

2021 Virtual Fall Conference Presenters Bio



Dr. William Blake. Ph.D.

Dr. William Blake currently serves at the Director of Social Emotional Learning for the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS). In this role, Dr. Blake ensures systems and structures are in place to support the development of the whole child. Over the span of 14 years in urban education, Dr. Blake has served as a Classroom Teacher, Assistant Principal and Principal. Dr. Blake believes that educators must strategically focus on closing the access gap for students furthest from opportunity, which is why he is dedicated to using social emotional learning in the district as a lever to create equitable outcomes for students, especially for students of color. Dr. Blake earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Morgan State University. He later attended Trinity University to earn his Master's in Curriculum in Instruction. Lastly, he earned his Doctorate Degree from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. Dr. Blake is a devoted member Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.



Dr. John Murphy, Ph.D.

Dr. John Murphy is an internationally recognized trainer and practitioner of brief solution-focused therapy with children, adolescents, families, and school problems. He has trained thousands of professionals throughout the world and is featured in the highly acclaimed videotape series, *Child Therapy with the Experts*. A former public high school teacher, Murphy received a Ph.D. in school psychology from the University of Cincinnati in 1988 and was named by NASP as one of the top five school psychologists in the United States in 1993. He is a Licensed Psychologist, Professor of Psychology and Counseling at the University of Central Arkansas, Behavior Support Consultant to Conway (AR) Schools, and author of *Brief Intervention for School Problems* (with Barry L. Duncan) and the award-winning *Solution-Focused Counseling in Middle and High Schools*.



Dr. Anna Silberg, Ph.D.

Dr. Anna Silberg is an enthusiastic educator who has a passion for working with youth of all ages as well as educators, caregivers, and mental health professionals. Annacreates and delivers presentations, as well as coaches' groups and individuals in the areas of emotional resiliency, stress management, trauma informed care, social/interpersonal neurobiology and mindfulness based strategies to regulate the nervous system. Anna has honed her skills and developed an authentic and heart-felt way of imparting this valuable information.

Anna received her Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in urban education as well as a Certificate in Trauma Informed Counseling from the University of Wisconsin. Her research and educational trainings focus on "risk factors" for urban students, and how the lack of understanding about social and emotional competencies, trauma, teacher education, and school climate affect students' performance. Anna's passion is education for the *whole child*, and ensuring that the adults who interact each day with children are protective resources for children's social, emotional, educational and physical growth.

From 2011-2017 Anna was the Director of Curriculum and Research at Growing Minds and continues to teach the curriculum and provide professional development for Growing Minds. Prior to her work with Growing Minds, Anna taught for nine years as an Assistant Professor at National-Louis University, where her research, expertise and fervor for supporting educators extended to social/emotional competency for teachers and schools, trauma informed care, teacher action research, authentic assessment and instruction, curriculum development, educational foundations and urban issues, and teacher mentorship. Anna's professional experience in education began in 1993 as a high school social studies teacher, before and after school program director, and summer camp director in the Boulder Valley. While obtaining her Master's degree, she participated in building a school-within-a-school for "at risk" students which emphasized the importance of social and emotional wellness as a precursor for academic success.

Anna has also completed several post-doctoral certifications in Trauma Informed Care for Professionals Working with Youth and Building Authentic Relationship with Teens (through the Center for Adolescent Studies taught by Dr. Sam Himmelstein), Mindfulness Based Interventions for Children and Teens, (taught by Dr. Christopher Willard). She has also attended the University of California-San Diego's Center for Mindfulness Teacher Training's in MBSR and MSC (taught by Dr. Steve Hickman, Dr. Kristen Neff, and Dr. Christopher Germer). Anna was the primary author of the Growing Minds curriculum; and is certified in the Mindfulness in Schools Program (.b) curriculum. She has also been trained in Mindful Life, Learning to BREATHE, Stressed Teens, Nirogra's Transformative Life Skills, and Mindful Schools curricula. For a complete list of trainings, presentations, and workshops, please contact Anna for her curriculum vitae.



Dr. Melissa Pearrow, Ph.D.

Dr. Melissa Pearrow, Professor of School Psychology at the University of Massachusetts Boston, is Chair of the NASP Ethics Committee. She previously worked as a school psychologist for 10 years and presently directs the BIRCH Project, which provides professional development resources and integrates behavioral health supports in school and community settings.



Dr. Melissa Reeves, Ph.D., NCSP, LCMHC

Dr. Melissa Reeves, Ph.D., NCSP, LCMHC is Past-President of the National Association of School Psychologists, a nationally certified school psychologist, licensed clinical mental health counselor, and licensed special education teacher. Most recently she was an Associate Professor at Winthrop University, and has over 20-years' experience working in public schools, a private school, and day and residential treatment programs. Dr. Reeves is a co-author of the PREPaRE Crisis Prevention and Intervention curriculum and travels nationally and internationally training professionals in crisis prevention and intervention, threat and suicide assessment, trauma and PTSD, and cognitive-behavioral interventions. She is an advisor for Safe and Sound Schools, an organization founded by two parents who lost their children in the Sandy Hook tragedy, and senior consultant with Sigma Threat Management Associates. She has authored multiple books and publications focusing on school safety and trauma.