



SUMMIT

GREEN SCHOOL SUMMIT for SCHOOL LEADERS
Thursday, February 4th & Friday, February 5th

Speaker Information

Session One: Expanding Learning Environments Beyond the School Walls

Thursday, February 4th | 12:30 – 2:00 pm EST



Sharon Danks (Moderator)
CEO & Founder, Green Schoolyards America

Since 1999, city planner, Sharon Danks, professional work and passion have focused on school grounds into vibrant public spaces that reflect and enhance local ecology, engage the community, and nurture children as they learn and play. Her work is now focused on scaling up the green schoolyard movement and integrating school ground design, management and use with green urban infrastructure. Sharon has traveled the world to study hundreds of school grounds and share best practices. She is the author of *Asphalt to Ecosystems: Design Ideas for Schoolyard Transformation* (New Village Press, 2010), and co-founder of the International School Grounds Alliance and Bay Tree Design.



Geoff Deigan
Executive Director, Prairie Crossing Charter School (IL)

Mr. Deigan serves a variety of roles in the environmental and educational communities throughout the Chicago Region. Understanding that children are our best hope to improve the world, Geoff serves as Executive Director of the award winning environmentally focused Prairie Crossing Charter School in Grayslake, IL. Geoff is advancing the public school's mission of Creating Natural Leaders - believing that. Geoff is also CEO of WRD Environmental, providing a leadership role for helping clients committed to sustainable development realize their vision.



Marie Robinson
Superintendent, Katahdin Schools RSU89 (ME)

Marie Robinson is superintendent of Katahdin Schools. With twenty years in education, the negative impact that standardized testing has on learning has been evident. She feels a sense of urgency to shift the focus to the whole child. Marie is leading her district through a journey of change to prepare all students for success. She supports and encourages teachers to facilitate lessons outdoors enhancing the learning process and supporting wellbeing. Marie is passionate about utilizing the restorative aspects of nature and strives to revolutionize the educational system so that it supports the physical, cognitive, and social-emotional wellbeing of all children.



Tony Knight
Superintendent, Oak Park School District (CA)

Dr. Tony Knight is superintendent of the Oak Park School District in Ventura County, CA. The District has received numerous environmental recognitions such as the US Green Building Council Best District Award and the Green School National Network Award in 2018. Tony is an advocate of environmental education as well as outdoor and nature-based learning. He is a certified naturalist, diver, and serves on the NOAA Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council. Tony serves on the California Environmental Literacy Initiative Board and the COVID-19 National Outdoor Learning Initiative.

Session Two: Bridging Justice, Equity, and Sustainability in K-12 Schools

Thursday, February 4th | 2:15 – 4:00 pm EST



Caroline Hill (Moderator)
Founder, 228Accelerator

Caroline is a thought leader who lives, works, and designs at the intersection of education, innovation, and equity. Her work inspired the creation of equityXdesign, a powerful design framework that merges the values of equity work and innovation with the intentionality of design. Her latest venture, 228 Accelerator, catalyzes the redesign of the relationships that normalize mistreatment and oppression, builds bridges between the powerful and the powerless, and accelerates our journey to a more inclusive society. She supports several national education organizations as they work to design and create more inclusive and responsive organizations and learning models.



Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner
Superintendent, Fort Worth Independent School District (TX)

Dr. Kent Paredes Scribner has led the Fort Worth Independent School District since 2015, where he serves more than 80,000 students and 10,000 employees. In support of the District's mission to "prepare all students for success in college, career, and community leadership," Dr. Scribner has narrowed the District focus to three areas: early literacy, middle years' math, and college, career and military readiness. This renewed focus has resulted in significant gains in third-grade reading, algebra, and a community-wide commitment to post-secondary preparedness. In 2015, FWISD students earned \$36 million in merit scholarships, a figure that has more than tripled to \$135 million.



Monica Maccera Filppu

Executive Director and Interim School Director, Common Ground/New Haven Ecology Project (CT)

Monica Maccera Filppu is an educator who has spent her career working to ensure every child receives an education that will allow them to fulfill their potential in life. As an immigrant, who has always worked in communities impacted by poverty and opportunity gaps, she is keenly aware of the role power, privilege and inequity play in the lived experiences of children. She started her career as the Spanish-dominant teacher in a dual language classroom and has worked in school and district leadership as well as in higher education. Monica holds a master's degree in TESOL/Bilingual Education from Georgetown University.



Tarachell Thomas

Principal, Pine Jog Elementary School (FL)

Tarachell is an educator who has worked with a variety of youth in Urban Broward and Palm Beach Counties and since 2015 has served as the principal of Pine Jog Elementary School in West Palm Beach, Florida. The campus is arranged on a 152-acre property with a large natural wildlife preserve. The school and Florida Atlantic University's Pine Jog Environmental Center have been collaborating for over 10 years to provide PD to teachers, and a sound science curriculum to students with an environmental focus. Pine Jog Elementary School has been recognized as a Green School of Excellence, U. S. LEED Gold School, Healthy School Award Recipient, and as an Everglades Champion School.

Session Three: SEL, Empathetic Distress, and Action Competence

Friday, February 5th | 12:30 – 2:00 pm EST



Lisa Kensler (Moderator)

Emily R. and Gerald S. Leischuck Endowed Professor, Auburn University

Lisa A. W. Kensler is the Emily R. and Gerald S. Leischuck Endowed Professor for Educational Leadership in the College of Education at Auburn University. Lisa's research over the past decade has focused on green schools and the leadership and learning required for transforming schools into more socially just, ecologically healthy, and economically viable communities. In 2017, she and Cynthia Uline co-authored, *Leadership for Green Schools: Sustainability for Our Children, Our Communities, and Our Planet*. Their second book, *A Practical Guide to Leading Green Schools: Partnering with Nature to Create Vibrant, Flourishing, Sustainable Schools*, will be available May 2021. [lisakensler.com]



Alison Suffet Diaz

Director of Growth & Sustainability, Environmental Charter Schools (CA)

Alison Suffet Diaz is the Founder of Environmental Charter Schools and in 2019 transitioned into the role of Director of Growth & Sustainability. With a dynamic team and under Alison's leadership as the Executive Director & CEO for the majority of the last 20 years, ECS has flourished into award-winning schools. Environmental Charter High School is ranked in the top 3% of U.S. public high schools by U.S. News & World Report and was chosen as one of three national finalists in President Obama's Race to the Top Commencement Challenge. ECS is an inaugural Department of Education's Green Ribbon Awardee. All ECS schools are WASC accredited



Jazmin Gerardo Bravo
Student '21, Environmental Charter High School (CA)

Jazmin is currently a senior at Environmental Charter High School. After graduating in the 2021, she hopes to attend UC Fullerton or Cal State Long Beach to major in engineering or psychology. While in high school Jazmin has been a member of the Mental Health Committee, and played different sports including basketball, volleyball, and softball. Jazmin is the only girl in her family and first-generation to attend college. In her spare time she likes to take walks around her neighborhood, play video games, and tend to her garden.



Jessica Del Cid
Student '21, Environmental Charter High School (CA)

Jessica is a senior attending Environmental Charter High School. After her time at ECH, she plans to major in psychology and political science while attending a four-year university, hopefully USC or Colgate. Jessica is the first in her family to attend University and is a proud first-generation college attendee. Longer term, Jessica would like to pursue a career in politics or social work. While in high school, Jessica has been part of the Mental Health Committee and served as the Chair for two years. She has also played for the ECH volleyball team, been a tour guide for the school, and a summer bridge mentor. Outside of school Jessica has volunteered with the UCLA Hospital and UCLA UniCamp.



Tania McKey
Senior Director of Humanities, Portland Public Schools (OR)

Tania McKey is the Senior Director of Humanities in the Portland Public Schools. Tania leads the work articulating PPS's vision for achieving a Guaranteed and Viable Curriculum. This includes developing and implementing coherent, standards-based core curriculums for PK-12 Language Arts and Social Sciences/Ethnic Studies. She also guides and supports DLI and ELD. She started her career as an IB Social Studies teacher and has held a multitude of administrative positions in K-12 schools and districts in Alabama, Indiana, Minnesota and Texas. Tania has made dozens of presentations at professional meetings and has been a leader in school sustainability efforts.



Ryder Delaloye
Director of Curriculum, Whitefish School District (MT)

Ryder Delaloye is the Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development at Whitefish School District. He has broad experience as an educator, having taught 2nd grade through graduate school at public and private institutions in both domestic and international settings. His passions include Sustainability Education, Social Emotional Learning, Citizenship formation and Student Centered Learning. He is a certified instructor of Cognitively-based Compassion Training and is a consultant and contributor to the Social, Emotional and Ethical Learning (SEE Learning) program developed by Emory University. He enjoys playing in the mountains with his wife and 2 kids as much as possible.