

VIRTUAL

DATE AND TIME
 Wed., October 9, 2024
 5:30pm – 7:00pm
This session will not be recorded.

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Building Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Educational Spaces (1.5 PDU)

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 | 5:30pm – 7:00pm | Virtual

Learning Objectives

Participants will be able to:

- Describe challenges and opportunities to integrate DEIOJ in academic settings.
- Analyze the impact of DEIOJ initiatives on educational outcomes in occupational therapy.
- Reflect actionable strategies for enhancing DEIOJ in personal academic settings.

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Building Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Educational Spaces (1.5 PDUs) About This Presentation and About Our Presenters

ABOUT THIS PRESENTATION

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ABOUT OUR PRESENTERS



Jesus Diaz, OTD, OT/L, was born in Mexico City and raised in Los Angeles. He completed his undergraduate, master's, and clinical doctorate degrees at the University of Southern California. Díaz

is the first associate chair of diversity, access, and equity (DAE) for the University of Southern California Chan Division. Serving as an integral part of the division's leadership team, he oversees the development of initiatives, practices, programs, and policies across education, research, and practice/service missions to support the division, school, and university's goals toward diversity and inclusion.



Melisa Kaye, EdD, OTR/L, earned a Doctorate in Education with dual emphases in learning and instruction and educational technology from the University of San Francisco. She works as an assistant professor of occupational therapy at San

Jose State University. Kaye is the founder and chair of the OT DEI Action Committee in her department. She has also practiced pediatric occupational therapy for 25 years and is the director emeritus of Firefly Center: Therapy Services for Children. Kaye's research interests include the scholarship of teaching and learning in healthcare, embedding diversity and inclusion in healthcare education, and resilience in children and their families.



Ryan Lavalley, PhD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in the Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). He is also the

founder and primary lead of the Community Practice Lab. Lavalley has worked as a community occupational therapy practitioner since 2014, providing and developing programming most often related to aging, dementia, and housing across Orange County, NC. He continues to work in partnership with multiple collaborators across Orange County and North Carolina to further community-rooted initiatives. Lavalley is also the current coordinator for the Carolina Aging Network which is a coalition of campus partners who work in aging. Additionally, he teaches the Community-Level Occupational Therapy course in the Master of Occupational Therapy Program at UNC-CH through which he has guided student partnerships with multiple local organizations to develop programming and strategic actions steps to support community health and participation and co-hosts an occupational therapy podcast with Dr. Khalilah Johnson. Lavalley is originally from West Virginia and earned his bachelor's and master's at Xavier University in Cincinnati, focusing on occupational therapy, social justice, and peace studies.

Special Topic Forum - VIRTUAL



Karen Park, OTD, OTR/L, (she/her), is an assistant professor and doctoral capstone coordinator at the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences (USA) in San Marcos, Calif. She graduated with master's

and doctorate degrees in occupational therapy from the University of Southern California, Chan Division of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. Park is Board Certified in Pediatrics by the American Occupational Therapy Association (AOTA) and has extensive experience in pediatric practice in a variety of service settings including early intervention, hospital, clinic, and outpatient children's mental health. Prior to joining the faculty at USA, she was a director of academic fieldwork education. Park's expertise in fieldwork education focuses on role emerging fieldwork experiences in children's mental health settings; specifically, mentoring occupational therapy (OT) students in identifying and establishing the role of OT in addressing the occupational needs of underserved children and families with a history of complex trauma. As a 2nd generation, Korean American, neurodivergent woman, and child of immigrants, embracing her racial identity in academic spaces significantly influences how she shows up as an educator. She is deeply invested in representation and inclusion in all areas of OT including practice, advocacy, academia, and leadership.



Sheryl Ryan, PhD, OTR/L, is an assistant professor in the Occupational Therapy Department at California State University Dominguez Hills. She teaches in the research and population health curricular threads and serves as the

chair of the department JEDI Advisory Group.

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