CONFERENCE PROGRAM

WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS	8:30 AM - 10:15 AM		LOCATION
Welcome & Overview	Dr. Steve Bautista		JSC-219
Keynote Address	Jason Torres-Rangel		JSC-219
SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS	**10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**	**LEVEL**	**LOCATION**
Engaging Every Learner: Practical Ideas to Boost Participation and Joy in the Classroom	Alondra Diaz	E	I-104
Pathways to Become a Bilingual Educator and Introduction to Project ICARO	Juventino Romero Jara	A	I-102
Teaching Science with Trash	Shawn Kirby and Cliff Gerstman	A	I-101
Teaching Race, Identity, and Belonging Through Ethnic Studies	Erika Santizo	A	I-107
Why Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIDA) Curriculum Matters	Dr. L. Erika Saito	A	I-108
Working with Young Children: Careers and Pathways	Dr. TJ Naman, Dr. Michelle Kimmel, and Dr. Bridget Gergens	A, P, E	I-109
EDUCATION FAIR	**11:30 AM – 12:40 PM**		JSC-Outdoor West
LUNCH			JSC 2nd Floor
SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS	**12:50 PM – 1:50 PM**	**LEVEL**	**LOCATION**
Embed Positive Mindful Moments in Your Classroom and Beyond	Ms. Alyson Hoberecht	A, SE	I-108
Empowered to Lead: CTA and the Voice of Aspiring Educators	Gabriel Mendoza Jr., Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, and Dahlia Schilling	A	I-101
Teachers Tell it All: New and Veteran Teachers Panel	Dr. Steve Bautista & Panel of Teachers	A	JSC-219
Thoughtfully Integrating AI in Teaching: Centering Student Ideas and Critical Reflection	Doron Zinger	A	I-107
Visual Arts: Creativity Ready to be Tapped	Ms. Barbara Lynn Finnell	A	I-109
SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS	**2:00 PM – 3:00 PM**	**LEVEL**	**LOCATION**
Empowering Every Learner: The Essential Role of Special Education Teachers	Dr. Tiffany Row	A, SE	I-104
Landing Your First Teaching Job	Dr. Steve Bautista & Panel of Principals	A	JSC-219
Pathways to Teaching	Patricia Feliz & Melissa Baez	A	I-102
Positive Classroom Management Strategies and Discipline Techniques	Ms. Alyson Hoberecht	A	I-108
Thoughtfully Integrating AI in Teaching: Centering Student Ideas and Critical Reflection	Doron Zinger	A	I-107
CONFERENCE CLOSING SESSION	**3:00 PM – 3:30 PM**		

Key: A=All Levels, HS=High School, I=Intermediate P=Preschool, E=Elementary, SE=Special Education

Presented by SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

The 30th Annual

ROAD TO Teaching CONFERENCE



ROAD TO TEACHING

2026

CONFERENCE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

8:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M.
AT SANTA ANA COLLEGE

SANTA ANA COLLEGE
Center for Teacher Education

SCHOOLSFIRST
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
Serving school employees since 1934

WELCOME & KEYNOTE ADDRESS

8:30 AM - 10:15 AM
Johnson Student Center (JSC) Room 219

Welcome & Overview

Dr. Steve Bautista, *Santa Ana College*
and
SchoolsFirst Federal Credit Union

sac.edu/rttc



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Jason Torres-Rangel

Jason Torres-Rangel is the 2023 California Teacher of the Year and has been a proud educator for the past 23 years. He taught High School English for 19 years in LAUSD and is now a tenure-track English Professor at Riverside City College. He studies anti-racist assessment practices and is dedicated to creating classroom spaces that uplift diverse student voices and ways of language.

Jason's passions also lie in union organizing; he served as chapter chair to his school and was featured on Democracy Now! during the 2023 joint UTLA-SEIU solidarity strike.

Jason loves to dance and has taught Ballet Folklorico at his school sites; he believes that helping students create spaces where they can physically express joy is just as important (if not more so) than mastering any academic standard.

After earning his BA in English from Pomona College, Jason went on to earn a Masters in Education from Harvard University, and later an MA in English from Cal State LA, and ultimately a PhD from Claremont Graduate University.

In 2023, when Jason was invited to the White House to meet President Biden, and have a sit down conversation with Vice President Kamala Harris, he asked the Vice President if they could Facetime his parents (who are also educators), and he marks this as one of his life's most incredible moments. Jason believes that we owe everything to our families – biological and chosen – and he is excited to honor them.

SESSION 1 WORKSHOPS

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Engaging Every Learner: Practical Ideas to Boost Participation and Joy in the Classroom

Alondra Diaz **I-104**
Sycamore Magnet Academy

Through hands-on examples, led by current teachers, participants will experience strategies that can be applied across grade levels and content areas. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use ideas on building classroom community and collaboration to help create learning experiences where every student is actively involved. (E)

Pathways to Become a Bilingual Educator and Introduction to Project ICARO

Juventino Romero Jara **I-102**
Cal State Fullerton

In this workshop, we will discuss the pathways students can take to become bilingual teachers through the bilingual authorization in the College of Education at CSUF. We will also discuss the Department of Secondary Education's Project ICARO and it's goals for incorporating linguistic justice and inclusion in the classroom. (A)

Teaching Science with Trash

Shawn Kirby and Cliff Gerstman **I-101**
Palm Springs Unified School District and Middle College High School

This workshop will show you how to do fun, hands-on science experiments with your students that are low-cost. Indeed, many of these are done with trash, such as coffee cups, soda bottles, and ketchup packets. (A)

Teaching Race, Identity, and Belonging Through Ethnic Studies

Erika Santizo **I-107**
Long Beach City College

The presenter will share strategies for teaching complex topics such as race, fostering critical thinking, and encouraging students to explore the intersections of their identities. Participants will explore how Ethnic Studies humanizes curriculum and creates meaningful connections between students' identities and their learning. (A)

Why Asian Pacific Islander and Desi American (APIDA) Curriculum Matters

Dr. L. Erika Saito **I-108**
The Asian American Education Project/ University of Massachusetts Global

This workshop highlights the importance of including APIDA history in school curricula by examining APIDA contributions to labor activism, school integration, and citizenship rights. Participants will explore the model minority myth, the perpetual foreigner stereotype, systemic racism, and the intersections between APIDA experiences and other historically marginalized communities. (A)

Working with Young Children: Careers and Pathways

Dr. TJ Naman, Dr. Michelle Kimmel, and Dr. Bridget Gergens **I-109**
Santa Ana College

Passionate about working with young children (ages 0–8)? This workshop highlights the many career opportunities available in early childhood education. Participants will explore the pathways into the field—including certificates, permits, degrees and credentials—and gain clarity on the options that can lead to a rewarding career supporting young children and families. (A, P, E)

SESSION 2 WORKSHOPS

12:50 PM - 1:50 PM

Embed Positive Mindful Moments in Your Classroom and Beyond

Ms. Alyson Hoberecht **I-108**
Garden Grove Unified School District

Would you like your students to better understand themselves, their emotions, their needs, and their personal options? Would you like your classroom to be a safe haven for students to investigate and develop their own mindful practices? Come experience routines, activities, and methodologies that enable your students to enhance their awareness, balance, focus, and peace of mind on a consistent basis. Mindful breathing practices and techniques to enhance well–being will be included for both your students and yourself. (A)

Empowered to Lead: CTA and the Voice of Aspiring Educators

Gabriel Mendoza Jr.,
Wendy Brill-Wynkoop, and Dahlia Schilling **I-101**
California Teachers Association-Aspiring Educators

Discover how the California Teachers Association (CTA) champions public education and educator rights and explore how aspiring educators are shaping the future of the movement. Learn how your voice, organizing, and participation can influence meaningful changes in classrooms, communities, and beyond. (A)

Teachers Tell it All: New and Veteran Teachers Panel

Dr. Steve Bautista & Panel of Teachers **JSC-219**
Santa Ana College

Listen as new and veteran teachers share their classroom joys and challenges. Discover the things they wish they had known before their first day of teaching. Participants will gain insight into the classroom and receive helpful information about the responsibilities and unexpected realities of teaching today. (A)

Thoughtfully Integrating AI in Teaching: Centering Student Ideas and Critical Reflection

Doron Zinger **I-107**
Cal State Dominguez Hills

In this interactive workshop, participants will get to experience an AI integration approach that begins with students' ideas, then modeling of AI integration, followed by opportunities to reflect on AI use, its biases, and its capabilities. There will be opportunities to consider how participants can use AI. (A)

Visual Arts: Creativity Ready to be Tapped

Ms. Barbara Lynn Finnell **I-109**
Cal State Fullerton

Join us for an interactive workshop using bleeding tissue paper to create a mood on a page. Then continue with Zen Tangle to add an intriguing design. The process is unique for each person and can be used at any grade level. (A)

Education Fair
11:30 AM – 12:40 PM
Johnson Student Center (JSC) Outdoor West

Lunch
12:10 PM – 12:40 PM
Johnson Student Center (JSC) 2nd Floor

SESSION 3 WORKSHOPS

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Empowering Every Learner: The Essential Role of Special Education Teachers

Dr. Tiffany Row **I-104**
Cal State Fullerton

Special education teachers play a vital role in creating learning environments where every student can participate, grow, and experience success. This workshop explores the multifaceted role of the special education teacher and considers the knowledge, skills, and perspectives that contribute to effective support for diverse learners. (A, SE)

Landing Your First Teaching Job

Dr. Steve Bautista & Panel of Principals **JSC-219**
Santa Ana College

Getting your foot in the door can be a big challenge! Learn how to make your application stand out, as well as how to nail your interview using tips and tricks that will give you the advantage. Learn directly from a panel of school principals on how you can prepare to apply for a successful career and the teaching position of your dreams! (A)

Pathways to Teaching

Patricia Feliz and Melissa Baez **I-102**
Cal State Fullerton

Learn the basic steps to becoming a teacher in California and the best pathway to follow in your journey that will empower you as a future teacher. (A)

Positive Classroom Management Strategies and Discipline Techniques

Ms. Alyson Hoberecht **I-108**
Garden Grove Unified School District

Students take on the characteristics of the teacher they are with each day! Who are you teaching your students to be? Through a high-energy, interactive method, you will be exposed to multiple positive classroom management strategies and discipline techniques. As we surround our students with positive, consistent practices, they begin to feel safe to take risks, make mistakes, learn, and grow. Come learn to effectively and consistently balance consequences with care within your classrooms and schools. Time management challenges will be addressed along with community-building ideas and teaching techniques that can be implemented throughout the school year. (A)

Thoughtfully Integrating AI in Teaching: Centering Student Ideas and Critical Reflection

Doron Zinger **I-107**
Cal State Dominguez Hills

In this interactive workshop, participants will get to experience an AI integration approach that begins with students' ideas, then modeling of AI integration, followed by opportunities to reflect on AI use, its biases, and its capabilities. There will be opportunities to consider how participants can use AI. (A)

Closing Session
3:00 PM – 3:30 PM
Johnson Student Center (JSC)
Room 219