



2020 Island Teachers Conference Agenda

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2-Day Virtual Conference Agenda Overview

<u>Thursday, October 8, 2020</u>	<u>Friday, October 9, 2020</u>
8:30 - 9:45: Welcome & Lightning Talks 10:00 - 12:15 Workshop 1 12:15 - 12:45 Break for Lunch 12:45 - 1:45 Keynote Presentation 2:00 - 3:00 Workshop 2	8:30 - 9:45: Panel Presentation 10:00 - 12:15 Workshop 3 12:15 - 12:45 Break for Lunch 12:45 - 1:45 “One Cool Thing” Resource Exchange 2:00 - 3:00 Office Hours & Wellness Session

Logistical Notes/Instructions

- All of the sessions in this conference will take place on two main Island Institute Zoom meeting links plus the Wabanaki REACH workshop Zoom link.
- The Detailed Agenda below has the two Zoom links at the top of each column where their corresponding workshops are listed.
- When it’s time for the session you signed up for, just click on either Zoom Link A or B to reach your session.
- Island Institute staff are here to help! If you have any technical difficulties during the conference, please email Christa Thorpe (cthorge@islandinstitute.org)

We would like to thank all of those who made this conference possible, from the speakers to the tech gurus to the participants who gave their time to this important topic.

We would also like to give special thanks for the generosity of John and Christina Gillis for their sponsorship of the Wabanaki REACH workshops.

Detailed Conference Agenda

Presenter Information & Session Details on Pages 4-5.

Conference Working Agreements to Create a Brave Space

- ★ Stay present
- ★ Express your truth
- ★ Embrace learning
- ★ Experience discomfort
- ★ Expect non-closure
- ★ Take care of yourself

Thursday, October 8th Schedule & Zoom Links

Zoom Link A	Zoom Link B
8:30 - 9:45 Welcome & Lightning Talks <i>(All participants on Zoom Link A)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Island Institute introductions ➢ Land Acknowledgment ➢ Conference overview, agenda logistics, group agreements ❖ Lightning Talks by Maine youth and education leaders ❖ Reflections 	
<p><i>15-minute break: Switch to Wabanaki REACH Link or Zoom Link B.</i></p>	
10:00 - 12:00 Workshop 1A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Wabanaki-REACH, Interacting with Wabanaki History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Separate Zoom Link: **Please read Workshop Description on page 4 for important notes** ➢ <i>Special thanks to John and Christina Gillis for sponsoring this workshop.</i> 	10:00 - 12:15 Workshop 1B & 1C <i>(Zoom Link B)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1B - 10:00 - 11:00 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Operation Breaking Stereotypes - Challenging Perceptions, Changing Lives 1C - 11:15 - 12:15 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ OUTMaine - New tools for creating inclusive classrooms for LGBTQ+ students
<p>12:15 - 12:45 Break for Lunch</p>	
12:45 - 1:45 Keynote Presentation <i>(All participants on Zoom Link A)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Dr. Cat Biddle, Associate Prof. of Educational Leadership, University of Maine College of Education and Human Development 	
<p><i>15 minute break</i></p>	
2:00 - 3:00 Workshop 2A <i>(Zoom Link A)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Holocaust & Human Rights Center of Maine - The Speak Up At School Strategy 	2:00 - 3:00 Workshop 2B <i>(Zoom Link B)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Island Readers & Writers - The Whole Book Approach using Visual Thinking Strategies to Create Equitable Experiences

Friday, October 9th Schedule & Zoom Links

**Presenter Information & Session Details on Pages 4-5.*

Zoom Link A: https://islandinstitute.zoom.us/j/92726033987	Zoom Link B: https://islandinstitute.zoom.us/j/99604403614
8:30 - 9:45 Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Keynote Panel <i>(All participants on Zoom Link A)</i> ❖ JustME for JustUS: Amara Ifeji, Hajna Nagy, Ijeoma Obi, Ania Wright	
<i>15-minute break: Switch to Wabanaki REACH Link or Zoom Link B.</i>	
10:00 - 12:00 Workshop 3A ❖ Wabanaki-REACH, Interacting with Wabanaki History <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Separate Zoom Link: **Please read Workshop Description on page 4 for important notes** ➤ <i>Special thanks to John and Christina Gillis for sponsoring this workshop.</i> 	10:00 - 12:15 Workshop 3B & 3C 3B - 10:00 - 11:00 ❖ Hurricane Island Center for Science & Leadership - Personal and Professional Resilience In A New Era of Education 3C - 11:15 - 12:15 ❖ Maine Youth Action Network- Uprooting Inequities: Engaging in Dialogue to Build School Culture
12:15 - 12:45 Break for Lunch <i>(Join Link A for the Keynote)</i>	
12:45 - 1:45 "One Cool Thing" <i>(All participants on Zoom Link A for 6 Break-out rooms)</i> Break-out Rooms by Topic <i>(Read topic descriptions on Page 9 of this Agenda)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Climate Education ❖ Outdoor Learning ❖ COVID-19 / Health ❖ Social Emotional Learning ❖ Racial Justice ❖ Civic Engagement & Social Justice 	Session Explanation: "One Cool Thing" is a structured networking session that allows for several concurrent roundtable discussions where all participants have the option to share "One Cool Thing" from their teaching practice. This year's sessions will be focused on topics connected to the conference's equity theme. Participants can share anything from their teaching practice that is connected to the theme, or bring a question or idea to explore with the group. Each group will have a facilitator and the hour will be spent sharing "One Cool Thing". The goal is for everyone to leave the session with at least one new idea or resource related to equity and their teaching practice.
<i>15 minute break</i>	
2:00 - 3:00 <i>(Zoom Link A)</i> ❖ Drop-in Office Hours with Island Institute Education Staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Meet with Yvonne Thomas, Robin Chernow and other teachers to debrief, reflect, discuss challenges and solutions, ask questions, or just "chew the fat"! 	2:00 - 3:00 <i>(Zoom Link B)</i> ❖ Wellness Session with Guided Meditation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Led by Lisa Millette, Island Institute staff member and certified yoga instructor ➤ Gentle movement and stretching followed by a reflective meditation focused on balance/equilibrium and finishing with a restorative rest posture. *Try to be somewhere comfortable. *Bring paper and something to write with.

Thursday Presenters & Workshop Descriptions

Maine-Wabanaki REACH



Maine-Wabanaki REACH

Restoration • Engagement • Advocacy • Change • Healing

Wabanaki REACH is a cross-cultural collaboration that successfully supported the Maine Wabanaki-State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission and is focused on Wabanaki health, wellness and self-determination and community building.

Workshop 1A & 3A - Interacting with Wabanaki Maine History

Thursday and Friday, 10am - 12pm

This powerful workshop provides us an opportunity to reflect on our colonizing history as well as the current day impacts and our future with Native people. Designed for non-Native people, this workshop includes a brief history of U.S. government relationship with Native people, awareness of white privilege and an introduction to decolonization.

PRE-WORKSHOP MESSAGE FOR PARTICIPANTS:

Greetings,

We hope you are all safe and well during this time. We look forward to your participation in Interacting with Wabanaki Maine History on October 8th, and 9th from 10am-12pm. The program is scheduled for two hours and will promptly begin at 10am. We will open the waiting room at 1:45.

To the left is the Zoom login information for this session.

To create connection, **we are asking participants to keep their cameras on during the session.** If you have a poor internet which only allows for you to attend zoom through audio, you will need to find a location with a stronger connection.

Three things you will need to have with you at the start of the program:

- 1. A blanket.**
- 2. A piece of paper with the word RESISTOR written on it.**
- 3. Something to cover your camera in the event you are asked to - This could be an index card, sticky-note, or a piece of tape.**

For information or assistance please contact Heather Augustine by Email:

heather.augustine78@gmail.com or Phone
207-295-3510.

We look forward to your participation, thank you for being a part of this work.

Maine-Wabanaki REACH Team

Operation Breaking Stereotypes

Connie Carter, Co-Founder & Director

Operation Breaking Stereotypes (OBS) is a non-profit organization, working with schools in Maine and New York City to facilitate exchanges among diverse groups of learners. Since our founding in 2002, OBS has helped more than 3500 students address ethnic, socioeconomic, gender, and racial stereotypes through writing, reading, music, photography, and personal connections. Connie Carter has been the director of OBS since its founding in 2002.

Workshop 1B - Challenging Perceptions, Changing Lives

Thursday 10 - 11am

The shared experiences of students, teachers, and past participants involved in Operation Breaking Stereotypes will illustrate how creating relationships across lines of difference enriched their education and their lives. Participants will learn ways to help students examine their own identities and stereotypes as they work for racial justice and equity.

OUTMaine

Sue Campbell, Deputy Director

Grace Hansen, Youth Health Educator

OUTMaine is a Rockland-based organization working to make Maine communities welcoming and affirming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer (LGBTQ+) youth.

Sue Campbell brings more than 25 years of experience working with school superintendents, administrators and other school staff through her work on local and state school boards. She volunteered with the Trans Youth Equality Foundation in Portland, assisting with support groups. As the parent of a trans son, her first-hand experience in supporting the transition process and working with family issues around transitioning give her expertise that supports both youth and families.

Grace Hansen graduated from the University of Maine at Farmington in 2020 with a BA in Anthropology and International and Global Studies, with a particular concentration in Medical Anthropology. Her past work and volunteer experience has concentrated in youth development, leadership, and community health.

Workshop 1C - New Tools for Creating Inclusive Classrooms for LGBTQ+ Students

Thursday 11:15am - 12:15pm

Join us to learn the importance of a welcoming and affirming school community and about activities, you can use to create inclusive classrooms. You will have the opportunity to experience activities that can easily be duplicated with a group of students.

<p><u>Dr. Catharine ("Cat") Biddle</u> Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership, The University of Maine Dr. Biddle’s research focuses on ways in which rural schools and communities respond to social and economic change in the 21st century. She is particularly interested in how schools can more effectively leverage partnerships with external organizations or groups to address issues of social inequality and how non-traditional leaders—such as youth, parents and other community members—may lead or serve as partners in these efforts. Her interests are driven by her professional background in community development that leverages schools.</p>	<p>Keynote Presentation - “Courageous leadership in hard times: Becoming a threat to inequity in our rural communities” <i>Thursday 12:45-1:45pm</i> Cat has a deep understanding of rural schools and has recently been involved in a number of collaborations involving island schools, including Portrait of a Graduate and Community Learning for ME. Cat also co-authored a report that was just released this summer: "What can we learn from the innovation of Maine districts to support remote student learning from March - June 2020?" Her workshop at this year’s ITC will be grounded in her Maine-based work and highly relevant for rural education more broadly.</p>
<p><u>Holocaust & Humans Rights Center of Maine</u> David Greenham, Associate Director David Greenham is the Associate Director of the Holocaust and Human Rights Center of Maine and an adjunct lecturer of drama and Shakespeare at the University of Maine at Augusta. He has been involved with theater and community arts in Maine for more than 25 years. He spent many years as the Producing Artistic Director of The Theater At Monmouth, the Shakespearean Theater of Maine. In addition, David has traveled to perform and teach extensively throughout Maine. Beyond his work at the HHRC, David has been commissioned by the Maine Humanities Council to create a touring program inspired by Maine’s bicentennial. David lives in Gardiner and is a member of the Board of the MidMaine Global Forum, and currently serves as the chair of the Maine Arts Commission.</p>	<p>Workshop 2A - The Speak Up At School strategy: Navigating Challenging Topics in the Classroom <i>Thursday 2:00-3:00pm</i> Utilizing the Speak Up at School strategy from Teaching Tolerance and resources from the book The Political Classroom by McAvoy and Hess, HHRC Associate Director David Greenham will lead educators through an understanding of the importance of engaging in the difficult conversations that emerge in the classroom. This workshop will provide tools and guidance for ensuring that those conversations inspire thought, listening and mutual respect rather than divisiveness.</p>
<p><u>Island Readers & Writers</u> Alison Johnson, Director of School Programs Island Readers & Writers (IRW) believes in the essential role of reading in fostering the healthy development of children and the promise that lies within every child – their capacities, their dreams, and their worthiness. Our mission is to inspire a passion for reading and learning among children living on</p>	<p>Workshop 2B - The Whole Book Approach using VTS to Create Equitable Experiences <i>Thursday 2:00 - 3:00pm</i> Learn how to maximize your reading time with kids focusing on the picture book in its whole art form and using simple Visual Thinking Strategies. The WBA was developed by Megan Dowd Lambert during her time at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture</p>

<p>Maine’s coastal islands and in rural communities in Washington County, “inland islands.” The relationships and partnerships we build are the key to IRW's success.</p>	<p>Book Art to create a shared reading experience that draws on childrens’ natural curiosity in making observations. We will explore the practice of VTS and how the use of the practice can help create equitable experiences through deep listening, linking, framing, and paraphrasing while viewing art.</p>
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<h2 style="text-align: center;">Friday Presenters & Workshop Descriptions</h2>	
<p>JustME for JustUS JMJU Panelists Amara Ifeji, Hajna Nagy, Ijeoma Obi, Ania Wright See speaker bios here</p> <p>JustME for JustUS is a new project dedicated to developing a civic engagement and climate justice statewide youth-led network. Our goal is to convene a powerful group of diverse Maine youth who care about the environment and climate justice, connect them with each other and mentors, and provide training and resources needed to be a force in 2020 and beyond. We offer regional listening sessions, trainings, school and campus visits, and youth led strategy development. Our goal is to shift power and mobilize Maine youth to be critical players in building a just and sustainable Maine.</p>	<p>Keynote Panel <i>Friday 8:45 - 9:45am</i></p> <p>Learn from a youth panel about this new model of Maine youth organizing that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritizes youth in northern towns and rural Maine communities - Builds content for youth that comes out of their specific community and experience - Pays young people for their work - Focuses on climate justice and civic engagement - Builds sustainability so that organizing can continue beyond students' graduation - Increases representation and diversity in civic engagement and environmental work - Generates hope through examples of youth projects and providing opportunities and tools to make a difference.
<p>Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership Jenn Page, Director of Education Based on an island in Penobscot Bay, Hurricane Island Center for Science and Leadership’s mission is to integrate science education, applied research, and leadership development through year-round</p>	<p>Workshop 3B - Personal and Professional Resilience In A New Era of Education <i>Friday 10 - 11 am</i></p> <p>Education as a sector is increasingly being called to engage and inspire audiences to address global challenges within rapidly shifting constructs. Using</p>

<p>educational programs and a seasonal, environmentally- sustainable island community. With her diverse background in education spanning traditional academia, K-12 education, teacher professional development, and out-of-school, place-based learning, Dr. Jennifer Page is adept at facilitating transformational learning experiences that affirm people’s individual strengths and personal experiences. The core of her work revolves around supporting educators to design and facilitate these meaningful experiences for students, whether that is working with her own staff or with classroom teachers on opportunities they will implement in their own schools.</p>	<p>the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to frame our session, participants will center themselves and their work within a construct that is more resilient to local and global changes. Participants will then move into addressing their personal needs and goals to leave this session with the mental and tangible tools to help them coevolve with the world's rapidly changing structures.</p>
<p><u>Maine Youth Action Network</u> Ysanne Bethel, Network & Partnerships Coordinator Alexis Saba, PhD, School Culture Program Manager Based out of The Opportunity Alliance in Portland, Maine, MYAN is a statewide network of committed adults and passionate young people who believe in the transformative power of youth leadership. We take a collaborative approach to youth engagement. Our work is rooted in positive youth development and a strengths-based approach to youth engagement and primary prevention.</p> <p>Ysanne is the Network and Partnerships Coordinator at Maine Youth Action Network. She is compelled to pursue her work with young people, because she’s invested in young people. What would our world look like if we committed to listening and partnering with youth to build stronger and healthier communities?</p> <p>Alexis is the Program Manager for School Culture at Maine Youth Action Network. As a former teacher in areas of education philosophy and social justice at Indiana University and Colby College, she brings with her a commitment to equity in, around, and through formal schooling environments.</p>	<p>Workshop 3C - Uprooting Inequities: Engaging in Dialogue to Build School Culture <i>Friday 11:15am - 12:15pm</i> During this session, participants will engage in a facilitated activity that invites deeper dialogue about the inequities experienced by young people in their school communities. Participants will be asked to adopt an “outsider” view of their school, identify root causes that connect inequities, and imagine ways school culture can shift to create more equitable communities. This activity is a model for the types of discussions teachers/school staff can facilitate to encourage youth-led school culture change. Together, we will engage with skills that draw from restorative practices with a focus toward building stronger relationships between members of the school community.</p>

“One Cool Thing”

Breakout Room Discussions with Island Institute Staff Facilitators

Friday 12:45 - 1:45pm

This structured networking session allows for several concurrent roundtable discussions where all participants have the option to share "One Cool Thing" from their teaching practice. This year's One Cool Thing sessions will be focused on different topics connected to the conference's equity theme. **Participants can share anything from their teaching practice that is connected to the theme, or bring a question or idea to explore with the group.** Each group will have a facilitator and the hour will be spent sharing "One Cool Thing". The goal is for everyone to leave the session with at least one new idea or resource related to equity and their teaching practice.

Climate Education - MS/HS

As changes in our local, national and international environment become more evident and urgent, students are increasingly interested and active in climate justice issues. This group will share climate-related justice and equity resources, ideas and questions.

Outdoor Learning - K-8

Outdoor learning has become an important COVID-19 teaching strategy. This group will share outdoor learning resources, ideas and questions, as they relate to teaching in the time of COVID and in general.

COVID-19 Wellness for Teachers

Teacher wellness is always important and is crucial during this extended period of educational disruption. This group will share health and wellness resources, ideas and questions for teachers during COVID19.

Social Emotional Learning - K-12

The COVID-19 epidemic has taken a serious toll on the social and emotional well-being of many of our students. This group will focus on social emotional learning resources, ideas and questions.

Racial Justice - K-12

As the Black Lives Matter movement has become more visible, even in our tiny rural communities, teachers are being called on to help students understand and learn from this historic moment for our country. This group will focus on racial justice education resources, ideas and questions.

Civic Engagement & Social Justice - MS/HS

Many towns and organizations are becoming more active and engaged in equity issues, providing opportunities to engage youth and adults in meaningful action. This group will focus on resources, ideas and questions related to connecting students with local and regional civic/social justice efforts.

Complete Zoom Instructions for Links A & B with call-in options

Zoom Link A:

<https://islandinstitute.zoom.us/j/92726033987>

Meeting ID: 927 2603 3987

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,92726033987# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,92726033987# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 927 2603 3987

Find your local number:

<https://islandinstitute.zoom.us/j/92726033987>

Zoom Link B:

<https://islandinstitute.zoom.us/j/99604403614>

Meeting ID: 996 0440 3614

One tap mobile

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