

Exploring the Fall 2023 Conference Theme “The Ethnic Studies Moment in California Public Education: Preparing the Field for Historic Change”

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Policies for ethnic studies have now been passed at all levels of public education in California. In the fall of 2021, Assembly Bill 101 (AB101) was signed into law requiring high school students to complete an ethnic studies course to graduate. AB101 complements policies adopted in each of the state’s higher education systems: the California Community Colleges, California State University, and University of California. In addition to these developments, many schools and local education agencies have implemented their own ethnic studies initiatives. In some instances, these reforms go far beyond single courses to include infusing principles of ethnic studies across all subject matter areas and grade levels. The widespread institutionalization of ethnic studies has led to an array of efforts within and across systems to clarify, among other issues, what ethnic studies is, what ethnic studies pedagogy involves, and how academic credit is articulated from institution to institution. However, these discussions are happening in spaces and among people with varying expertise on the subject. This includes schools and colleges of education and teacher preparation programs.

The 2023 CCTE Fall Conference will bring together teacher educators, ethnic studies scholars, deans of colleges of education, personnel from local education agencies, policy makers, and community members to learn from one another and explore the challenges and possibilities associated with ethnic studies in schools. Providing a keynote address is Dr. Miguel Zavala, Associate Professor of Urban Learning and Associate Dean of the College of Ethnic Studies at California State University, Los Angeles. A leading scholar of ethnic studies pedagogy, Dr. Zavala will help us explore how ethnic studies in teacher education can guide the preparation of culturally relevant and critically conscious community educators. The conference planning committee has organized the fall gathering around the following goals:

- ◆ Introduce pedagogical frameworks rooted in the history of ethnic studies and explore how ethnic studies pedagogy promotes humanizing, anti-racist, and anti-bias education.
- ◆ Examine teacher and teacher educator identity formation as critical dimensions of ethnic studies pedagogy.
- ◆ Foster collaboration between the fields of ethnic studies and teacher education.
- ◆ Map and promote partnerships among teacher educators, ethnic studies scholars, local educators, and other role players.
- ◆ Exchange resources and share practices from effective initiatives (i.e., teacher preparation, professional development, community-responsive curriculum and instruction, districtwide implementation, and evaluation).
- ◆ Connect role players from across fields, systems, and silos to explore the complexities and possibilities of credential and authorization policies.
- ◆ Contextualize and respond to the political climate of cultural and linguistic assimilation, censorship, and criminalization of minoritized groups and share strategies for backlash to ethnic studies.

With these aims, the conference will provide something for everyone, whether they are new to ethnic studies or not. The planning committee believes the fall gathering is an opportune time to explore how an ethnic studies vision of teacher education can better reflect and celebrate the diversity of our state.

Members of the CCTE Fall 2023 Conference Planning Committee are: Grace Cho (California State University, Fullerton); Karen Escalante, CCTE President Elect (California State University, San Bernardino); James Fabionar, Co-Chair of Fall 2023 Conference Planning Committee, CARE-ED (University of San Diego); Betina Hsieh, CCTE President (California State University, Long Beach); Alan H. Jones, CCTE Executive Secretary; Kelly León, Assistant Editor of *Teacher Education Quarterly* (San Diego State University / University of San Diego); Jennifer Manglicmot (University of San Diego); Eduardo Muñoz-Muñoz, CABTE (San José State University); Reyes Quezada, Co-Chair of Fall 2023 Conference Planning Committee, Editor of *Teacher Education Quarterly* (University of San Diego); and Daniel Soodjinda, CCTE Board Member (California State University, Stanislaus).

If you wish to be involved in the Fall 2023 Conference planning effort please email: jfabionar@san Diego.edu or rquezada@san Diego.edu