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The Intersection

April 2021

...and Justice For All

Dear Fellow Members,

A4LE waded into the vast sea that is the conversation of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion and its meaning at the intersection of learning and place. One early step was in November of 2020 when A4LE invited Erin Jones to address membership virtually to present on Culturally



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Responsive Practices, Equity, and more. Erin Jones is a teacher, a "Champion of Change" an instructional coach, and a TED speaker. Since its inauguration, the A4LE JEDI Committee has sponsored a Facebook page, several workshops and produced collateral to communicate its position and goals. The mission of the JEDI Committee is to promote the benefits of a diverse, and equitable Association identify ways to take meaningful action, and foster changes for all involved in education. This spring, I took on the role of "champion" for the SW Region's activities around this increasingly critical subject. As such I would like to ask members to consider what needs to happen in our community, and offer suggestions for action we can take, locally. sherry@jkaedesign.com

ANNOUNCEMENT

SW REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Confirmed for Spring 2022. There will be a new call for session content

Did you get your Wake Up Call?

By the time this newsletter is published, the second part of our two virtual workshops will have occurred. We welcomed education professionals from California, Ohio, and Illinois to the table to discuss some of the biggest lessons from the last year that will influence the shape of the educational environment going forward. We asked them the talk amongst themselves and to engage workshop participants in an open dialogue to address questions like:

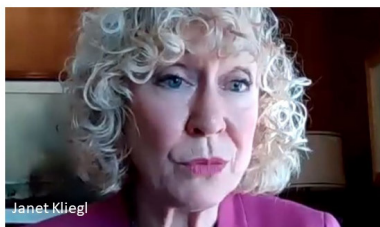
- Given the crucial role that teachers play in young people's lives, how might we design for their experience and their roles in supporting learning?
- How has the proliferation of alternative educational models (e.g. virtual learning, online academies, virtual learning, outdoor learning, etc.) changed the educational landscape?

Some of memorable take-aways: technology, used creatively, can build community, and enable access to learning resources across physical distance, while the inequity of the digital divide can destroy it too. Also, most teachers are "ready to fly" as soon as they have the resources they need. The panel agreed that if those teachers are empowered to participate in the design of their learning environments, rather than simply applying standards implemented from the top down, then they will succeed. Its certainly a time to rethink our assumptions about design at the intersection of learning and place!

In coming weeks, we will digest the recordings and Padlet data to produce a report for membership to use to gain insights and build empathy with the very practitioners that will use the spaces we design.

If you asked me a year...ago what industry am I in, I would have said I am in the education industry. But there's no doubt now that we in education are in public service..."

David Miyashiro, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Cajon Valley Union School District



Janet Kliegl



Joanne Culverhouse



Jessica Morgan



Gordon Amerson