



**PASAP Virtual Conference 2021**  
**February 21, 2021—March 21, 2021**  
**Speakers**

**Cammie Anderson**

Cammie Anderson is a BA Certified Prevention Specialist/Drug and Alcohol Prevention Education Coordinator at Children’s Service Center/Robinson Counseling Center. She provides classroom education services K-12 as well as one on one intervention services to students. As a D/A Prevention Education Specialist, Cammie has been teaching students about the dangers of drugs and alcohol for more than 28 years. She has conducted many faculty in-service trainings on emerging trends with drugs and alcohol and serves as a Student Assistance Program Liaison for SAP teams within local school districts. Cammie is also a state approved trainer for the Student Assistance Program.

**Tita Atte**

Tita Atte, MPH, CPH, is the Director of Mental Health Screening for the Center for Family Intervention Science at Drexel University. He also serves as the Director of Screening and Program Evaluation on Garrett Lee Smith SAMHSA grants for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Over the past 11 years, Mr. Atte has ran several federally funded grants and projects while also leading all aspects of the Behavioral Health-Works screening program including implementation, management, and analysis. Mr. Atte has led several projects funded through SAMHSA, AFSP, NIH, and NIDA. He has experience leading both statewide and multi-state projects. He has over 10 years of experience, especially implementing screening initiatives in various medical and non-medical settings. One of his current projects, the Pennsylvania Resource for Continuity of Care in Youth Serving Systems and Transitions, will sustain and expand prior statewide youth suicide prevention efforts and early intervention strategies in schools, colleges, and primary care facilities. The program will focus on five PA regions, providing training and screening within behavioral health systems to improve care transitions for high-risk youth.

**Cynthia Baasten**

Cynthia M. Baasten is a partner at Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga, LLC, and practices in all areas of school law. Ms. Baasten received her undergraduate degree from University of Notre Dame and her Juris Doctor degree from Loyola University of Chicago. Prior to attending law school, Ms. Baasten worked as a Certified Public Accountant for a public accounting firm in Chicago. She lectures frequently on special education requirements, student matters, and employment issues for clients, training programs, and Illinois and national conferences. She is a member of the National Council of School Attorneys and the Illinois Council of School Attorneys and was recognized by Chicago Magazine as a “Rising Star” in the area of school and education law for several years.

## **Mary Culshaw**

Dr. Culshaw joined Moravian College in 2019 as an Assistant Professor. Prior to this faculty appointment, Dr. Culshaw was at the University of St. Augustine for Health Science, San Marcos campus. She has been a practicing occupational therapist for over 25 years, with much of that time spent working in pediatrics, sensory processing, and with children and youth with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). She is a research consultant for the Central Alberta FASD Network and maintains ties with her home province of Alberta in Canada. Her current research explores the daily lives of individuals with FASD and understanding the factors involved in successful participation in daily life with this population, to which she has presented nationally and internationally. Dr. Culshaw also works with non-profit agencies to improve supports and the daily lives of adults with FASD.

## **Guy Diamond**

Guy Diamond, PhD, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, Associate Professor in Drexel University's Counseling and Family Therapy department, and Director of the Center for Family Intervention Science within Drexel's College of Nursing and Health Professions. Diamond's research focuses on suicide prevention and intervention. He has developed, tested and disseminated Attachment-Based Family Therapy (ABFT) for youth experiencing depression and suicidal ideation and is the lead developer of the Behavioral Health Screening tool, a comprehensive, web-based tool for early identification of behavioral health problems and other social determinants of health. Diamond currently co-directs a Garrett Lee Smith SAMHSA grant in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and coordinates a large-scale program evaluation project with residential treatment facility where youth are receiving adapted ABFT.

## **Gretchen Hagenbuch**

Gretchen Hagenbuch joined Caron Treatment Centers as Regional Coordinator of Student Assistance Programs in 2018. Gretchen has over two decades of experience in the education field, specializing in the delivery of alcohol and other drug prevention presentations. Before coming to Caron, she acted as Lead Prevention Specialist with FCD Prevention Works, helping school communities all over the U.S. and in 16 countries understand the risks associated with teen substance use. She was a teacher, and then a Dean of Students with the Philadelphia School District, and most recently a Wellness Specialist, dorm parent and varsity coach at St. Andrew's School in Delaware. She has worked closely with public, private, day, boarding and international school communities, and has an ability to connect with both adolescents and adults with ease. Gretchen herself, has 25 years of recovery. Gretchen holds a Master's in Education from Cabrini College and is a certified Prevention Specialist.

## **Howard Hanson**

Howard Hanson is currently working to change culture and teaching as an Assistant Principal at the McCaskey High School Campus. Teaching is, and has always been his first love. Poetry runs a close second – because it provides an outlet for his inner conflicts and allows him to speak on issues near and dear to his heart. His major influences are his father, Maya Angelou, Langston Hughes, Pablo Neruda, Octavio Paz and, the inimitable Gil Scott Heron. For him, poetry is not necessarily about rhyme and meter but about the emotive qualities of the work. “Can I get you to feel what I feel through the words, can I get you to see what I see?” There are always references and allusions to current and historical events that inform his poetry and speak to the condition of the world and the world our

children's children will inhabit – as seen through the eyes of a black man from the 'so-called Third World' who yearns to be seen first as 'simply human'.

### **Patricia Heindel**

Dr. Patricia (Trish) Heindel is a professor of psychology and Dean of the School of Professional Studies at Saint Elizabeth University (SEU). She is director of the University's Center for Human and Social Development and the co-director of the SEU's School Culture and Climate Initiative with Elizabeth Warner. In addition, she and Maurice Elias, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Rutgers University, are co-directors of the Academy for Social-Emotional Learning in Schools, an online professional learning community and certificate program in social-emotional learning and character development ([www.selinschools.org](http://www.selinschools.org)).

Both the School Culture and Climate Initiative and the Academy for Social-Emotional Learning in Schools have been recognized nationally for their exemplary work in supporting educators and schools. Under Trish's leadership, the Center for Human and Social Development at SEU was a founding member of the New Jersey School Health and Climate Coalition. Trish serves on the leadership team of SEL4NJ, a statewide organization that is part of the national SEL4US network. Trish sits on many regional and statewide committees including the New Jersey Department of Education Social Emotional Learning Standards Advisory Group, Health Impact Assessment of ESSA Rulemaking Advisory Group as well as the National Collaborative on Education and Health. She presents regionally and nationally on social-emotional learning, school culture and climate and the importance of data-informed school improvement planning.

### **Nikole Hollins**

Nikole Y. Hollins-Sims, Ed.D., is an educational consultant for the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN)-Harrisburg Office. She currently serves as the co-statewide lead for the Behavior initiative, as well as an active member of the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) initiative. In addition, she is the statewide lead for equitable practices in partnership with the office of safe schools for the Pennsylvania Department of Education. Dr. Hollins-Sims is also involved in the State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) with a focus on increasing the graduation rates of students with disabilities. Finally, Dr. Hollins-Sims is a Pennsylvania certified school psychologist with a specific interest in social justice. She has also conducted research around caregivers of children of incarcerated parents and their motivation to engage in family-school partnerships.

### **Anne Katona-Linn**

Anne Katona-Linn is an educational consultant and coach for Pre-K through 12th-grade school programs to help school communities develop safe, supportive, positive, resilient school climates for children and adults. Dr. Katona-Linn is passionate about improving the quality of life for all those who struggle with behavioral health issues, special needs, and trauma, with over 25 years of experience working with special needs.

Anne uses person-centered evidence-based prevention – intervention practices that support the whole child-whole community. She is a State and Nationally certified trainer providing system-change/improvement in the Interconnected Systems Framework, PAPBS Facilitation, Positive Action, Trauma-Sensitive Schools, Certified Coach in Competent Learner Model, and is a Board-Certified Behavior Analyst. Most recently, she served as Co-Director for the Safe Schools Healthy Students

Partnership, a four-year SAMHSA grant designed to build partnerships between educational, behavioral health, and juvenile justice systems through Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports, Systems of Care, and family/youth/community collaboration.

### **Kacie Kidd**

Dr. Kacie Kidd, MD is a physician boarded in internal medicine and pediatrics and in her final year of adolescent medicine subspecialty training where her focus is on providing gender-affirming care for youth. She is a core member of the UPMC Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Center for Adolescent & Young Adult Health's Gender & Sexual Development Clinic. She is also a leader of the Tri-State Gender Collaborative, a community organization that aims to foster resource sharing and communication between medical and mental health providers of gender care as well as community organizations and transgender, nonbinary, and other gender diverse persons.

In addition to her clinical work, she is a highly published author in the field of supporting gender diverse youth and their families. She has also written book chapters and articles guiding others in this field and has presented at national and international conferences educating other professionals in this work.

### **Ryan Klingensmith**

Ryan has been working with children and teenagers with mental health concerns since 1994. He has held roles such as therapist, supervisor and clinical director in several residential and outpatient settings. He is a licensed professional counselor (LPC) and is a nationally certified counselor (NCC). He is the cofounder of Shape The Sky, a training agency dedicated to helping parents, educators and counseling professionals learn to effectively communicate and educate youth to be digitally responsible citizens. He also works as an Educational Mentor for two school districts and works with the at-risk students K-12.

### **Sherri Klingensmith**

Sherri Klingensmith is a Nationally Certified Counselor and Licensed Professional Counselor in PA, with 20 years of professional experience working in the mental health field. I have worked at Pressley Ridge since 2001. I have experience with children, adolescents and families within a partial hospital setting, residential program, and through outpatient counseling. I have provided individual, group and family counseling for individuals who have struggled with grief/loss, abuse, post-traumatic stress, self-injury, anxiety, depression, anger, social awareness, attention deficits, self-esteem regulation, parenting and many other life stressors. I have extensive experience treating individuals with autism disorders, as well as, those dually diagnosed with a mental health disorder and development disorder. I enjoy helping people find strength to cope with stressful life situations. As a supervisor and director I enjoy providing supervision and consultation to my staff to help them develop their clinical and professional skills. I aim to lead my group of outpatient therapists and psychiatrists as a team working towards equal efforts. I also have a passion to teach through different trainings some of which are on suicide, secondary trauma, and collaborative documentation. I also believe that professional development is never over and I seek to continue to develop my own skills regularly so that I can not only be a good clinical therapist, but also so I can provide solid clinical supervision and direction to my team.

## **Katie Kucz**

Katie Kucz, MPH started with the Montgomery County Office of Drug & Alcohol as Prevention Coordinator in 2016 and has worked for the County since 2011. Her background and education is in public health which is the perspective she brings to the prevention field. Her main interest area is social emotional learning and rallies behind the goal of keeping kids safe and healthy in Montgomery County!

## **Amen Kush**

Amen has channeled his passion for helping others into a career of service for over 15 years. Amen has been with Caron since 2010. Currently, as a Lead Student Assistant Program Specialist with Caron Treatment Centers, Amen thrives as an engaging facilitator of Project CONNECT, a nicotine cessation 8-week psychoeducational curriculum. In addition, Amen speaks to youth at school assemblies, implements a variety of substance abuse prevention education at private schools, as well as continues to expand Caron's services in the Metro Atlanta area. Amen is a graduate of Georgia Southern University with a BA in History and International Studies. Amen has inspired many at-risk youth and young adults to make positive changes in their lives.

## **Kelley Lyons**

Kelley Lyons serves the Maryland, Washington, DC, West Virginia and Virginia areas and has been with Caron for over 14 years. She has her Masters in Counseling Psychology from Bowie State University and is working toward her LCPC. Kelley has worked in the Mental Health/Substance Abuse field for over 20 years servicing adults and youth of all ages in the field of mental health and substance use. Her experience also includes working on acute hospital crisis units, transitional housing programs, outpatient and residential mental health treatment. In her role within Caron's Education Department, she provides psycho-educational support groups, intervention and cessation programs, and works with parents and trains professionals.

## **Dana Milakovic**

Dr. Dana Milakovic serves as the Mental Health/Alcohol and Other Drug Specialist with the Office for Safe Schools for the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE). Dr. Milakovic also serves as the Trauma lead for PDE and supports PA in moving forward as a trauma-informed state by participating on the leadership team for HEAL PA, as well as serving as the co-chair of the educational committee for HEAL PA. Dr. Milakovic is a mental health and trauma specialist with experience in school mental health, community mental health, pediatric neuropsychology, school administration, and school psychology. In her current role, she is focused on strengthening schools by applying neuropsychological research to mental health integration in schools, trauma-sensitive schools, school climate, substance use disorders, and improving mental health services for children across Pennsylvania. Prior to her work at PDE, Dr. Milakovic spent over 15 years working on behalf of children with special needs as a community mental health evaluator, school psychologist, and administrator.

## **Persia Mohseni**

Persia Mohseni strives to build connection, confidence, and courage in the lives of her students, their families, and the youth-serving professionals in the Charlotte and Raleigh, NC area. Persia delivers substance use prevention programming and facilitates psycho-educational support groups in a variety of settings designed to empower and motivate participants to practice health-enhancing behaviors and reduce health risks. Persia has been working with Caron Treatment Centers' Education Department since 2015 and is dedicated to growing and expanding Caron's vision of a future free of suffering from addiction.

## **Khalid Mumin**

For over 20 years, Dr. Khalid N. Mumin has served in various capacities as a teacher, dean of students, principal, and central administrator.

Dr. Mumin earned a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, a Master of Education in Teaching & Curriculum from Pennsylvania State University, a Bachelor of Arts in Secondary English Education from Shippensburg University, and an Associate of Arts in English from Northeastern Christian Junior College. He also graduated from the Leadership Maryland Program, as a member of the Class of 2012, and he is a member of several national and local organizations.

The strength in his leadership revolves around being a student-centered educator, who has a vision of success for all students and a belief that building positive relationships through cultural competencies is paramount in promoting student success. Dr. Mumin is a change agent and is committed to promoting and sustaining student achievement, equity, and access to educational programming for all students, as well as creating plans that are fiscally responsible. Dr. Mumin maintains a keen focus on fostering collaboration with stakeholders, including students, parents, teachers, administrators, community, public officials, business partners, and higher education institutions.

Dr. Mumin has a documented history of success of possessing excellent leadership skills and has been recognized nationally as a "School Board Savvy Superintendent." He has also received several awards as follows: Superintendent to Watch (National School Public Relations Association, 2016), Champion for Youth (Mentors for Berks, 2017), Excellence in Educational Leadership (Bosco's, 2016), Courageous Institution Award (Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, 2017), Amigo Award (Daniel Torres Centro Hispano, 2017), Innovative School Leader (Pennsylvania School Boards Association, 2018), Jesse S. Heiges Distinguished Alumni Award (Shippensburg University, 2019), and The Pennsylvania Superintendent of the Year (Pennsylvania Association of School Administrators, 2021).

## **Jane Riese**

Jane Riese is the Associate Director of Safe and Humane Schools and a developer of training for the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program (OBPP) in the United States within the Department of Youth, Family, and Community Studies at Clemson University. A licensed social worker, she is co-author of the OBPP Schoolwide Guide, OBPP student class meeting guides, Class Meetings That Matter, the OBPP Community Youth Organization Guide, as well as other print and online program materials. Jane oversees the work of Olweus Technical Assistance Consultants who mentor and support OBPP trainers through the certification process. Jane began her work with the OBPP in 1999 and assisted in the coordination and delivery of the first OBPP Trainer Certification Course held in 2001. Jane has served as a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family

Therapists, and Professional Counselors. She has worked in the fields of victim services and restorative practices and is a certified facilitator of Trauma Center Trauma-Sensitive Yoga. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and the International Federation of Social Workers.

### **Tiffany Rowe**

Dr. Tiffany Rowe has been an administrator for 15 years and was in the classroom for 13 as a special educator for students with social-emotional dysregulation. She currently serves as the Assistant Superintendent for Student Services at a high school district in the northern suburbs of Chicago. She currently oversees special education, deans/ discipline, health services, counseling, and 504.

Dr. Rowe obtained a bachelor's degree and master's degree in special education as well as a master's and a doctorate in administrative leadership from Concordia University in Chicago.

### **Lee Rush**

Lee is the Executive Director of justCommunity, Inc. a non-profit organization based in Quakertown, PA. justCommunity provides training and consultation services to communities, schools and organizations in the area of youth development, community mobilization strategies, student assistance programs and restorative practices. Lee also serves as a consultant with Designed Learning, Inc. and has studied with Designed Learning's founder Mr. Peter Block to learn facilitative skills using A Small Group methodology. Lee is also a certified trainer for the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP), the world's first graduate school dedicated solely to Restorative Practices. He served as the Executive Director of the National Student Assistance Association (NSAA) from 1995 to 2008. His background also includes working as an educator in alternative education, a substance abuse counselor and a director of a human resources department for a 600-person corporation. Through his work with IIRP and justCommunity, Lee has trained over 30,000 people throughout the United States and abroad.

### **Laurie Scherer**

Since 2018, Laurie Scherer has been working at the Highmark Caring Place, Lemoyne, as the School Services Coordinator after volunteering in several Caring Place roles for over five years. She has earned a Master's in Education with K-12 School Counseling Certification in Pennsylvania from Bucknell University along with a BA degree in Psychology/Sociology from Lycoming College. She most recently obtained a Supervisory Certificate in School Counseling from Millersville University. Laurie has worked as a secondary school counselor since 2005 and has coached basketball as well as track and field at various levels. She enjoys making people laugh, volunteering on various community groups, cheering on the Philadelphia Eagles, and spending quality time with family and friends.

### **Megan Sweet**

Megan Sweet is an author and systems-thinker who has been in education for more than twenty-five years. She's been a teacher, school administrator, and school district leader. Megan also has a Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and her academic and professional interests rest mainly with how to create effective change in educational contexts. She's passionate about meditation, mindfulness, and the power of love to heal our world. Megan believes that when we approach educating our youth from the inside-out, by building a supportive and heart-

centered connection with ourselves first, we have the confidence and resilience to tackle the important work of transforming our educational settings

### **Samantha Sweigert**

Samantha Sweigert currently serves as Student Services Project Specialist for the School District of Lancaster and has worked in the district for the last five years. She has been an advocate of equity efforts throughout both the school district and the larger local community, and she firmly believes that youth are imperative in moving this essential work forward. Through her involvement with the Youth Poet Laureate Program and the Invisible Americans project, she has witnessed, first hand, the power in youth voice and the deep, foundational change it can catalyze.

### **Susan Tarasevich**

Dr. Susan Tarasevich is committed to life-long learning, convinced that knowledge is power. Susan brings skills from science teaching, counseling, and school administration to her current work as a preventionist with UPMC – Western Psychiatric Hospital Addiction Medicine Services. For over 25 years, she has empowered hundreds of school and agency professionals. Her work at local, state, regional and national levels in the design, implementation and evaluation of school-student assistance programs has taught her the value and critical importance of human connection in any endeavor. Dr. Tarasevich is a frequently sought presenter on topics related to the adolescent brain, brain-friendly education, trauma sensitive school practices and multi-tiered systems of support. Susan holds a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from the University of Pittsburgh, a Master of Science in School Counseling from Duquesne University, and a BA in Biology from Seton Hill University. She has co-authored two books: Promoting Child and Adolescent Mental Health (Jones and Bartlett) and Caring in Times of Crisis (Youthlight).

### **Tasha Thomas**

Ever since Tasha was a teenager, she knew that she had a passion for helping others and working with youth. Tasha has been with Caron since 2015, where she provides nicotine cessation prevention and intervention services to youth, schools, and parents in the Greater Orlando community. In this role, she facilitates psycho-educational support groups, classroom presentations, and trainings that provide information on healthy lifestyle choices and allows her to make meaningful connections that could very well change lives. Tasha's background includes public speaking, diversity/inclusion training, crisis intervention, and youth program development and evaluation. Prior to her work at Caron, she spent the past 20 years providing support services for at-risk youth in the Orlando community, including nine years as a School Counselor. Tasha received her Bachelor of Science Degree in Communications from Florida State University and a Masters in School Guidance and Counseling.

### **Marisa Vicere**

As a strong believer in the empowerment of young people, Marisa Vicere founded and became president of Jana Marie Foundation in 2012. The experience of losing her sister, Jana Vicere, to suicide in 2011 cemented her commitment to helping young people navigate through the tough transitional years and educating parents and community members about mental and emotional health. Under her leadership, the Jana Marie Foundation was named a top 100 organization by Pennsylvania Business Central.

Marisa is a certified instructor in Mental Health First Aid (Youth and Adult Modules), teen Mental Health First Aid, and Question Persuade Refer (QPR) Suicide Prevention Training for Gatekeepers. She is also trained to facilitate AFSP More than Sad and AFSP Talk Saves Lives.

Marisa currently serves as chairperson for the Centre County Suicide Prevention Taskforce and is a board member of the Centre County Council for Human Services and Prevent Suicide PA. Marisa holds a B.S. in Business Administration from Susquehanna University and MBA from Penn State Smeal College of Business.

Marisa was named to Pennsylvania Business Central's Foremost Under 40 List (2018 and 2020), Pennsylvania Business Central's Top 100 People List (2019), and Women in Business' 2020 Women Making a Difference List.

## **Elizabeth Warner**

Liz Warner has spent the last ten years in New Jersey building coalitions, connecting schools and developing resources and supports that help schools and students thrive in the 21st century. Her approach has been founded in the belief that social-emotional skills are the foundation for academic, work and life success and the understanding that we all accomplish more together than alone (also a lot more fun!).

She started her work in New Jersey at United Way where she founded the Youth Empowerment Alliance, the School Support Networks and in partnership with the Center for Human and Social Development at Saint Elizabeth University, continued the work of Dr. Maurice Elias's, Developing Safe and Civil Schools' project under the name of the School Climate Assessment and Improvement Process.

In 2012 Liz founded the predecessor to SEL4NJ – the New Jersey School Health and Climate Coalition (NJSHACC). NJSHACC was a statewide coalition with membership from a broad spectrum of education, government, community non-profit, and health provider organizations with a unified concern for the well-being of children and success of schools through integration and coordination of multiple perspectives. Many of the goals and objectives have stayed the same as the coalition has evolved into SEL4NJ which is a state affiliate of SEL4US.

Liz often speaks both regionally and nationally on collaboration building as well as the importance of a coordinated approach to SEL and school climate improvement. Prior to moving to NJ 12 years ago, Liz spent 16 years in higher education publishing and although originally from Wisconsin, spent almost 19 years living on the other side of the Atlantic in the UK and Denmark. In her spare time Liz loves to travel and has been known to share her remarkable story of attempting the 'Last Degree' in 2005 — her 10-day unsupported trek trying to reach the North Pole.

Recently the work has been consolidated at the Center for Human and Social Development at Saint Elizabeth University where Liz co-directs the School Culture and Climate Initiative with Patricia Heindel, Ph.D. In addition to the Initiative, the Center also houses the online Academy for Social-Emotional Learning in Schools which is a project co-directed by Dr. Maurice Elias of Rutgers and Dr. Heindel of Saint Elizabeth University.

Pennsylvania Association of Student Assistance Professionals

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