



INDIANA EDUCATORS OF COLOR NETWORK CONFERENCE

**JUNE 5 - 7
INDIANAPOLIS**

TRANSFORMATIVE POWER: BUILDING A LEGACY

OUR ASSOCIATION

MISSION STATEMENT

The Indiana State Teachers Association is a professional association organized to sustain quality public education, improve students' education opportunities and advance the professional status of educators.

PURPOSE

To develop and organize members as leaders, professionals and active citizens to improve the professional status of educators and educational opportunities for Hoosier kids.

GOALS

- Unified voice - we are stronger together.
- Economic security and professional working conditions for educators.
- Premier public education system that serves all kids regardless of ZIP code, culture or ability.

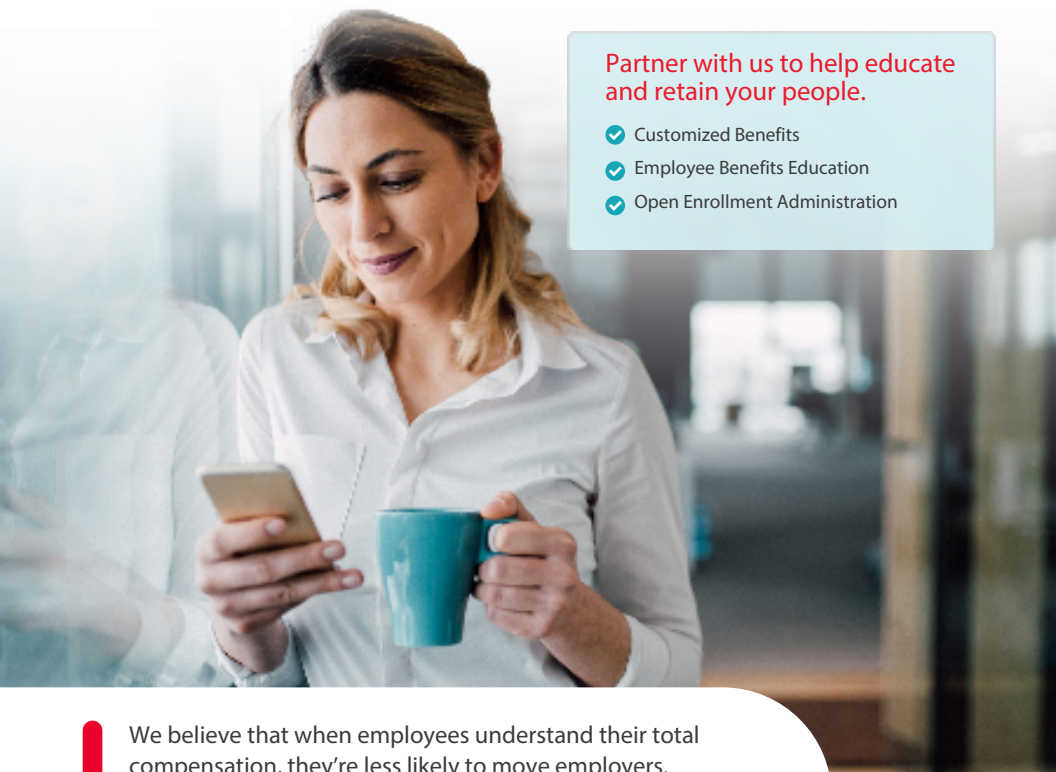
STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

- Build strong locals.
- Increase membership and engagement.
- Advocate for educational issues.
- Fight for racial and social justice.

SPONSORS



Do your employees know the value of their total compensation?



Partner with us to help educate and retain your people.

- ✓ Customized Benefits
- ✓ Employee Benefits Education
- ✓ Open Enrollment Administration

We believe that when employees understand their total compensation, they're less likely to move employers. American Fidelity delivers on-site benefits education and answers employee benefits questions year-round, so you don't have to.

We can help!
Contact us today.

Margaret Barkocy, State Manager
Michelle Stevens, State Manager
Michael Marshall, State Manager
Megan Garton, Account Development Manager
317-871-2480

AMERICAN FIDELITY 
a different opinion

American Fidelity Assurance Company

SB-33204-0421

WELCOME FROM ISTA PRESIDENT



It is with deep gratitude and immense pride that I welcome you to the Third Annual Indiana Educators of Color Network Conference, hosted by the Indiana State Teachers Association. As ISTA president, I am honored to stand with you in this sacred space—one that celebrates the brilliance, strength and leadership of educators of color across our state.

This year's theme, "Transformative Power: Building a Legacy," speaks directly to the heart of who we are and what we do. As educators of color, your work is more than instruction—it is empowerment. It is transformation. And it is legacy.

You build bridges for students to cross into their full potential. You open doors that were once shut. You uplift voices that too often go unheard. And in doing so, you leave a mark not only on classrooms, but on entire communities and future generations.

This conference is an opportunity to be seen, to be heard and to be celebrated. It is a time to connect with peers, to grow professionally and personally and to affirm the importance of your voice in the ongoing work of equity and justice in education.

Let us use this time together to reflect, rise and reimagine what's possible. Whether you're a veteran educator or new to the profession, your presence here matters. Your story matters. And your legacy is being written each day—with courage, compassion and transformative power. Thank you for the invaluable work you do. Thank you for continuing to lead with purpose and passion. We are honored to walk beside you in this journey.

In solidarity and service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Keith Gambill". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keith Gambill
ISTA President

WELCOME FROM RAC CO-CHAIRS

Dear Conference Attendees,

Welcome to the third annual Indiana Educators of Color Network Conference! On behalf of the ISTA Racial Affairs Committee, we are honored to welcome you to this year's gathering, themed "Transformative Power: Building a Legacy." Whether this is your first time joining us or you're returning to continue the journey, your presence here is deeply valued. This conference is more than a series of workshops and discussions—it's a space for reflection, connection and empowerment. It is a space where educators of color and our allies can unite in purpose, lift each other up and commit to creating schools where all students and educators can thrive. Building a legacy is not just a theme—it's a call to action. It invites each of us to consider the impact we are making, not just today, but for generations to come. As educators, our work holds transformative power. Together, we can shape a more just, inclusive and equitable future for our profession and our communities. We hope this weekend leaves you feeling inspired, grounded in purpose and connected to a community that sees and supports you. Thank you for being here—and for being part of this legacy.

In solidarity and celebration,

Ronald Swann & Sophia-Grace Stewart
Co-Chairs, ISTA Racial Affairs Committee

WELCOME FROM CONFERENCE CO-CHAIR

Greetings Conference Attendees,

It is with immense honor and gratitude that we welcome you to the 2025 Indiana Educator of Color Networking Conference! This year's theme allows us to envision the profound impact of our collective efforts in our schools, our communities and in our profession. This convening is a testament to our shared commitment to racial and social justice, the transformative power of collaboration and the vision to build a legacy that future educators will be proud to inherit.

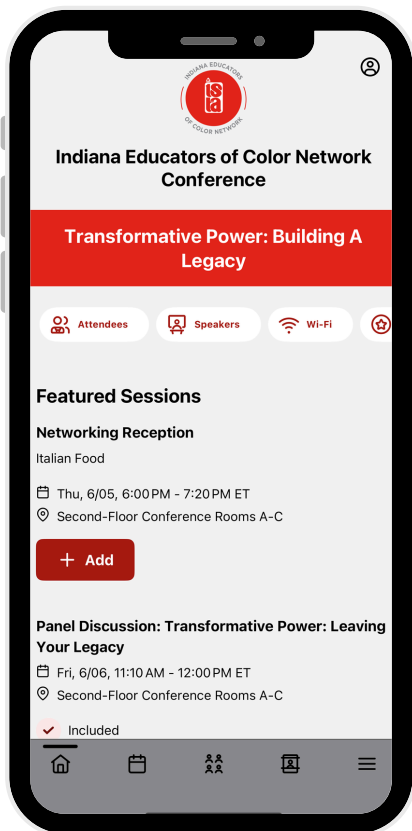
The Educator of Color Networking Conference marks a cornerstone of the legacy we are building – a legacy defined by courage, unity and an unwavering dedication to justice in education. Over the next three days, you will be immersed in a schedule filled with inspiring keynote speeches, thought-provoking panels, hands-on workshops and ample opportunities for networking and the exchange of ideas. Our lineup of speakers and presenters represents a diverse constituency of some of the best and brightest minds across state affiliates. As leaders, advocates and allies, we invite you to engage deeply in discussions, workshops and reflections that challenge, inspire and ignite transformative action. We are confident that you will leave this conference feeling inspired and empowered.

In this current political and social climate, where diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) initiatives and federal protections are under attack, we have the opportunity—and the responsibility—to act boldly. This conference is more than a meeting of minds; it is a space where ideas become movements, and dreams transform into impactful realities. Together, we will explore how to dismantle inequities, amplify voices that have been silenced and create pathways for sustainable and lasting change. Your presence here today underscores your belief in advancing the issues facing the Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) education community. Let us embrace the opportunities ahead and make this event an unforgettable success.

In solidarity,

Yolanda Smith
Indiana Educator of Color Network Conference, Co-Chair

CONFERENCE APP



Download the conference app

ISTA designed a conference app that will help you have an enjoyable and stress-free conference experience.

Download the app and engage with fellow conference attendees, share your photos and breakout session take-aways and plan your conference schedule.

View the venue map, learn more about conference sponsors and more.



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



YOLANDA SMITH

CO-CHAIR
Workshops Committee



SOPHIA STEWART

CO-CHAIR
Workshops Chair



RITA TAYLOR

STAFF LIAISON



**BRYTNIE
DICKERSON**

STAFF LIAISON



KERRY SHOWERS

INTERNATIONAL NIGHT
CHAIR



LETEENA PETTIS

HOSPITALITY



**SHANTAE
FERGUSON**

WORKSHOPS



WAF A' SAFI

COMMUNICATIONS/
MARKETING CO-CHAIR



CHUNMEI GUAN

INTERNATIONAL
COMMITTEE

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE



**DR. TERRANCE
ANFIELD**

LOGISTICS CO-CHAIR



RON SWANN
LOGISTICS CO-CHAIR



RITA MAXEY
LOGISTICS

NOT PICTURED

Communications/Marketing

Rosliand Jackson, Co-Chair
Delcia Mendez
Daniel Moy

International Night

Addyson Webster
Jamie Keller
Ruby Spoke
Carmen Paul-Garcia
Dr. Caren Lettofsky

Hospitality

Latrice Jones, Co-Chair
Ashlei Johnson, Co-Chair
Anndra Morgan
Ashlie Johnson
Sylesta Morgan
Ye Sun

Workshops

Ashley Howell

Event Coordinator

Elisa Halpin

It's a new year and a good time to get your financial house in order!

Horace Mann, a long-time corporate supporter, is thrilled to launch HMScore™ — a free tool for credit monitoring and reporting that empowers you to take control of your financial health. As you shape future leaders, let us help you build your own financial future.

Sign up for your free HMScore™ account today and start your journey toward financial success.



***Thank you for your dedication to education.
We're proud to support you!***



Horace Mann®

HMScore™

Horace Mann Service Corporation and certain of its affiliates (Horace Mann) enter into agreements with educational associations where Horace Mann pays the association to provide services aimed at familiarizing association members with the Horace Mann brand, products or services. For more information, email your inquiry to association.relations@horacemann.com.

AM-C04812 (Oct. 24)

horacemann.com

KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Princess Moss, NEA Vice President

Princess R. Moss, an elementary school music teacher from Louisa County, Va., is vice president of the National Education Association, the nation's largest professional organization. Previously, Princess was NEA secretary-treasurer and had primary responsibility for managing and maintenance of the Association's multimillion dollar budget. Princess is a skilled organizer. She recognizes the opportunities and subtle power that exist within authentic one-to-one conversations. An intent listener who knows the value of storytelling, Princess frequently shares stories about the lived experiences of NEA members to make a point about the challenges faced by today's educators. Her goal is to ensure the voices educators raise on behalf of their students, and the professional authority of educators, continue to grow. In particular, Princess focuses special attention on increasing the ranks of new educators. She understands that within their knowledgeable hands lies the future of NEA and the nation. As the daughter of two school bus drivers who instilled within her the core beliefs of courage, honesty, respect, and the value of getting a good education, Princess earned her bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Mary Washington, and received the university's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2006. She also earned a master's degree in elementary and secondary administration and supervision from the University of Virginia.

AGENDA

All times are ET.

Thursday, June 5

5 – 6 p.m. | **Registration** | *First-Floor Lobby*

5 – 9 p.m. | **Freedom Lab** | *Second-Floor Office*

6 – 7:20 p.m. | **Networking Reception** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

7:20 – 7:30 p.m. | **Transition**

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. | **Breakout Sessions – Block A***

9:30 – 10 p.m. | **Reflection**

Friday, June 6

8 a.m. – 4 p.m. | **Freedom Lab** | *Second-Floor Office*

8 – 9 a.m. | **Registration/Grab & Go Breakfast**

9 – 10 a.m. | **Welcome & Keynote, NEA Vice President Princess Moss** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

10 – 10:10 a.m. | **Transition**

10:10 – 11 a.m. | **Breakout Sessions – Block B***

11 – 11:10 a.m. | **Transition**

11:10 – Noon | **Panel Discussion, *Transformative Power: Leaving Your Legacy*** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

Noon – 12:10 p.m. | **Transition**

12:10 – 1:30 p.m. | **Lunch** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

1:30 – 2:20 p.m. | **Breakout Sessions – Block C***

2:20 – 2:30 p.m. | **Transition**

2:30 – 3:30 p.m. | **Discussion, ISTA Minority Educator of the Year Terrell Taylor** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

3:30 – 4 p.m. | **Share Outs**

4 – 7 p.m. | **Break**

7 – 9 p.m. | **International Gala: Dinner Stations & Activities** (Please wear cultural attire) | *Available on First-Floor and Second-Floor*

AGENDA

Saturday, June 7

8 – 9 a.m. | **Grab & Go Breakfast**

9 – 9:50 a.m. | **Breakout Sessions – Block D***

9:50 – 10 a.m. | **Transition**

10 – 10:50 a.m. | **Panel Discussion: *Transforming Power from the Hood to the House*** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

10:50 – 11 a.m. | **Transition**

11 a.m. – Noon | **Lunch** | *First-Floor Lobby*

Noon – 12:50 p.m. | **Breakout Sessions – Block E***

12:50 – 1 p.m. | **Transition**

1 – 2 p.m. | **Closing Ceremony** | *Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C*

*Review session locations on pages 14 – 21.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

June 5

7:30 – 9:30 p.m. | Block A

Colors Within | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room

Annie Patrick, Ivy Tech Community College – Evansville

Colors Within is a hands-on art project that can be used in the classroom to help promote diversity and inclusion. In Colors Within, you will design and color a cutout of your hand with designs, patterns and colors that represent who you are on the inside. This art project can be used to show students that it is not just the color of their skin but also what is on the inside that makes them who they are. Everyone is different and that is a beautiful thing.

Mindful Meditation | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room

Sophia Grace Stewart, Positive Support Academy

This session, designed to promote relaxation and inner peace, will guide participants through breathing exercises and mindful practices to reduce stress and enhance focus. Whether you are new to meditation or have experience, this session will provide tools to cultivate mindfulness daily.

Reclaiming the Body, Reclaiming the Work: Grounding in African Earth Wisdom | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

Evelyn Bako, 11 Yellow Road

In the ongoing work of education and liberation, our bodies carry the stories, stress and strength of our journey. This somatic grounding session invites participants to reconnect with the wisdom of the earth through African Indigenous healing practices. Together, we will explore breath, movement and ancestral grounding as tools for restoration, presence and embodied leadership. Come to reclaim your body—and in doing so, reclaim your purpose and power in the work.

Yoga for the Movement | First-Floor Conference Room A

Tre Ronne, Richmond Community Schools & Danielle Hendricks, Yoga Teacher

This workshop offers a chair yoga session for educators and education defenders. Throughout history, yoga has been a tool for personal and collective liberation. Several celebrated Civil Rights leaders, such as Rosa Parks, famously practiced yoga to sustain them through trying times. Even more fundamentally, the core values of yoga (compassion and truth) accord with the guiding stars of liberatory movement and specifically the project to provide quality education to all people. In this workshop, facilitators will guide the participants through gentle movement, breathwork, and mindfulness meditation practices for health, well-being and community uplift.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

June 6

10:10 – 11 a.m. | Block B

Crafting Your Narrative: Unlocking the Power of Personal Storytelling | First-Floor Conference Room A

Jeremia Salinas, New Jersey Education Association

In this engaging presentation, participants will explore the art of personal storytelling as a powerful tool for connection and inspiration. They will learn how to identify and articulate their unique narratives, transforming personal experiences into impactful stories that resonate with students, colleagues, and the broader school community. By the end of the session, members will feel empowered to share their stories in ways that foster empathy, build support, and build relationships with stakeholders to build relationships and partnerships.

From Identity to Impact: Organizing for Equity in Education | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

Annabella Chlada, Illinois State University

Regardless of your role as an educator, we all serve diverse communities and play a vital role in shaping inclusive learning environments. Join us in the foundational stages of developing an organizing plan that prioritizes diversity, equity and inclusion. This interactive session will provide actionable strategies for recognizing and dismantling systemic barriers, fostering equitable practices and advocating for meaningful change within educational spaces.

Through guided discussions and collaborative activities, you will explore the impact of identity on your role as an educator and leader.

Engage with peers in critical conversations about privilege, bias and the responsibilities of equitable leadership, leaving with concrete steps to create lasting, positive change in your community.

Harmony in Education: Fostering Equity and Justice for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room

Linda Miller, New Jersey Education Association

This workshop encapsulates a commitment to creating a balanced, inclusive and just educational environment for students with hearing loss. This approach emphasizes the importance of harmony within the educational system, ensuring that every student, including those who are deaf or hard of hearing, has equal access to educational opportunities. By promoting harmony in education through inclusivity, accessibility, equal opportunities, advocacy, cultural competence, collaboration and continuous improvement, we can build a supportive and equitable foundation that empowers deaf and hard of hearing students to thrive academically and socially, fostering an atmosphere of justice and inclusivity within the educational system.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

This workshop will show how building a community with accessibility will help transform communities, help educators design forward-thinking lesson plans, and drive curricula that will allow deaf and hard-of-hearing students to thrive.

Many of these students have been left out of the system for many years. When we participate in forward-thinking activities, we begin to transform communities and build legacies of excellence.

Recognizing and Avoiding Microaggressions | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room

Karen Moore, Illinois Education Association

Students and educators thrive when they feel safe and supported in their schools. However, microaggressions can disrupt that sense of safety and security. In this session, participants will explore how to identify microaggressions, strategies for responding effectively and ways to prevent them. This session is designed for all educators.

Roots of Identity: Exploring the Historical Impact of the Transatlantic Human Trade on Latin America | First-Floor Conference Room B

Tamar LaSure-Owens, Leeds Avenue Elementary School & Neysha Parker, Egg Harbor Township

Join us for an enlightening exploration of the profound and lasting impact of the Transatlantic Human Trade on Latin America and the enduring legacy of Afro-Latin American communities. This session delves into the resilience, cultural contributions and historical struggles of Afro-descendant populations, emphasizing their role in shaping societies across the region. Through interactive discussions and activities, participants will examine key observances like Afro-Bolivian Day, Afro-Colombian Day and Emancipation Day, while also uncovering lesser-known histories, such as the Underground Railroad's ties to Mexico.

By engaging in storytelling, exploring historical monuments, and discussing advocacy strategies, attendees will gain tools to promote inclusivity and equity in education. This session is designed to empower educators, community leaders, and advocates with knowledge that fosters transformation and inspires action. By understanding and honoring this history, we collectively build a legacy of justice, recognition and systemic change.

1:30 – 2:20 p.m. | Block C

Crafting Your Narrative: Unlocking the Power of Personal Storytelling | First-Floor Conference Room A

Jeremia Salinas, New Jersey Education Association

In this engaging presentation, participants will explore the art of personal storytelling as a powerful tool for connection and inspiration. They will learn how to identify and articulate their unique narratives, transforming personal experiences into impactful stories that resonate with students, colleagues, and the broader school community.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

By the end of the session, members will feel empowered to share their stories in ways that foster empathy, build support, and build relationships with stakeholders to build relationships and partnerships.

Recognizing and Avoiding Microaggressions | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room

Karen Moore, Illinois Education Association

Students and educators thrive when they feel safe and supported in their schools. However, microaggressions can disrupt that sense of safety and security. In this session, participants will explore how to identify microaggressions, strategies for responding effectively and ways to prevent them. This session is designed for all educators.

Teaching in the Cracks: Culturally Responsive Teaching | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

Stephanie Brown, MSD Warren Township

This workshop will encourage educators to recognize the significance of promoting diversity in the classroom through small yet impactful actions and provide practical strategies to support this effort.

Thinking Out of the Box: How a Classroom Project Becomes a Community Annual Multicultural Festival | First-Floor Conference Room B

Chunmei Guan, Logansport High School & Ye Sun, Lafayette School Corporation

Since 2022, a Classroom Global Project has become an annual community multicultural festival. During the pandemic, the rise of terms like "Kung flu" and anti-Asian hate deeply affected the Asian community across the nation. The tragic 2021 Atlanta shooting, in which several Asian women were killed at massage salons, was a devastating moment for the community.

As an Asian American educator, the presenter took action to protect Asian students and foster unity within the community. Collaborating with colleagues, parents and students, she launched the first multicultural festival in 2022. The event garnered support from key figures, including a senator, the mayor, the superintendent, school principals, embassy representatives and leaders from local businesses, organizations and international groups.

Inspired by the festival, Asian students established the Asian Club and the Global Ambassadors Club, which earned the Exceptional Indiana World Language Group award from IFLTA in 2024. Today, the festival has become an annual event in Cass County, significantly increasing student enrollment and strengthening the community's diversity and unity.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Transforming Mental Health Positively | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room

Charles Cameron, Lawrence Township

Teaching is a demanding profession that requires both mental and emotional resilience. This workshop will explore the critical connection between mental health, well-being, and effective teaching. Participants will examine how stress impacts both personal and professional life, learn to recognize signs of stress and burnout in themselves and colleagues and discover simple yet effective stress-relief techniques such as mindfulness and movement.

Educators will also develop a personalized self-care plan tailored to their individual needs and schedules, ensuring they can maintain balance and well-being. Additionally, the session will highlight strategies for fostering a supportive work environment and the role of peer support in stress management. Practical approaches to navigating challenging classroom situations will also be discussed, equipping educators with tools to sustain their well-being while creating a positive learning environment for their students.

June 7

9 – 9:50 a.m. | Block D

Empowering Educators of Color: Advocating for Health Equity and Self-Care | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room

Dr. Terrance Anfield, Indianapolis Public Schools & Nate Maxey, Indiana University Indianapolis

In this session, participants will explore the vital connection between healthcare disparities and educational outcomes, specifically focusing on the unique experiences of teachers of color. They will learn to integrate health education into their curricula through practical strategies that resonate with their communities and establish partnerships with local health organizations to enhance student and educator support.

Participants will be empowered to advocate for policy changes promoting health equity and educational success while gaining essential self-advocacy skills with healthcare professionals to prioritize their health needs. The session will recognize the importance of self-care and provide tailored techniques for managing stress and maintaining well-being, particularly for educators of color who may face additional challenges in their roles.

Throughout the 40-minute session, I will utilize various interactive strategies, including small and large group discussions, case studies and role-playing scenarios that allow participants to practice self-advocacy and advocacy for their students. Multimedia presentations will illustrate key concepts, and real-time polls will gather participant input. I will encourage questions and open dialogue, fostering a collaborative atmosphere that promotes active participation and connection among attendees. Ultimately, we will build a supportive community of educators dedicated to addressing healthcare disparities and prioritizing their well-being.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Harnessing Our Power to Advocate Racial and Social Justice | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

Jessica Ramirez, Elkhart Community Schools & Wafa' Safi-Hassan, Hamilton Southeastern Schools

In this workshop, we will explore the concept of power – its origins, the three fundamental laws that govern it, how it is exercised, and how you can harness and leverage your power within yourself and your networks.

Our ESPs and How Best to Collaborate for School, Classroom and Student Success | First-Floor Conference Room B

Andie Renner-Miller, MCAS

Legacies are only successful if they are built on solid foundations. Solid foundations can only be built if everyone understands each other and their role. This workshop will introduce non-ESPs to the world of ESPs. We will tell you about our jobs and interactions with students. We will tell you about our struggles, limitations from administration, and lack of training. We will share common misconceptions and common classroom issues and how to address them to best form co-educational and co-teaching partnerships. ESPs are invested in the success of each student and classroom. We can only be successful if all education stockholders understand each others roles and form partnerships that are successful for the whole school. This presentation is large group, but we encourage discussion and questions.

**Please note that ESPs from other career classifications come and share as co-presenters, but that is based on availability on the given day.*

The 'B' in BIPOC | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room

Rosiland Jackson, Indianapolis Public Schools

This workshop will tie the historical significance of the "B" in the term BIPOC by raising awareness and understanding among educators of color on how to navigate both the classroom and the broader societal landscape during these challenging times. This session will provide a clear understanding of specific laws, policies, and programs that have historically targeted the Black community, as well as the consequences of efforts to dismantle DEI initiatives, the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and other key protections.

The Intersectionality Between Race and Disability | First-Floor Conference Room A

Whittney Gaines, Columbus Virtual Pathway

In this session, participants will examine the connections between race and disability, focusing on diagnosis, intervention and academic expectations. Educators will gain insights into key indicators to ensure students receive fair and equitable diagnoses and services. This session will examine the benefits and challenges of Special Education services for students of color and provide strategies for distinguishing cultural differences from potential academic disabilities.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

Noon – 12:50 p.m. | Block E

Empowering Educators of Color: Advocating for Health Equity and Self-Care | Second-Floor Staff Conference Room

Dr. Terrance Anfield, Indianapolis Public Schools & Nate Maxey, Indiana University Indianapolis

In this session, participants will explore the vital connection between healthcare disparities and educational outcomes, specifically focusing on the unique experiences of teachers of color. They will learn to integrate health education into their curricula through practical strategies that resonate with their communities and establish partnerships with local health organizations to enhance student and educator support.

Participants will be empowered to advocate for policy changes promoting health equity and educational success while gaining essential self-advocacy skills with healthcare professionals to prioritize their health needs. The session will recognize the importance of self-care and provide tailored techniques for managing stress and maintaining well-being, particularly for educators of color who may face additional challenges in their roles.

Throughout the 40-minute session, I will utilize various interactive strategies, including small and large group discussions, case studies and role-playing scenarios that allow participants to practice self-advocacy and advocacy for their students. Multimedia presentations will illustrate key concepts, and real-time polls will gather participant input. I will encourage questions and open dialogue, fostering a collaborative atmosphere that promotes active participation and connection among attendees. Ultimately, we will build a supportive community of educators dedicated to addressing healthcare disparities and prioritizing their well-being.

Harnessing Our Power to Advocate Racial and Social Justice | Second-Floor Conference Rooms A-C

Jessica Ramirez, Elkhart Community Schools & Wafa' Safi-Hassan, Hamilton Southeastern Schools

In this workshop, we will explore the concept of power – its origins, the three fundamental laws that govern it, how it is exercised, and how you can harness and leverage your power within yourself and your networks.

Somos a Semillas/We are Seeds | First-Floor Conference Room B

Beatriz Vasquez Arte, Clockwork Janz, Gary Gee & Teresa Baker, Arts for Learning

Somos Semilla workshop is inspired by the Mexican Folkloric Art of papel picado, which uses the Characteristics of Paper as a metaphor for vulnerable yet resilient marginalized communities. This session focuses on themes of empowerment, cultural knowledge, handcrafted skills, Indigenous contributions, self-identity, and emotional healing.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

The 'B' in BIPOC | Second-Floor Executive Conference Room

Rosiland Jackson, Indianapolis Public Schools

This workshop will tie the historical significance of the "B" in the term BIPOC by raising awareness and understanding among educators of color on how to navigate both the classroom and the broader societal landscape during these challenging times. This session will provide a clear understanding of specific laws, policies, and programs that have historically targeted the Black community, as well as the consequences of efforts to dismantle DEI initiatives, the Civil Rights Act of 1965 and other key protections.

The Intersectionality Between Race and Disability | First-Floor Conference Room A

Whittney Gaines, Columbus Virtual Pathway

In this session, participants will examine the connections between race and disability, focusing on diagnosis, intervention and academic expectations. Educators will gain insights into key indicators to ensure students receive fair and equitable diagnoses and services. This session will examine the benefits and challenges of Special Education services for students of color and provide strategies for distinguishing cultural differences from potential academic disabilities.

Want to know more about session presenters? Review speaker bios by scanning the QR code:



PGP CERTIFICATE



Indiana
State
Teachers
Association

ISTA CERTIFIES THE RECIPIENT ATTENDED THE

Indiana Educators of Color Network Conference

— of Professional Growth Plan Points

*This certificate recipient earned the above Professional Growth Plan points
for attending the Indiana Educators of Color Networking Conference,
a professional development and learning event, hosted by
the Indiana State Teachers Association.*

June 5 – 7, 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Keith Gambill', is positioned above the printed name.

Keith Gambill

ISTA President



EXHIBITORS

American Fidelity
Associate Staff Organization
Aspiring Educators
Education Support Professional
Emerging Leaders
Horace Mann
I-PACE
ISTA-Retired
Leadership Pathways
Membership Resource Center
NEA Fund
NEA Member Benefits
New and Early Career Educators
Professional Staff Organization
Security Benefit
Year-Round Organizing



NEA Member* Exclusive

A trusted and valuable benefit

As an NEA member, did you know you receive \$1,000 of term life insurance at **no cost** to you? You're already enrolled in the NEA® Complimentary Life Insurance Plan, but it's a good time to make sure you've selected a beneficiary.

When you do, you can have some peace of mind that your loved ones will receive their benefit in a time of need. This unique benefit helps ensure educators like you have additional coverage beyond what may be provided through your district. It's just one of the many ways your union membership works hard for you.

**Scan the code or go to
neamb.com/mycomp for a
quick and easy path to update
your beneficiary information.**



*Must maintain NEA membership. This coverage is offered to Active, Reserve and Staff members, as well as to Life and Retired members who are actively employed in education.

DT170525

MESSAGES FROM UNISERV STAFF

"Thank you for all of your hard work and your commitment to the cause!"

Barbara Deardorff,
UniServ Director, Area 01

"Susan L. Taylor said, 'whatever we believe about ourselves, and our ability comes true for us'. Thank you for all you do everyday to help young people believe in themselves and their abilities, but please never stop believing in yourself and your abilities too!"

Joe Washington,
UniServ Director, Area 02

"Without racial justice, there cannot be economic justice. Your leadership is essential to the power of our union! I hope you enjoy the conference, but most importantly please take what you've learned back to your buildings, back to your local, and make your voice heard!"

Paul Nappier,
UniServ Director, Area 06

"I hope this year's conference is the biggest success yet! What a great opportunity to reconnect with old friends, make some new ones, and to rejuvenate your spirit. Thank you for all you do for ISTA."

Anita Vernon,
UniServ Director, Area 03

"Anytime I fight for anything in this labor movement, it benefits me in the civil rights movement." Hattie Canty. Thank you for continuing the work of Mary McLeod Bethune, A. Phillip Randolph, Bayard Rustin, & Hattie Canty alongside us.

Becky Slayton,
UniServ Director, Area 05

MESSAGES FROM UNISERV STAFF

"Thank you for all that you do for all of your students. Please know that you are not alone in the difficulties that we are facing in education. Together we are better!"

Kim Fidler,
UniServ Director, Area 10

"We are strong, not in spite of our diversity, but because of it! Your voices are essential and should be amplified!"

Mark Lichtenberg,
UniServ Director, Area 10

"Your willingness to put your voice, perspectives, and experiences in the room make us a stronger union. Keep up the good work, and don't be afraid to advocate for what you need!"

Juli Davis,
UniServ Organizer

Interested in identifying your UniServ Director? Review a full list of ISTA UniServ Directors and UniServ Organizers by scanning the QR code:



NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Outreach to Teach 2026 Nominations Now Open

ISTA Aspiring Educators organization seeks your valuable input as we begin our search for the school for our annual Outreach to Teach project. The tentative date for this project is April 11, 2026. For more information or to nominate a school, scan the QR code.



Summer Conference | July 15 - 16

The ISTA Summer Conference is a two-day event designed by members, for members - an opportunity to strengthen your leadership skills, connect with educators across the state and shape the future of public education. This year, we're centering equity with a powerful four-part Racial and Social Justice training series that includes sessions on disrupting implicit bias, advancing equity, navigating cultural communication and building strategies for BIPOC recruitment in our union. For more information or to register, scan the QR code.



NEWS/UPCOMING EVENTS

Be a Trainer

ISTA offers comprehensive racial and social justice trainings designed to equip union members, educators and administrators with the tools to foster inclusivity and equity. Participants are encouraged to become trained facilitators. As a facilitator, you will help lead conversations, educate peers and drive meaningful change by delivering professional development on racial and social justice topics. Interested? Contact Rita Taylor at rtaylor@ista-in.org.

CONTACTS

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notes: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notes: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notes: _____

CONTACTS

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notes: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notes: _____

Name: _____

Phone number: _____

Email Address: _____

Notes: _____



INDIANA STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

150 W. Market St., Suite 900
844-ASK-ISTA | askista@ista-in.org | ista-in.org
[f/indianastateteachers](https://www.facebook.com/indianastateteachers) 🦋 [@ISTAmembers](https://www.instagram.com/istamembers)
[@istamembers](https://www.instagram.com/istamembers)