

**A**CROSS

the

**C**URRICULUM  
**C**ONFERENCE

## **Diversity & Inclusion**

*Engaging a New Generation of Learners*

Friday, February 18, 2022

8:00am-3:00pm

**ACC**

ALVIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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## **8:00-8:30am - Presentations by Alvin Community College's Drama and Music Programs**

### **8:30-9:40am - Welcome**

Dr. Cynthia Griffith, *Alvin Community College Vice President, Instruction*

Dr. Robert J. Exley, *Alvin Community College President*

### **R.A.W. Tuba: The Power of Overcoming, Resilience, & Determination**

Dr. Richard White, *Professor of Tuba and Euphonium at the University of New Mexico and the author of I'm Possible*

The story of a Baltimore kid who experienced intermittent homelessness, and went on to become the first African American in the world to receive a Doctorate of Music in Tuba.

[Click here to join this session](#)

### **9:40-10:40am - Session 1**

#### **Chemistry for Your Life: Reaching Students, Educators, and the Public Using Context-Based Examples and Popular Media**

Melissa Collini, *University of North Texas Chemistry Teaching Fellow*

Chemistry has a number of applications in everyday life, but it is most often associated with being a challenging course. Chemistry for Your Life is a podcast that aims to make learning chemistry more interesting by recapturing curiosity about the way the world works on an open-access platform.

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#### **A Panel Discussion to Understand Diverse Perspectives and Multicultural Education in the Criminal Justice System**

Chakoa Jefferson, *Alvin Community College Director, TDCJ*

This presentation focuses on various topics of education in the prison system, through the lens of multiple stakeholders: a former incarcerated TDCJ-ACC graduate, a veteran TDCJ instructor, a newcomer TDCJ instructor, and a qualitative research analyst.

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#### **Diversity and Inclusion through the Eyes of Bagger Vance**

John Murray, Jr., JD, *Alvin Community College Director, Paralegal*

Out-of-Book Experiences (OOBEs) and storytelling are the best ways for students to retain important classroom lessons. In this seminar, these two techniques will be used to address diversity and inclusion in a new and memorable way. Grab some popcorn and join the presenter as we find our swing on these issues using the wisdom of Bagger Vance as our guide.

[Click here to join this session](#)

## **Whose Line is it Anyway? Redistricting and Demographic Change in the Lone Star State**

William Parent, *San Jacinto College Professor of Government*

Patrizio Amezcua, *San Jacinto College Professor of Government*

State legislators recently approved revised maps for congress, the Texas Legislature, and the Board of Education. As usual, the decennial process was contentious and legal challenges are underway that could produce further changes. The consensus is that the new maps create a clear pathway for Republicans to remain in control of Texas government for the next decade, but is that conclusion premature? In this session, the presenters will share their insights on redistricting in Texas and pick potential winners and losers under the current maps.

[Click here to join this session](#)

### **10:40-11:40am - Session 2**

#### **Ally Accessibility in Blackboard**

Haley Collins, *Alvin Community College Faculty Fellow, Center for Success*

Brian Berger, *Alvin Community College Faculty Fellow, Distance Education*

During this session, uncover the secrets of adding accessible documents, videos, presentations, and other files to your Blackboard courses.

[Click here to join this session](#)

#### **Surviving to Thriving in a Post-pandemic Collegiate World**

Dr. Robert Exley, *Alvin Community College President*

This interactive session will explore the collective and individual impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on ourselves, our students, and colleagues. The goal is to provide a time for reflection on and elaboration of the need for human and social connection in dealing with social isolation and stress.

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#### **Instructional Strategies to Reach Students with Diverse Learning Needs**

Natalie Freese, *Alvin Community College Director, Learning Commons*

Dr. Eliseo Herrera, EdD, *Alvin Community College Coordinator, Academic Support Center*

Maria Olivares, *Alvin Community College Academic Support Specialist*

This session will review effective, research-based strategies that you can integrate into your instruction to increase student engagement for learners with diverse learning needs. Strategies will focus on second language learners, bilingual learners, and students with identified learning disabilities, such as dyslexia and dysgraphia. The presentation will also provide an overview of effective strategies that help build self-efficacy for students identified as at-risk.

[Click here to join this session](#)

## **Meeting the Needs of the LGBTQ Community**

Jennifer Shimek, *Alvin Community College Instructor, Psychology*

Dr. Carla Galusha, *Devereaux Applied Behavioral Health Texas Clinical Director*

Cindy Townsend, *Devereaux Applied Behavioral Health Texas Director of Education*

In this session, you will learn how Devereaux supports educational policy and clinical change that creates safe spaces to help LGBTQ individuals strengthen their overall emotional health and well-being. Shifting culture beyond tolerance-to acceptance-to affirmation helps eliminate discrimination within our society today.

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## **11:40am-12:40pm - Lunch Break**

## **12:40-1:10pm - Student Panel**

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## **1:10-2:10:pm - Session 3**

### **Who Me?" The Implicit Bias Theory**

Dr. Earnest Burnett, *Alvin Community College Instructor, Speech, Liaison of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*

Dr. Maria Starling, *Alvin Community College Instructor, Speech*

Research on "implicit bias" suggests that people can act on the basis of prejudice and stereotypes without intending to do so" (Brownstein, 2019). This interactive workshop is designed for you to look within your own conscious and determine if you harbor implicit biases in your workspace. You may say that you do not harbor biases and/or may not be aware of them, but your behavior and actions may say otherwise. By the end of this workshop, hopefully you will be able to identify your implicit biases and seek to assuage these biases, which could lead you to become nonjudgmental when interacting in your workspace and beyond.

[Click here to join this session](#)

### **Brain Breaks: A Strategy to Celebrate Diversity and Foster Inclusiveness**

Elayni Kinsey, *Alvin Community College Instructor, Mathematics*

As instructors, we are all too familiar with the demeanor of an inattentive, overwhelmed, and exhausted student. We want to create an engaging, inviting, and innovative classroom, but often find ourselves frustrated and empty-handed when our content doesn't lend itself the use of technology or "fun" activities are scarce. In this session, we will discuss the use of Brain Breaks in the post-secondary classroom and the opportunities they provide for both students and instructors.

[Click here to join this session](#)

## **The Library as a Resource for Diversity and Inclusion**

Dr. Greg Reid, *Alvin Community College Head Librarian*

Roger Bell, *Alvin Community College Librarian*

As an ACC service body, library concerts efforts with diversity and inclusion in mind. Library recognizes its unique opportunity to address multiple campus cultural touchpoints. In this regard, resources and services are tailored to groups such as returning students, workforce students, distance learners, students with disabilities, students considered to be at-risk and students within LGBTQ and other groups. Presentation offers a window into said efforts.

[Click here to join this session](#)

## **Addressing Diversity and Inclusion through Mindfulness**

Deanna Voltz, *Alvin Community College Adjunct Instructor, Psychology*

The application of mindfulness to diversity and inclusion is about being aware and open first with self. Practicing mindfulness for self and integrating it into your classrooms can help foster higher degrees of engagement, productivity, and innovation. Diversity is being mindful of differences of thoughts, values, ideas, and perspectives. This presentation will show you how mindfulness can provide you with the skills to re-imagine diversity and inclusion and help you to be more aware, empathetic, inspiring, and creative.

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## **2:10-2:30pm - Closing Remarks**

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