provided Marc with the abilities to successfully connect with youth in authentic and honest ways. Growing up on the east coast, within a multicultural family and community, cross cultural relationships and social justice issues were always valued highly and influence all the work he does today. On a grassroots level Marc was a Coalition Organizer and Facilitator for *Thurston County Study Circles on Race* in Olympia, WA. For ten years, Marc worked as an educator and reproductive health counselor within the field of adolescent sexuality and teen pregnancy prevention. He has worked for *Planned Parenthood of Western WA* as a Community Educator, *The Children's AID Society* in the South Bronx as a Family Life and Sexuality Education Specialist, and as a Street Outreach Coordinator in Quito, Ecuador. In addition, Marc has been a consultant for over a decade providing workshops, keynote presentations, and speaking engagements, locally and nationally, exploring issues of sexuality, diversity, social politics and/or anti-oppression theory. As a lover of theatre, Marc uses both *Theatre of the Oppressed* and *Playback Theatre* as tools of engagement and empowerment. He is a past member of *The Heartsparkle Players* in Olympia, WA and *Big Apple Playback Theatre* in New York City. Marc currently works as Youth Development Coordinator for *Multnomah County* and works in partnership with the *Multnomah Youth Commission*. He resides in Portland with his wife Ivette and two sons Luca and Johan.

**Marisol Garcia, M.F.T., Ph.D.** is an Assistant Professor at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling. She is a licensed marital and family therapist and maintains a private practice. Marisol's research critiques social systems and their interaction with and influence on human behavior. She is particularly interested in issues regarding marginalization. Marisol has recently finished, "Pleasure: The Secret Ingredient in Happiness." This book challenges American work ethics by offering discussions on the politics of pleasure and how particular work ethics can contribute to social control and limited well-being. This book and previous social justice work have provided a segue to her current research on emotional reactivity.



**Pilar Hernandez-Wolfe, Ph.D.** earned her doctorate in Counseling Psychology at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She is an associate professor, and director of the Marriage, Couple and Family Therapy program at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling. She is a faculty member at the Institute for Family Services, where she provides training and supervision, and directs research projects on liberation-based healing. She is also a guest faculty member at the Centro de Terapia Familiar y de Pareja in Puebla, México, and at the Universidad Javeriana, Cali, and Universidad Nacional, Bogotá, in Colombia. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and *American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy* (AAMFT) approved supervisor. Her research examines applications of contextually responsive models to clinical practice and clinical supervision with a focus on domestic violence, resilience, vicarious resilience, post-traumatic stress, and human rights. She pioneered the concept of vicarious resilience in the context of torture-survivor treatment in the U.S. with Drs. David Gangsei and David Engstrom she has worked in Columbian health services to address politically-based violence in that country. She is the author of numerous peer reviewed articles and chapters. Her upcoming book “Latinos, Latin Americans and Decolonization, a Borderlands perspective” will be published in 2013 by Jason Aronson.

**Rachel Hestmark** is an advocate for those unable to speak up for themselves. I am a survivor of human trafficking as a teenager. I educate the faith base and community organizations about safety and the threat that is clearly abroad. I am the founder of The Leveling Place, an organization that reaches out and works with local and national agencies looking to train volunteers around helping victims and other survivors like myself. I thank God for saving me and helping me through the healing process through the help of the church and other community aids that are called to step up and help with this problem of slavery and the damage that it causes mentally, emotionally, and physically.

**Ohlaysha Hicks, M.S.** is a Spanish language educator in the South Brunswick School District, and has a Master's Degree from Capella University in Human Services with a specialization in Couple and Family Therapy. She is currently completing her post graduate training at the Institute for Family Services and on the faculty of Progreso en Comunidad. Her combined knowledge in progressive education as well as therapeutic practices informs her ideas to promote healthy development in families through the collective engagement of larger systems and community-based therapy.

**Heather Horizon Greene, LCSW**, came to beautiful Portland by way of farmland, redwood forests, deserts and mountains. She received her Master's degree from the University of Kansas and has worked in the areas of anti-poverty law, medical social work, clinical mental health, child welfare activism and humyn service education. Her evolving theoretical framework is informed by empowerment, embodiment, narrative, feminist, ecofeminist, restorative, multicultural, solution-focused, mindfulness, earth-centered, justice-centered and anti-oppressive social work practice models. A student and practitioner of justice centered social work for over 12 years, she is deeply invested in the transformation of social work to become truly anti-oppressive through liberatory practice, justice-centered mentorship and transformative social work education. In active support of this vision, she anchors the Social Work Activist Reader e-zine, and maintains a mentorship practice offering clinical supervision and supporting humyn service workers to develop skill in anti-oppressive social work practice (<http://www.justicecenteredsocialwork.com/>).

**Jeffrey Jones** is an Associate Professor of Law and Adjunct Professor of Philosophy. Prior to law school, Jeff was an assistant professor of philosophy at the University of Massachusetts-Boston, specializing in the philosophy of law. He was also a postdoctoral scholar at Boston University's Institute on Race and Social Division and a scholar-in-residence at Boston University's School of Law. After law school, Jeff worked at Davis Wright Tremaine and

then for Barran Liebman LLP, where he remains Of Counsel in employment law matters. Jeff's research interests are in jurisprudence, and employment law. His teaching areas include Legal Elements, Property, Property Theory, Employment Law, Disability Law and a range of jurisprudence courses. Jeff regularly lectures on diversity and equity issues in legal education, legal employment and law practice. Most recently, Jeff organized and moderated a keynote panel presentation entitled "Microinequity in the Workplace-Identifying Modern Workplace Discrimination" for the Oregon State Bar's Annual Labor and Employment conference. Jeff also on the Board of Directors of Partners in Diversity, a non-profit organization committed to helping businesses in Oregon and Washington recruit and retain talented professions of color.

**Debra Kester** is a second year M.S.W. student at Portland State University. She has over 38 years' experience in liberation movements—in the early seventies with both the Marxist Feminist movement and Gay liberation. Today, the focus and drive is to become a social worker who works to end oppression at both the micro and macro level.

**Lori Lawrence** is a second year M.S.W. student at Portland State University, and a social justice, queer, and trans activist. Unpacking oppression with LGBTQ youth has been a focus and passion over the last six years. Her interest in social work stems from a desire to explore what transformative change really looks like, and to be part of a profession that works toward social justice.

**Judith Lewis, LCSW-BACS, M.S.W., Ph.D.** is Associate Professor at Tulane University School of Social Work in New Orleans, LA. She received her Ph.D. in Social Work from the University of Maryland and her M.S.W. from Syracuse University. She has been Director of Field Education, and Student Affairs at Tulane School of Social Work and was Project Director and PI of the Leanne Knot Violence Prevention Project, a DOJ Education and Training grant in consortium with Southern University and the University of New Orleans. She is a founder and current faculty coordinator of the Diversity Coalition at the School of Social Work, a student driven group that provides support and regular programming on a wide range of diversity issues at Tulane. Her publications reflect her research interests in resilience in older adults, advocacy and organizing, natural helping networks, and social work field education as it relates to cultural diversity. She is a licensed clinician in the state of Louisiana and has provided pro bono service in the community as a group work specialist. For the past 3 years she has co-taught a service learning course with Dr. Rebecca Chaisson that utilizes concepts from Cultural Context Model to help prepare undergraduates with the knowledge and skill to enter highly diverse community systems for collaborative engagement on projects related to race, class, gender and sexual orientation.

**Michelle Lewis** is a third year M.S.W. student at Portland State University, and a social justice activist for adults involved in the criminal justice and/or child welfare system. She has over 15 years' experience working in the field of social services providing advocacy and support services to marginalized and oppressed populations. Her passion and drive comes from the belief that social justice oriented social work assists individuals while simultaneously seeks to transform the forces that generate and benefit from inequity and oppression.

**Tim Logan** is the founder, agency administrator and lead facilitator at SOVALTI, a batterer intervention counseling program serving African-American and bi-racial men in the Portland metropolitan area. He has more than 25 years of experience managing, facilitating and counseling group sessions with youth and adults. Tim has served as a group facilitator for several community based organizations addressing multi-cultural batterer intervention programming. His commitment to helping others reach their full potential continues in his work as a mentor and community activist with 100 Black Men of Oregon and as a longtime member of the Albina Head Start Board of Directors. His areas of expertise include the criminal justice system, domestic violence batterer intervention, training and development, school advocacy for gang involved youth, dropout prevention and reentry, strategic planning, organizational management, cultural competence, and equity. Mr. Logan speaks at

local and regional conferences focusing on social justice issues impacting children, youth, families, and adults with an emphasis on African American men.

**Elisia Lopez** lived on the streets of Portland as a teen and was exploited for several years. As her family grew she got out of the life in search for something better but also a way to give back. She has a heart for children that are stuck in the life she came from and decided to get an education so she could do something about it. She is currently at Concordia University getting her Bachelors in Social work and plans to move to PSU to get her masters. Along with Jeri Williams she co-founded Survivor to Survivor (S2S) a support group for trafficking survivors. She has also put in work at the Janus teen shelter, Catholic charities, the Sexual Assault Resource Center and the Portland Women's Crisis line. Elisia sees these organization through both a professional lens but also as a previous client and has given a lot of input to both the Police and the County about what works- and doesn't .

**Jose Lopez Delgado** was born April 18, 1996 in Portland Oregon. He is currently a junior at David Douglas High School. This is his 3rd year on the Multnomah Youth Commission. He is currently a Co-Chair of the Sustainability and last year he was Co-Chair of the Education Committee. This is his second year as Elected Liaison to County Commissioner Judy Shiprack. He has a huge passion for equity in transit and his committee hopes to work with OPAL on transit justice issues. His favorite this to do is spend time with fellow Youth Commissioners and his family. He believes everyone has the right to voice their opinion.

**Michelle Maher, Ph.D.** is a Post-doctoral Intern at Oregon Research Institute in Eugene, Oregon, a Syracuse University Fellow and a former Assistant Professor at Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling. Two of her recent publications include "Honoring all our ancestors" and "Identifying Troubles: qualitative research, intersectionality and narrative authority." She has authored national legislation with National Congress of American Indians regarding culturally competent interventions with youth. Dr. Maher is a former child and family therapist and high school principal, who focuses her energy on how youth labeled "traumatized," "at-risk" and "different" talk about their experience. She is currently working on a book titled "Being Schooled: Relational lessons of girls in an alternative high school." Her research interests and publications regard how relationships and social discourses are institutionally regulated, intersectionality and qualitative research, and critical/liberatory pedagogy.

**Ana Meza** was born on November 22, 1993 in Zacatecas, Mexico. She moved to the U. S. with her family when she was ten years old. For seven years she has lived in Portland, and in the David Douglas School District. This is her second year as a member of the Multnomah Youth Commission. Last year, Ana was one of the Co-Chairs for the Health and Wellness Committee, while actively participating in the Youth Against Violence Committee to create the Rob Ingram Youth Summit Against Violence. Ana graduated from David Douglas High School in June of 2012, and will be starting college in January 2013. In the meantime she spends most of her time volunteering with the Youth Commission, St. Vincent de Paul, her parish and the Oregon Leadership Institute as a mentor for younger teens. When she's not helping her community, Ana likes to watch Korean dramas, movies, Japanese anime, and people playing games online. This year she will be celebrating her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thanksgiving, which Ana strongly dislikes because she doesn't get to hang out with her friends. Ana loves to learn new languages and is currently learning Korean. She hopes to make a big impact in the world someday.

**Teresa McDowell, Ed.D.** is an associate professor and chair of the Department of Counseling Psychology in the Lewis & Clark Graduate School of Education and Counseling. Teresa has spent much of her career working to revise marriage and family therapy education in ways that better support social equity and cultural democracy. Her

scholarship has focused on race/racism in family therapy practice and education, critical multicultural family research, research on social class, and internationalizing family therapy programs. Recently her research agenda has included expanding critical multiculturalism in family therapy to include an international, decolonizing focus that addresses disparity and promotes global citizenship.

**Diana Meléndez, M.S.W.** is a clinical social worker currently working as a Youth and Family Field Counselor with Esperanza, NY, a non-profit alternative placement program for youth in New York City. Originating from Mexico, Diana currently resides in northeast New Jersey, where her family migrated to when she was 11. Diana is a graduate of the Advanced Standing MSW program at the Silver School of Social Work at NYU, following her dual degree in Social Work and Psychology from Seton Hall University. Diana is currently a member of the Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee of the NSAW-NJ Chapter, and has served on the Board of Directors and several groups within the Chapter as a student and recent graduate, in addition to having spent time with CASA of Essex County as a volunteer child advocate. She is also a member and organizer with the Women of Color Collective in NYC and the Anti-Racist Alliance of northern New Jersey as a graduate of the People's Institute for Survival and Beyond "Undoing Racism- Community Organizing" Workshop. Her interests focus on the authentic incorporation of social justice and equity theories and strategies into social work practice, with an emphasis on examining the dynamics of power, privilege and oppression through an intersectionality lens.

**Judith Mowry** is the Policy Analyst at the City of Portland Office of Equity and Human Rights, and a founding member of Portland new Office of Equity. Judith is a nationally recognized mediator, facilitator and process design professional, working for the last 16 years on issues regarding community development, property development and change in communities.

**Fred Newdom, ACSW**, is Chair of the Social Welfare Policy sequence and Coordinator of Community Practice at the Smith College School for Social Work. He is co-author of *Clinical Work and Social Action: An Integrative Approach*: an approach to bridging the artificial division between these two aspects of effective clinical work. His work at Smith also includes advising students in their thesis projects in the areas of anti-racism, social justice and social policy. His additional work includes serving as a lobbyist on behalf of New York's WIC Program, advocacy training with the Independent Living movement, and consulting with social justice organizations such as The NY AIDS Coalition, the NYS Black Gay Network and the NY Community Action Association. He was a founding member and long-time chair of the Social Welfare Action Alliance (formerly the Bertha Reynolds Society), a national organization of progressive workers in social welfare. Fred also has served in a number of staff and volunteer leadership roles with the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), nationally and in New York.

**Angela Nusom** is the College & Career Transition Manager at Roosevelt High School and believes that youth engagement, empowerment, and activism for education will be the catalyst for dismantling inequitable systems that perpetuate the achievement gap. Her educational background includes a focus on psychology, sociology-anthropology, social work, and education leadership and she has earned degrees from Lewis & Clark College and Portland State University. Her doctoral work utilizes a participatory, grounded theory methodology to highlight the process through which young people once alienated from education transformed into activists for college access. Her professional experience spans from early intervention mental health services to alternative education in Zimbabwe, Africa and the Centennial School District to educational reform at Roosevelt High School. Angela's spirited, innovative work to transform a comprehensive high school's college and career preparatory system draws

upon the belief that education is a Civil Right, and therefore all efforts to improve college success must be grounded in the movement for social justice. As a leading advocate for college access and success in Oregon, her work to transform the system from the inside out has been recognized by community leaders, policy makers, and professionals in higher education.

**Cornel Pewewardy, D.Ed.** is Comanche-Kiowa and an enrolled member in the Comanche Nation. Dr. Pewewardy was recently appointed Associate Professor of Native American Studies at Portland State University. Prior to joining Portland State University, Cornel was an Associate Professor in the Department of Teaching and Leadership and Center for Indigenous Nations Studies at the University of Kansas as well as adjunct faculty in American Indian Studies at Haskell Indian Nations University.

**Nocona Pewewardy, Ph.D.** is an assistant professor in the Portland State University School of Social Work. Her scholarly agenda is organized around critical approaches to social work education; critical race theory; structural social work; and strategies for challenging and deconstructing cultural and structural white supremacy.

**“Place of Our Ancestors”** drum group includes members of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde who live in the Portland area. The city lies within the traditional homelands of the Clackamas speaking Chinooks and the Tualatin Kalapuya people who were relocated to the Grand Ronde reservation under the Willamette Valley Treaty of 1855. The group works to promote awareness of the traditional homelands and about the culture, traditions and history of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

**David (Cole) Reynolds** is from Shreveport, Louisiana. He attended Louisiana State University where he majored in Biochemistry and played baseball. He has played professional baseball in Canada, France, and the Czech Republic. He is currently a Site Technology Specialist for Roosevelt High School. Cole has served as the Gay-Straight Alliance faculty advisor for the past three years. During his time at Roosevelt, he has helped students take accountability and has assisted students with many events including the pride walks and ally week. He also helped empower students to launch an anti-bullying campaign.

**Gabby Santos** is the Program Coordinator for Underserved Communities for the Oregon Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (OCADSV). She has worked with survivors of violence in roles ranging from facilitator of domestic and sexual violence support groups for Inverness Jail inmates to legal advocate for the Arizona Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Her 17 years of violence prevention have helped promote violence-free living within various oppressed communities. Racial justice work, gender identity activism and criminal justice reform are at the heart of her passion. Gabby provides leadership to the OCADSV Communities of Color Task Force, DELTA Preparing and Raising Expectations for Prevention Project (PREP) and the Gender Positive Systems Advocacy Committee (GPSAC). Santos is a member of the Oregon Firearms and Domestic Violence Task Force and the Oregon Fatality Review Team. She is also a “techie” as part of the National Network to End Domestic Violence Safety Net Project, and is a member of ALAS, a national Latina cyberactivism group of Arte Sana.

**Allegra Warren** is a graduate student at Lewis and Clark College in the Marriage, Couples, and Family Therapy program. She is a Portland native and her experience watching the effects mental health had on our community and its families served as a catalyst to seek a way to help the community. She attended Southern Oregon University where she majored in Psychology. Psychology gave her a framework to help people in the community and she enjoyed the various volunteer efforts with families and students. As a graduate student, her passion for increasing youth empowerment within the Portland Community led her to an internship at Roosevelt High School. At Roosevelt, Allegra provides strength-based family therapy and support as students transition through

their senior year. In this capacity, she connects students and their families with resources at Roosevelt and in the community; coordinates family meetings for individualized transition planning; and guides and creates connections to college based resources.

**Rakeem Washington** is a native of Portland, Oregon. He graduated from Portland State University with a degree in Economics in 2001 and from Lewis and Clark Law School in 2008. After law school, he worked as a child welfare and criminal defense attorney for three years before moving on to work at Roosevelt High School. At Roosevelt High School, he works as a student support specialist and baseball coach. He is the faculty advisor for the Black Student Union on campus. He spends his weekends with his wife, four-year-old daughter, and five month old son.

**Jeri Williams:** Stabbed by a john and left for dead isn't how most environmental activists get started. For Jeri Williams, though, the hardships of early years spent as a hooker and gangbanger in Northeast Portland led to realizing she wanted two things — first, to stay alive and second, to keep her kids. That led her to get a job at a hotel, which in turn led her to realize she had rights. Exerting those rights led her to realize she has power — and an organizer was born. A member of the Klamath tribe, she fought for poor people and minorities exposed to pollution. Just a few minutes hearing her makes you realize she's all about people. "Her focus is the human impact," says her friend, state Sen. Avel Gordly. "She has a huge heart for service." Starting in 1994, she fought her employer, Red Lion Hotels Corp., to help her and her fellow workers curb their exposure to toxic cleaning materials. After six years of worker organizing, she joined the Environmental Justice Action Group and fought Oregon Steel Mills Inc. to protect the minority communities nearby from its pollution. In 2006, she mobilized a group that opposed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's new regional director, a former Dow Chemical executive, helping keep the agency focused on environmental justice concerns. For more than 5 years now, her job title has been a bit less radical: neighborhood program specialist for the city Office of Neighborhood Involvement. She thought she would hate it. But she has found her job involves many of the same missions: educating people and making the world better. Still, the job is not enough.

**Michael Yellowbird, Ph.D.** is an enrolled member of the Three Affiliated Tribes (Arikara and Hidatsa). He is a Professor and the Director of Graduate Education in the Department of Social Work at Humboldt State University, Arcata, CA. He has held faculty appointments in the department of American Studies at the University of Kansas and in the Schools of Social Work at the University of British Columbia, Arizona State University, and the University of Kansas. He is the former Director of the Global Indigenous Nations Studies Program at the University of Kansas. He is the author of numerous scholarly articles and is the co-editor of two books: *For Indigenous Eyes Only: The Decolonization Handbook*, 2005 (with Dr. Waziyatawin) and *Indigenous Social Work around the World: Towards Culturally Relevant Education and Practice*, 2008 (with Drs. Mel Gray and John Coates). He is has two co-edited, forthcoming books, *For Indigenous Minds Only* (with Dr. Waziyatawin) and *Decolonizing Social Work* (with Drs. Mel Gray, John Coates, and Tiani Hetherington). His teaching, writing, research, and community work focuses on social work with Indigenous Peoples, decolonizing social work, neurodecolonization, neuroscience and social work, and employing mainstream and traditional Indigenous mindfulness practices in tribal communities to promote health and well being. He maintains a blog (<http://arikaconsciousness.blogspot.com/>) that centers on Indigenous Peoples, mindfulness, mind brain science, health, war, and neurodecolonization. He contributes a health and mindfulness column for the MHA (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara) Times newspaper entitled, "Minding the Indigenous Mind."