

Los Angeles County Office of Education Presents

## The Women's Leadership and Empowerment Conference

# EmpowerED: Women Leading the Future of Education



## 2025 Workshops

### **Session 1**

**Workshop 1:** Authentic Leadership: An Intentional Journey of Joy, Trust, and Systems

**Presenter Name:** Dr. Jennifer Earl Foss from Glendale USD

**Workshop Description:** Unlock the power of transformational leadership by embracing a culture of curiosity, joy, and authenticity. In this session, you'll process how building strong systems and a shared vision can empower your team to thrive both individually and together. Discuss the option to lead with vulnerability, admit when you don't have all the answers, and intentionally create an environment where collaboration and trust are prioritized. We will explore using brave conversations to tackle any challenge head-on. Most importantly, this session reminds us to choose joy, show gratitude, and lead with presence, creating a positive and uplifting energy that fuels both personal and professional success. Whether you're a seasoned leader or just starting out, this lively conversation will offer actionable insights to help you build a thriving team while staying true to the mission and values of your organization.

**Workshop 2:** Becoming a Precise Prompt Prodigy: Crafting Effective Prompts for Educational Excellence

**Presenter Names:** Taraneh Karim from Torrance USD, Tara O'Brien from Torrance USD & Rob Johnson from EdTech TOSA

**Description of Session:** In an era where artificial intelligence ("AI") is transforming education, this session equips educators with the tools and strategies needed to integrate AI responsibly and effectively. Participants will explore foundational AI concepts, focusing on practical applications like personalized learning and critical media literacy, while addressing the ethical challenges AI presents. Key topics include crafting effective prompts for large language models ("LLMs") to foster step-by-step problem-solving, emotional engagement, and accurate outputs while avoiding pitfalls like hallucinations and misinformation. Educators will also learn how to use AI to create equitable, inclusive, and tailored learning experiences for diverse students, leveraging its potential for real-time feedback and differentiated instruction. The session emphasizes teaching students to critically evaluate digital content, preparing them to navigate misinformation, disinformation, and malinformation in an AI-influenced world. Additionally, it highlights strategies to ensure ethical AI use in classrooms, including data privacy, minimizing bias, and promoting transparency. By the end of this session, educators will be equipped to harness AI's benefits while fostering digital fluency, inclusivity, and responsible usage, creating future-ready classrooms where every student can thrive.

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**Workshop 3:** Leading from Within: Embracing Diversity in Leadership Subtitle: Empowering Women and Women of Color

**Presenter Name:** Dr. Erin M. Simon from LACOE

**Description of Session:** Leading from Within: Embracing Diversity in Leadership is an empowering session designed to inspire and equip women and women of color to lead authentically while fostering inclusivity and innovation. This workshop highlights the importance of self-reflection, identity, and the power of diverse leadership in driving organizational and community impact.

**Key Objectives:**

**Self-Reflection and Awareness:** Explore how our personal experiences and biases shape our leadership styles and learn strategies to lead more effectively within diverse teams.

**Embracing Leadership Identity:** Cultivate authenticity by celebrating our unique strengths and ambitions, enabling us to inspire and lead with confidence.

**Empowering Others Through Diverse Leadership:** Discover how to create a workplace culture where everyone feels valued and empowered to contribute fully.

**Impact and Influence:** Leverage the power of diversity to drive meaningful change in organizations and communities, leaving a lasting legacy for future leaders.

Whether you're seeking to advance your career, inspire others, or make a difference in your community, this workshop will provide the tools and insights needed to lead boldly.

**Workshop 4:** “Women Supporting Women: Building Alliances to Inspire Future Female Leaders in Education”

**Presenter Names:** Dr. Ruth Perez from LACOE, Dr. Maria Ott from USC Rossier School of Education and Dr. Carmella Franco, Retired Superintendent, Governance Consultant, Senior Associates, HYA Associates

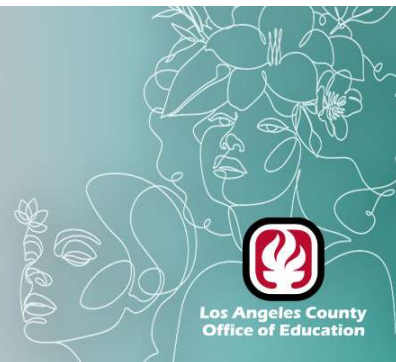
**Description of Session:** This presentation, “Women Supporting Women: Building Alliances to Inspire Future Female Leaders in Education,” explores the transformative power of women in education supporting one another. It highlights the importance of mentorship, collaboration, and allyship in breaking barriers, fostering professional growth, and creating a culture of trust and inclusion. Attendees will gain actionable strategies to build stronger alliances, celebrate shared successes, and advocate for equity. The presentation will conclude by emphasizing the ripple effect of empowering young women, inspiring them to become the next generation of confident and capable leaders in education.

**Workshop 5:** Lead(HER)ship: How to overcome barriers and lead as our authentic selves

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**Presenter Names:** Dr. Natasha Baker from Norwalk-La Mirada USD and Dr. Sandra Lyon, Former Superintendent – Palm Springs USD and Santa Monica-Malibu USD

**Description of Session:** The Lead(Her)ship session will highlight research around women's intersectionality when leading school systems, proven strategies for professional advancement, and the impact of leading with authenticity. Participants will have opportunities to learn from and engage in discussions about, but not limited to, imposter syndrome, unconscious bias, glass ceilings, and negotiation strategies. The learning intention is for participants to understand and analyze strategies for improving their ascendance to accessible leadership pathways that are meaningful, challenging, and impactful all while maintaining their authentic lead(HER)ship selves.

**Workshop 6:** The Changing Sound of Power: Communication Principles for Education Leaders

**Presenter Names:** Julee Brooks from Woodcraft Rangers and Samara Bay, Bestselling author or Permission to Speak | Coach+ consultant to Changemakers and Rising Leaders

**Description of Session:** Julee Baber Brooks, CEO of Woodcraft Rangers, and Samara Bay, bestselling author of the revolutionary public speaking book Permission to Speak, lead our dynamic workshop on the changing rules of executive presence for women leaders in education period. Covering practical topics like tone and accessibility in community-wide emails and tips for successful family engagement, Julee and Samara offer instantly actionable fresh techniques from the world of sociology, rhetoric, and leadership. They also offer a deeply human exploration of the inner work necessary to show up as a leader with equal parts strength and warmth. Through examples and stories from both Samara's experience as a speaking coach of corporate CEOs and elected leaders and Julee's two decades leading youth-focused agencies serving hundreds of thousands of kids and families, the pair will lead the attendees through interactive exercises and to a new understanding of their written and spoken voice and its power.

## Session 2

**Workshop 1:** Empowering the Future: Cultivating the Next Generation of Female IT LeadHERS

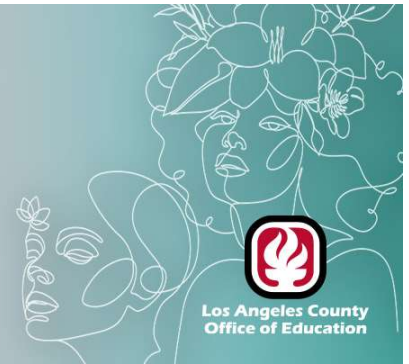
**Presenter Names:** Mary Lu Camacho Carla Barrera-Ortiz, Stacey Ellis and Patricia Oh from LAUSD

**Description of Session:** Join us for an exciting deep dive into the Women in Technology Mentorship Program by the Los Angeles Unified School District's Information Technology Services! This dynamic session is designed for educational leaders eager to drive change and advance women in tech – and beyond. We'll explore powerful strategies for building a successful mentorship program, from defining clear objectives to fostering an inclusive environment. Attendees will gain practical insights on creating

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networking opportunities and promoting skill development. Don't miss out on the chance to learn how to empower the next generation of women leaders across all fields!

### **Workshop 2:** VII Steps to Transformative Leadership: Overcoming Adversities to Empower Women Leaders

**Presenter Name:** Dr. Chabela McFashion McFashion from The B Venture

**Description of Session:** This workshop, based on Dr. Chabela McFashion's dissertation research, explores how overcoming Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) fuels women's leadership, resilience, and entrepreneurial success. Drawing from her study on the powerful connection between childhood trauma, self-efficacy, and entrepreneurial intentions, Dr. McFashion highlights how women leaders can transform their past adversities into sources of strength.

Attendees will learn practical steps to recognize the impact of their past experiences on current leadership practices and how embracing vulnerability can enhance trust, foster growth, and deepen connections with teams. This session delves into cultivating emotional resilience, transforming adversity into leadership strengths, and leading with purpose and vision. It also emphasizes the importance of building strong, resilient teams and empowering future generations of women leaders.

By the end of the session, participants will have a roadmap for using their unique experiences to lead with authenticity, courage, and empathy, enabling them to create lasting, transformative change in their businesses and communities. This workshop is an invitation to heal, grow, and step into one's full leadership potential.

### **Workshop 3:** Authentic Leadership: Harnessing the Stories of our Mothers', Grandmothers', and Powerful Women in our Leadership Journey

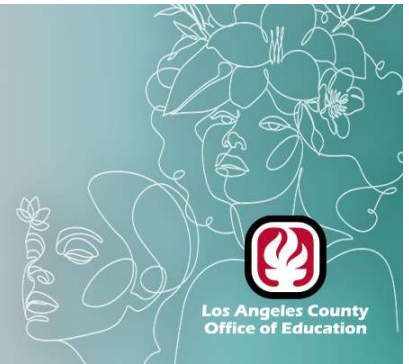
**Presenter Name:** Dr. Maricela Ramirez from LACOE

**Description of Session:** This workshop will explore the profound impact of mothers, grandmothers, and other powerful women in shaping authentic leadership qualities in women. By sharing personal stories and experiences, I will highlight how these matriarchal figures instill resilience, empathy, and strength in future generations. Our discussions will focus on the importance of leading with authenticity, drawing inspiration from the wisdom passed down through generations of women. I will address the legacy of maternal influence in leadership, while offering tools for nurturing personal authenticity in leadership roles. Participants will leave with a renewed sense of empowerment, equipped to embody leadership that is rooted in care, courage, and integrity—values often first taught at home. This workshop aims to foster a community of women leaders who honor the influence of their mothers and grandmothers as foundational to their leadership journeys.

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**Workshop 4:** AI Leadership Starts Within: From Personal Growth to Educational Innovation

**Presenter Names:** Dr. Alice Pak, Laura Wilson and Ellen Palmer from LACOE

**Description of Session:** While 46% of women worry AI will replace their jobs, research shows this technology creates unprecedented leadership opportunities. This session transforms that concern into confidence. Drawing from IBM's findings that women leaders drive 19% higher revenue growth, we'll focus on personal AI mastery as the foundation for broader impact. Through guided reflection and micro-commitments, participants will develop the strategic vision and risk-taking mindset essential for AI leadership. Leave with a personalized roadmap bridging individual growth to institutional innovation.

**Workshop 5:** Rooted in Tradition, Leading with Vision: Women Driving Excellence and Equity in Education for a Transformative Future

**Presenter Name:** Dr. Gina M. Newton from LACOE

**Description of Session:** This presentation celebrates the legacy of African American women educators while shining a light on today's trailblazers who are redefining excellence and equity in education. Grounded in the historical influence of educators in segregated schools, it highlights their tradition-rooted approaches to fostering academic achievement, cultural competency, and community connection. Through the lens of their enduring legacy, this session offers actionable strategies for educators to build on these foundations, navigating the challenges of modern education with vision and purpose. Participants will explore innovative practices inspired by historical insights, investigate culturally responsive teaching techniques, and celebrate best practices that are transforming classrooms today. Designed to guide and empower, this session recognizes the pivotal role of women educators as agents of change, encouraging reflection, collaboration, and commitment to creating equitable learning environments. Together, we honor the past while equipping educators to lead with vision and impact in shaping the future of education.

**Workshop 6:** Empowered Voices, Collective Action: Women Leading Change through Civic Engagement, Advocacy, and Philanthropy

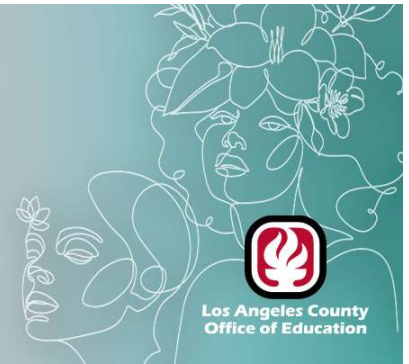
**Presenter Names:** Kerry Lynn Franco from Greater Los Angeles Education Foundation and Dr. Monica M. Sanchez from LACOE

**Description of Session:** This dynamic workshop will explore the transformative power of civic engagement, advocacy, and philanthropy in fostering community change. Women have historically been at the forefront of movements for justice, equality, and progress. Today, we have unprecedented opportunities to shape the future by engaging in our communities, championing causes, and investing in solutions that matter. Through interactive discussions and real-world examples, participants will

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discover how collective action can drive sustainable change and why their voices are essential in shaping the social landscape. The session will highlight the importance of building partnerships, mobilizing resources, and amplifying diverse perspectives to address complex challenges. Participants will leave equipped with actionable tools, inspiring stories, and a renewed commitment to leveraging their unique talents, passions, and resources for meaningful impact. Whether you're an experienced advocate or new to community involvement, this workshop will empower you to take the next steps toward creating a more equitable and inclusive society. Join us to connect, share ideas, and ignite the power within to make a lasting difference.