



Programs and Services 2022-2023 School Year

Introduction:

Many educational institutions have their path, some harder than others, and everyone realizes they must have the right people in the right place, this will ensure their success. Additionally, for our students to feel valued at school, we need to create a learning atmosphere that allows all students to be themselves while knowing that their teachers are actively working to provide the best instructional practices for their needs. The Leading Equity Center will work closely with your organization on this journey. Here is a general overview of the professional services available.

Services Available:

- [Purposeful Teaching Academy](#)
- [Student Affinity Group: The Advocacy Room](#)
- [Equity Audit](#)
- [Keynotes](#)
- [Leading Equity Book and Book Study Hours](#)
- [DEI Activities Playbook](#)
- [Additional Training Options](#)
- [Online Courses](#)

Keynotes

“How Do I Make STEM...

In this session, Dr. Eakins answers 4 questions for STEM educators:

1. How can we make STEM memorable?
2. How can we make STEM considerate?
3. How can we make STEM familiar?
4. How can we make STEM emotional?

“Let’s Meet the Rest of the Team: Lessons from uncomfortable situations in life”

Confidence is the feeling or belief that one can rely on someone or something. This is not always an easy feeling to achieve. However, as we work through various challenges that test our levels of comfort, we can slowly develop our confidence as educators. Confidence in having difficult conversations and moving up professionally are just some of the daily experiences that we face. In this keynote presentation, Dr. Eakins shares personal stories and research regarding the significance of being confident as educators when facing uncomfortable situations.

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“Are You Culturally Responsive?”

Take a journey with Dr. Eakins as he shares his experiences as an educator living overseas and his introduction to culturally responsive practices. Session attendees will understand the value and impact of addressing their biases to teach through a culturally diverse lens.

“The Legend of Zelda: How to defeat the evil Ganon and harness your Triforce of Power”

The Legend of Zelda was released on the original Nintendo in the US in 1986. This game revolutionized the gaming industry in many ways, including an open-world format and the ability to save your game and not have to start from the beginning every time you turn on your Nintendo. What does this have to do with education? In this presentation, Dr. Sheldon L. Eakins will share with the audience how to harness their “Triforce of Power” (Power, Wisdom, and Courage).

“Home Grown Advocacy: Empowering families to see beyond race, ethnicity, and class”

This session discusses ways parents can learn to advocate for their children at school. Dr. Eakins will share personal stories on helping parents ensure equitable practices for their children's needs.

Equity Audit

This audit will guide you through seven essential components of equity within your organization: (1) Mission, Vision, and Beliefs, (2) Leadership, (3) Staff and Staff Development, (4) Instructional Practices, (5) Representation, (6) Disciplinary Practices, and (7) Communication, Feedback and Decision Making.

This audit will serve as the starting point to identify short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals for the organization. A comprehensive report with suggested strategies and training is provided after the audit. **The next step is the Purposeful Teaching Academy.**

Purposeful Teaching Academy

An intensive professional development program for educators looking to ensure ALL students have access to the resources they need to succeed academically and socially.

The Four Tenets of the Purposeful Teaching Academy

- *Self-Awareness:* Self-awareness and recognition of Implicit Bias in teaching.
- *Instructional Design:* Creating a learning environment where students' cultures and languages are seen and respected daily.
- *Co-Teaching:* Seeking opportunities for students to learn from each other and view the world through different lenses.
- *Advocacy Work:* Taking a conscious advocacy approach to developing an equitable and socially just learning environment in which the students receive the resources and attention they need to be successful.

Additional Instructional Support

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- *Classroom observations and walkthroughs*: Systematic examination of recommended classrooms to assess performance gaps and identify, understand, and prioritize the needs that must be addressed to improve student outcomes.
- *Monthly Instructional Coaching Support and Training*: Includes lesson design and facilitation. Dr. Eakins collaborates with the teaching team to create an asset-based curriculum and instruction. This ongoing training will produce a standards-aligned curriculum repository for the district and a firm understanding of teaching and learning science (i.e., alignment between summative assessment, learning goals, formative assessment, and instructional tools and strategies). Additionally, these curricula will uplift literacy and numeracy for all learners. Preexisting unit plans, performance tasks, and purchased curriculum resources will also be integrated into newly designed lessons.

Most Selected Training Topics

- Implicit Bias in schools
- Dealing with racial slurs in schools
- Getting to know your students
- Modeling vulnerability and humility
- Framing brave conversations about race and ethnicity
- Decolonizing the Classroom
- Recognize how to build on students' assets

Outcomes

- List strategies for creating an equitable learning environment
- Design culturally sustaining lessons
- Articulate advocacy strategies in education

Student Affinity Group: The Advocacy Room

The Advocacy Room is designed to help educators and students create a social justice affinity group within their organization. Understanding the challenges students face without having lived experience may be difficult for educators who want to support affinity groups. We'll take your students through a journey of ten sessions as part of the Advocacy Room program. Each session is created to provide education, dialog, and action-oriented results.

What's Included

- Terminology: Ten interactive virtual sessions. Breakout rooms.
- Real Scenarios: Practice with real-life scenarios and problem-solving skills

Sessions Available

- Where and how do we learn who we are 'suppose' to be?
- Is race really a thing?
- What do I do? What should I do?
- Who AM I?
- What is My Privilege?
- When "My Bad" Isn't Enough: A session on Microaggressions
- What I Can Do to Support My Peers: Allyship and Co-conspiring

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- Putting It All Into Action 1
- Putting It All Into Action 2
- Acceptance vs. Tolerance

Students Will Participate In:

- An instructional lesson regarding terminology about social justice and advocacy
- Breakout rooms to further enhance engagement and understanding
- Scenarios based on real experiences that students face regarding racism and discrimination and how to handle these situations
- Work sessions that address the unique challenges at their schools and how to advocate for change
- Creation of a presentation to their school regarding the need for change

Outcomes

Below are some of the skills that teachers, administrators, and students will have upon completion of the Advocacy Room program:

- Identify microaggressions, privilege, racism, acceptance, and equity
- Articulate responses when experiencing injustice at school
- Develop a presentation and plan of action toward change at their school
- Support peers as co-conspirators in solidarity for social justice

Timeline

The Leading Equity Center will work with your organization to schedule training and visits. A multi-year contract is also an option.

Why Choose the Leading Equity Center?

Imagine a classroom where students are inspired to learn because the curriculum and instruction are relevant to their languages, literacies, and cultural practices. A school environment where students can freely discuss social justice issues affecting them and their communities. With a proven track record of leading system-wide change, Dr. Eakins will help you place the focus back on student learning through a culturally diverse lens. **References are available upon request.**

Meet Your Facilitator

Sheldon L. Eakins, Ph.D., is the Founder of the [Leading Equity Center](#). Dr. Eakins is also the host of [The Art of Advocacy Livestream](#) and the [Leading Equity Podcast](#). Furthermore, Dr. Eakins is the author of [Leading Equity: Becoming an Advocate for All Students](#). With over 15 years in education, he has served as a teacher, school principal, adjunct professor, and Director of Special Education.

Sheldon Eakins is passionate about helping educators accomplish equitable practices in their schools. He has earned a B.S. degree in Social Science Education, an M.S. degree in Educational Leadership, and a Ph.D. in K-12 Education.

