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**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Friday, February 05, 2021 4:14 PM  
**To:** AAA--Classified Employees; AAA--Managers & Confidential Council; AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Part-Time Faculty  
**Subject:** Professional Development/Morale Building Coming Attractions

Friday afternoon greetings,

While we will continue to maintain our new semester long Integrated Professional Development/Morale Building calendar and urge you to check it regularly for updates @ <https://www.riohondo.edu/staff-development/events/>, well will also be sending out reminders of coming attractions.

Here are some events taking place in the next two weeks:

### **Outcomes Training**

**"Close the Loop" - Wednesday, 2/10/21, 3:00-4:00 pm**

[https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrc-Gtqj0jHNA\\_iOB0HM3MaODI1jPn6UtR](https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYrc-Gtqj0jHNA_iOB0HM3MaODI1jPn6UtR)

Repeated

**Thursday, 2/18/21, 2:30-3:30**

<https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMkdeugrj8pHNB61qAxpHGciypbnuq0yL5u>

### **Morale Building**

**Staff Recognition "Better Together" & "Rio Stars" Nominations**

**February deadline -Wednesday, 2/10/21**

<https://tinyurl.com/yv6yz92>

### **Wellness**

**Latin Dance for Fitness - Wednesday, 2-17-21** <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/94056946825>

**Yoga/Mindfulness Session - 2-18-21** <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/j/94056946825>

### **Student Support**

**Basic Needs Ally Training - Friday, 2/19/21, 10:00-12:00**

**Pre-register @** <https://cccconfer.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJYscuuhrijHdMKOzgy-s6f0Hiqq385-rM>

### **Social Justice**

**Black Lives Matter Campus Conversation: What actions can I/we take to make Rio Hondo an anti-racist institution?**

**Friday, 2-19-21 1:00-2:30**

<https://nam12.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcccconfer.zoom.us%2Fj%2F99904919473&data=04%7C01%7CKOBrien%40riohondo.edu%7C6da3886bc24b497dfcc808d8be5a44f7%7C672cb94a154949f2a29aa67abc976918%7C0%7C0%7C637468642282723827%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljojMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTiI6IjEhaWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C1000&data=Ou9kKWSVL%2BOVdnAz%2FQ26JihHYFJZJFDI%2BFoq%2BYrtY4%3D&reserved=0> Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,99904919473# or +13462487799,99904919473#

Have a safe and sane weekend!

*Katie O'Brien*

EOPS Counselor/Professor

Staff Development/FLEX Coordinator

Reflection & Renewal Facilitator

Rio Hondo College

kobrien@riohondo.edu

*"We work to become, not to acquire." ~ Elbert Hubbard*

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**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2021 5:13 PM  
**To:** AAA--Classified Employees; AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Managers & Confidential Council; AAA--Part-Time Faculty  
**Subject:** Reflection & Renewal Sessions this Spring

Register for one of more of the sessions below @ <https://tinyurl.com/y2uot636>

or at our Integrated Professional Development Calendar site

@ <https://www.riohondo.edu/staff-development/events/>

Rio Hondo College  
Spring 2021  
Reflection & Renewal Sessions\*



*If you could use some time for reflection and connection this semester, consider joining us for one or more of our "R & R" sessions:*

Wednesday, 2/24/21 3:00-4:30pm

Thursday, 3/25/21 3:00-4:30pm

Wednesday, 4/28/21 3:00-4:30pm

Thursday, 5/20/21 3:00-4:30pm

RSVP @ <https://tinyurl.com/y2uot636>

*Calendar Notice & Zoom link will follow Registration*

*R & R Facilitators: Kelly Lynch, Sheila Lynch & Katie O'Brien*

\*R & R events offer relaxed, yet focused spaces that use tools such as journal writing, the arts, and individual and small group reflection to encourage introspection, collegiality, and a renewed sense of purpose.

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**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2021 3:38 PM  
**To:** AAA--Classified Employees; AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Managers & Confidential Council; AAA--Part-Time Faculty  
**Subject:** Integrated Professional Development/Morale Building Spring Calendar Live!

Greetings Campus Community,

We in Staff Development have worked in partnership with colleagues across the campus to construct a semester long, Professional Development/Morale Building Calendar that integrates as many offerings from across programs and initiatives as possible.

While a first step and very much a work in progress, I am delighted to unveil our 1st draft of this calendar now available @ <https://www.riohondo.edu/staff-development/events/> .

Some highlights to peruse and put on your calendar:

**-Weekly Outcomes Trainings**

**-Monthly Reflection & Renewal, Yoga/Meditation, and Black Lives Matter's Campus Conversation Sessions**

**-Monthly Padlet Photo Competitions and Classified Staff "Drop-in-Check-in" hours**

**-New "RIO Talks" and Staff Recognition Programs**

We anticipate updating this with other activities (i.e. Wellness offerings from KDA, OER workshops...) throughout the semester and will send notices and reminders as the term progresses.

For now, I'd like to thank all the current and future contributors to this effort with a special shout out to the Morale Building Subcommittee (Gita Runkle, Kevin Smith, and Sandra Hernandez) and Albert Bretado for his expert web work!

Finally, if you have a professional learning and/or morale building event open to employees at Rio Hondo, you can find a link on our Staff Development webpage menu to submit it for inclusion on our calendar @ <https://www.riohondo.edu/staff-development/>.

Be well, stay safe,

Katie

*Katie O'Brien*

EOPS Counselor/Professor  
Staff Development/FLEX Coordinator  
Reflection & Renewal Facilitator



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**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Monday, January 11, 2021 9:51 AM  
**To:** AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Part-Time Faculty; AAA--Managers & Confidential Council; AAA--Classified Employees  
**Subject:** Spring FLEX Day Breakout Request-Last Call!

*In these most tumultuous times, we rely on each other more than ever.*

*Please consider if you're able to offer your expertise via a virtual breakout workshop for our spring FLEX Day on Friday, January 29th, 2021*

**While the agenda is still a work in progress, we are looking for 50-minute sessions focused on this year's FLEX theme:**

***"Continuing on the Path in Times of Crisis: Caring for Our Students, Supporting Each Other"\****

**Workshops proposals may be submitted at the link below no later than, Tuesday, January 12th, 2021.**

**\*We welcome newly created sessions as well as those offered in the past that align with our theme.**

**Submit proposals @ <https://tinyurl.com/y8ntvysw>**

*Katie O'Brien*  
EOPS Counselor/Professor

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**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Monday, November 30, 2020 9:56 AM  
**To:** AAA--Classified Employees; AAA--Managers & Confidential Council; AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Part-Time Faculty  
**Subject:** This Week in Professional Development  
**Attachments:** This-week-in-Rio-PD-11-30-20.docx

Good morning,

In case you missed last week's preview of this week's professional development update, please see the attached and/or visit the Staff Development website via the link below.

Among the highlights:

**A reminder of the FLEX Reporting Deadline for Adjunct Faculty**  
**Tuesday, December 1st**

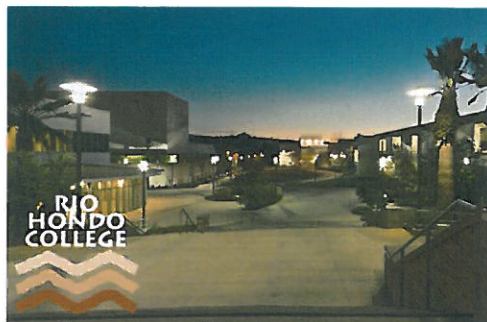
**Three Outcomes Sessions on "Inputting Measures and Findings Fall 2020 Data"**

**Eliminating Implicit Bias and Supporting an Inclusive Hiring Process**  
**Friday, Dec. 4, 9:00 AM- 10:00 AM (Zoom link to be sent out by Human Resources)**

Have a fine week,

Katie

<https://www.riohondo.edu/staff-development/>



## Staff Development and FLEX - Rio Hondo College

Located in LR 206 (562) 463-3210. Our Mission: To provide the Rio Hondo College community with opportunities for professional growth and renewal in order to foster improved morale, increased efficiency, and greater institutional effectiveness.

[www.riohondo.edu](http://www.riohondo.edu)

*Katie O'Brien*  
EOPS Counselor/Professor

**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Monday, November 23, 2020 9:51 AM  
**To:** AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Part-Time Faculty  
**Cc:** AAA--Managers List; Laura Ramirez  
**Subject:** Faculty Workshop: Engaging Learners Through Zoom

Register today @ <https://tinyurl.com/y57xw4go>  
for this important and timely professional learning opportunity!



## Engaging Learners through Zoom

This workshop leverages the transition to virtual learning into an opportunity to transform Zoom into a powerful pedagogical tool.

Many educators are frustrated and overwhelmed with the rapid shift to synchronous, virtual learning, and need more tools to ensure learner engagement, motivation and persistence. Both educators and students are suffering from Zoom Fatigue, and the workshop offers concrete methods to minimize this growing problem including:

- Multiple synchronous online learning structures backed by cognitive neuroscience
- Dozens of active learning strategy examples with step-by-step directions
- Ideas for including diverse content across numerous disciplines

This session presents pedagogical strategies adapted to the Zoom modality that can improve both student academic success and retention. View institutional studies from 27 colleges and universities. View data at [www.OnCourseWorkshop.com](http://www.OnCourseWorkshop.com) (click on DATA).

Each participant will earn 5.5 hours of FLEX and receive a copy of the recently published "Engaging Learners through Zoom." book.



Sponsored by  
CARES funding &  
Staff Development

Tuesday,  
January 19<sup>th</sup>,  
2022

(includes a 1-hour lunch &  
two, 15 minute breaks)

As capacity is  
limited to 50  
register today @

<https://tinyurl.com/y57xw4go>

"The move to Zoom worked really well and provided me with useful online strategies and tools I will use in future online class environments. All the different opportunities for interaction were really helpful."

*Leanne Bauer,  
Developmental Reading,  
UC Blue Ash, OH*

**Katie O'Brien**

EOPS Counselor/Professor  
Staff Development/FLEX Coordinator



**From:** Katie O'Brien  
**Sent:** Thursday, November 19, 2020 12:45 PM  
**To:** AAA--Full Time Faculty; AAA--Part-Time Faculty; AAA--Managers & Confidential Council; AAA--Classified Employees  
**Subject:** Register now for "The Future of Learning" Webinar Series!

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know that the content is safe.

Please view the web version of the Trailblazer at [View as Webpage](#)

# GUIDED PATHWAYS TRAILBLAZERS

You can view all previous Trailblazers newsletters on the [Bakersfield College President's Communications Website](#).

Nov. 19, 2020

## Greetings Pathways Trailblazers!

Take out your calendars now to reserve time for a conversation on ["The Future of Learning"](#) taking place on December 2, 3, 7, 8, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m PST each day. We're spreading out these eight hours of conversation on the future of learning over the course of four days, so we don't turn into Zoom zombies (Zoombies?). Some of the speakers will cover topics such as:

- the **social construction** of learning,
- **humanizing** online learning,
- **competency-based** education, and
- **microcredentialing** and **badging**

You can [register at this link](#) for free.



ACCJC presents an online seminar series



Sonya Christian  
Chair  
ACCJC



Stephanie Droker  
President  
ACCJC

## The Future of Learning

Save the Dates  
December 2, 3, 7, & 8, 2020  
2 PM - 4 PM (PST)

<https://accjc.org/learning-seminar-series/>

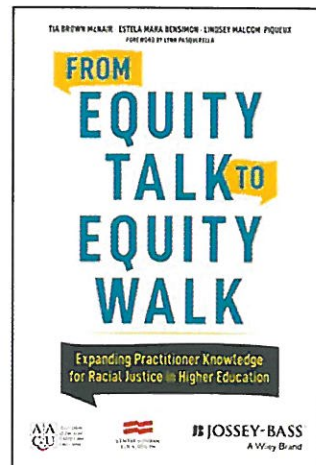
In partnership with:



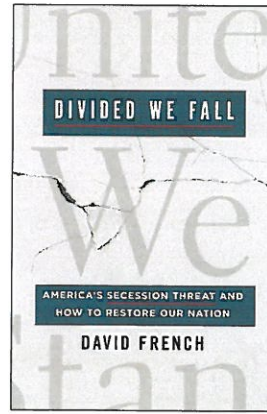
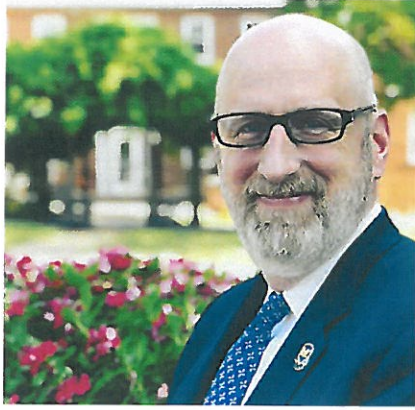
Here are a few of the speakers you can expect to have a conversation with:

### December 2, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)

[Tia McNair](#)— Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success and Executive Director for the TRHT Campus Centers, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, AAC&U and co-author of [“From Equity Talk to Equity Walk”](#)

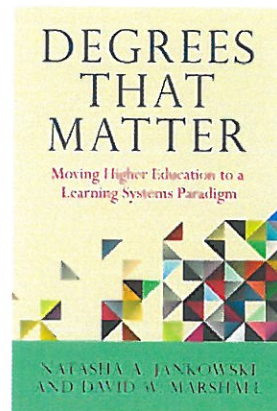


[David French](#)— Senior editor at *The Dispatch* and a columnist for *Time*. He is a former major in the United States Army Reserve and recently published [“Divided We Fall: America’s Secession Threat and How to Restore Our Nation”](#)



**December 3, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

[Natasha Jankowski](#)—Executive Director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment and co-author of "[Degrees that Matter](#)" that I talked about in my previous letter



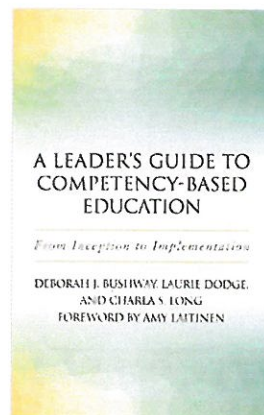
[Cecilia Rios-Aguilar](#)—Associate Dean of Equity & Inclusion at UCLA and a faculty director at the [Policy Analysis for California Education](#)





**December 7, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

[Deb Bushway](#)—President and CEO of Northwestern Health Sciences University, and author of [“A Leader’s Guide to Competency-Based Education”](#)



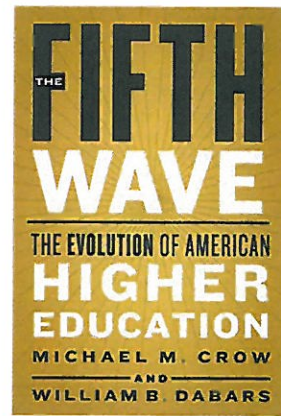
[Wayne Skipper](#)—CEO of [Concentric Sky](#) who have worked with us to build the [Program Mapper](#) and creator of the [Badgr](#) micro-credentialing tool.



**December 8, 2020, 2 PM - 4 PM (PST)**

[Michael Crow](#)—President of Arizona State University and co-author of [“The Fifth Wave: The Evolution of American Higher Education”](#)





**Sam Clark and Connie Jiang**—students at [Deep Springs College](#) where the social construction of learning happens at a whole new level



This eight-hour seminar series is an ACCJC event brought to you in collaboration with:

[California Community College Chancellor's Office](#) – thank you [Chancellor Eloy Oakley](#) and [Deputy Chancellor Daisy Gonzales](#)



[University of Hawaii system](#) - thank you [Vice President for Community Colleges Erika Lacro](#)



Pacific Postsecondary Education Council (PPEC) – thank you [Mary Okada](#)



[Academic Senate for California Community Colleges](#) – thank you to ASCCC President, [Dolores Davison](#).



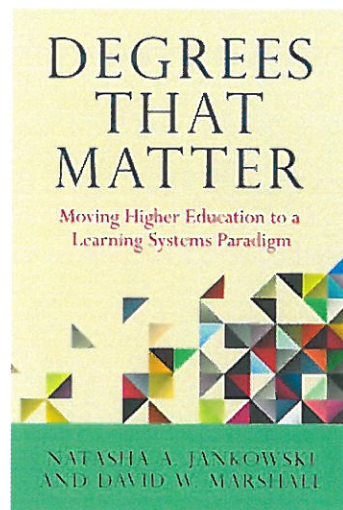


The 8-hour seminar series is only 13 days from now. Go ahead and order the books and read them prior to the event if you can. The format of the seminar series is to create 40-minute conversation with each of the speakers – no PowerPoint – each brief segment a window into the significance of the topic that allows you to pick those topics that you would like to engage in more deeply.

We hope to present a survey of the landscape of the future of learning to provoke your thinking of how you want to shape your courses, the pedagogies you use in your classroom, how you can shape your department, your college, your district, your system. Come into this seminar series with a mindset of what you can take away from it.

Jump in and occupy this space! Let's collectively [#OccupyLearning](#).

In my [previous letter](#), I explored the idea of the **social construction of learning**. Using Jankowski's "Degrees that Matter" as a guide, I concentrated on the "clarifying learning" aspect of socially constructing the learning where faculty dialogue across disciplines and with our students about what students need to learn in higher education and in our particular programs. **Clarifying the learning** is as much for ourselves as for the students because we need to be very intentional about our role in society: how we prepare the future workforce of engaged citizens who are fulfilled human beings, as well as how we want to transform society through what our students learn in college.



Besides the internal conversations we have about learning within our colleges, these conversations happen among colleges when we gather for events such as the SLO Friday Talk that [Jarek Janio](#) organizes. The [SLO Friday Talk in July](#) explored competency-based education in California and how it advances our equity goals so more students can **#OccupyLearning**. At the [SLO Friday Talk in November](#), we were in conversation with Karen McClendon about outcomes-based grading and assessment. In December we will gather for the "[Future of Learning](#)" webinars (do you have Dec 2+3 and 7+8 reserved on your calendar?).

**Before COVID-19 hit**, we had the luxury of smoothly evolving how we educated our students for a changing future while keeping many of our systems still in place. We could calmly plan for gradual changes in education because the future of learning was just that—the future. The massive COVID-19 shutdowns forced us all to make some radical changes in how we educate our students.

The very public and tragic death of George Floyd coupled with the disproportionate effects of the pandemic on communities of color, has forced us



to face and more deeply examine racial equity issues. The economic downturn has had a detrimental impact particularly on our most vulnerable populations. How will we ensure that historically marginalized students have the resources and support they need to succeed?

Finally, the extreme polarization in our country has made us rethink the role of higher education in shaping our society to be able to engage in disagreements in ways that build bridges instead of walls. Do we need to heighten our emphasis on the responsibilities of civic literacy and engagement for a healthy democracy?

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Because we've proven to ourselves that we can change, that we can adapt, I believe we're ready to **explore a future of learning**. I envision the learning happening in different spaces – not just in the classroom - and through lived experience– is both acknowledged and honored. This is the future of education and another step toward equity in learning.

I'm looking forward to the conversations we'll have about the now-present future of learning and enhanced focus on equity.

And ... have you put "The Future of Learning" on December 2, 3, 7, 8 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on your calendar yet?

Remember, you can [register at this link for free](#).



With much warmth and collegiality,

sonya

Sonya Christian  
President, Bakersfield College  
<https://sonyachristianblog.com>  
Twitter: [@sonyachristian](#)

Visit the CA Guided Pathways Resources at [Bakersfieldcollege.edu](https://www.bakersfieldcollege.edu)

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**BAKERSFIELD  
COLLEGE**

[BC Pathways Summit Archive](#)



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