

ALESSI, LEVAN, KEBLES FORUM

DIVERSITY SUMMIT

CELEBRATING INNOVATORS

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

PRESENTERS AND PRESENTATIONS

PRESENTED BY



Dr. Adrienne Dixon,
President and CEO

SUMMIT SCHEDULE

8:45 AM- 8:50AM	Welcoming Comments	Emily Ferguson
8:50 AM- 8:55 AM	Opening Address	Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis
8:55 AM- 9:00 AM	Introduction of Keynote Address	Emily Ferguson
9:00 AM- 10:30AM	Keynote Address	Paul Hernandez, PhD
10:45 AM- 12:00 PM	Breakout Session 1 Choice A: Understanding Spirituality and Mental Health	Kicole Hunter, MS
	Choice B: How Working with YA Can Support Student Resilience	Sarah Whitney, PhD
12:15 PM- 1:00 PM	Lunch/Art Therapy Session Reclaiming (s)pace	Sheila Lorenzo de la Peña, PhD Katherine DeGaetani

SUMMIT SCHEDULE

1:15 PM- 2:30 PM	Breakout Session 2 Choice A: Empowering and Supporting Women in Leadership	Aly Eagle, PhD
	Choice B: Intercultural Emigration	Anuti Ngangana, MS, NCC
2:45 PM- 3:45 PM	Panel Discussion: What is an Employer's Responsibility to DEI?	Adrienne Dixon, PhD Mandy Fauble, PhD Shari Gross, MA Steve Minick, LPC Nick Viglione, PhD Jaime Zewe, LPC
3:45 PM- 4:00 PM	Closing	Adrienne Dixon, PhD Emily Ferguson
5:45 PM- 8:00 PM	Film Screening and Panel Discussion "Push Out" Presented in Partnership with ECTIC	Maurice Clarke, LPC Ken Nickson Jr, M.Ed. Nicole Platz, MS Chandra Slocum, M.Ed. Facilitated by: Adrienne Dixon, PhD
St. Ann's Campus 1020 East 10th St.		

Opening Address: Lieutenant Governor Austin Davis



Lt. Gov. Austin Davis is the youngest lieutenant governor in the country and the first Black lieutenant governor in Commonwealth history. Inspired by the history-makers who came before – leaders like Pennsylvania House Speaker K. Leroy Irvis and state Supreme Court Chief Justice Robert Nix Jr. – Austin is determined to motivate a new generation of public servants to break even more barriers.

Austin’s path to the second-highest office in the Commonwealth started in McKeesport, a former steel town in western Pennsylvania. Growing up, he watched his mom – a hairdresser for more than 40 years – juggle raising a family with putting food on the table, and he watched his dad work hard as a union bus driver.

At the age of 16, Austin was living in McKeesport, when gun violence came to their doorstep. After a shooting in his neighborhood, he got involved in his community, starting a youth advisory council with the mayor and a youth gun violence prevention program at his high school.

Austin went on to study political science at the University of Pittsburgh, becoming a first-generation college graduate and then pursuing a career in public service. He returned to McKeesport to work for the Allegheny County executive. In that role he helped create the first violence prevention office within the Allegheny Department of Health.

By the age of 21, he had earned praise from the Tribune-Review, which called him “a veteran at the politics of helping others.”

In 2018, Austin successfully ran for the state House of Representatives to represent the Mon Valley and his hometown of McKeesport, becoming the first African American to represent his legislative district.

As lieutenant governor, Austin presides over the Pennsylvania Senate, chairs the Pennsylvania Board of Pardons, leads the Local Government Advisory Committee and serves on the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council. Gov. Josh Shapiro has also appointed Austin to chair the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

While serving as lieutenant governor, Austin is focused on combating the epidemic of gun violence, supporting small and minority-owned businesses, advocating for working-class Pennsylvanians and being a champion for communities that feel like they’ve been left behind.

Austin currently resides in Allegheny County with his wife, Blayre Holmes Davis.

Keynote Address: Paul Hernandez, PhD

This motivational keynote shares Dr. Paul Hernandez's personal story and testimony to the challenges he, like many other youth, faced growing up and how he overcame adversity by using education as a source of empowerment to transform his life. Also included is his work on how to create a sense of belonging for young people.



Paul Hernandez, PhD

Paul Hernandez, PhD, earned his doctorate in Sociology specializing in the sociology of education, social inequality, and diversity. He is a nationally recognized speaker and leader in college access and success, community outreach, and pedagogy for educators working with student at-promise. He is the author of the best-selling book *The Pedagogy of Real Talk: Engaging, Teaching and Connecting Students At-Promise*.

Prior to earning his degrees, he was engulfed in gang culture and deep poverty, surviving on the streets of Los Angeles. Paul openly shares with others his unique personal story of being a youth at-promise and how his path has influenced his work.

A former faculty member and senior administrator, Dr. Hernandez was awarded the National Education Association Reg Weaver Human and Civil Rights Award, the Michigan Education Association Elizabeth Siddall Human Rights Award, the Equity in Education Award by the Michigan Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, and an Honors Professor of the Year Award for teaching.

Breakout Sessions

"Understanding Spirituality and Mental Health"

Kicole Hunter, MS

This is a story about one man's struggle with darkness, sadness and defeat. His story is told in the Gospels of the Bible in Matthew, Mark and Luke. This man, who suffered because of evilness that was controlling his mind and body. He fought through seasons of cutting, hallucinations, and isolation. His name was Legion. How can we bring peace and understanding in the midst of the storms in the lives of our children and their family.

Kicole S. Hunter earned a Bachelor of Social Work degree from Edinboro University and a Master's degree in Community Counseling from Gannon University. She is currently preparing to take the licensing exam for Licensure in Professional Counseling (LPC). Kicole Hunter is a recent graduate of the National Congress of Christian Education Sunday School Superintendents and is the Adult Superintendent of Morning Star Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor D.F Hunter.

Kicole has 18-20 years of experience working in the Mental and Behavioral Health, and Drug and Alcohol. Kicole has worked in various positions from a Mental Health Therapist to CEO. Kicole has experience managing the daily operations of inpatient and outpatient programs with at risk youth and adults who struggle with drug and alcohol addictions, developmental, mental and behavioral health, and juvenile sexual offenders. Kicole has a strong interest in working with victims of trauma.

When she is not working or thinking about going into work, she enjoys writing spiritual testimonies via Facebook, and writing articles for the Praying Woman.

Kicole's favorite scripture is referenced in Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," says the LORD. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope".



Kicole Hunter, MS

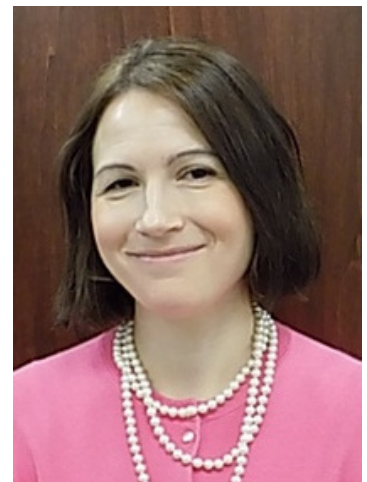
"How Working with YA Can Support Student Resilience"

Sarah Whitney, PhD

This presentation illustrates how DEI professionals can benefit from incorporating young adult literature (YA) in risk reduction and sexual violence education prevention programs and curricula.

SVYA (sexual violence young adult) novels turn readers into upstanders. Through their pages, readers learn to reject rape-supportive scripts, evaluate ethical decisions, and establish communities where each citizen's personal dignity is respected. SVYA works also address intersectional principles of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and sample texts with connections will serve as our examples.

Sarah Whitney, PhD, works as Director of Academic Affairs & Associate Teaching Professor of English at Penn State Behrend. She is currently at work on her second book, about incorporating young adult (YA) literature into lifelong learning curricula about sexual violence prevention. She also enjoys being a volunteer tutor in English language learning for New Americans.



Sarah Whitney, PhD



Reclaiming (s)pace

Sheila Lorenzo de la Peña, PhD and Katherine DeGaetani

Making space for creative wellbeing practices that nourish us inside and out. Join us for conversation highlighting the daily practices we already do for nourishment of body and soul. We'll set time aside and intentionally doodle to give our minds a break. Particular art skills are not needed. For the activity please have a pen available, 3-5 business cards, and something to color with (markers or color pencils will be sufficient). We will be creating a pattern on the back of the business cards, you may choose to use a post-it note or a blank sheet of paper.

Sheila Lorenzo de la Peña, PhD, ATR-BC, ATCS, has 12+ years' experience with adults living with chronic mental illness in forensic settings. She presents nationally on a range of topics from mindfulness informed creative practices, creative self-care, online teaching and studio management, as well as a variety of visual expressive techniques (ie. creating upcycled mini books, eco-printing, process art, etc). She serves in the Accreditation Council for Art Therapy Education (ACATE), is an associate editor for Art Therapy, Journal of the American Art Therapy Association, and events co-chair with PAATA (Pennsylvania Art Therapy Association). Currently teaching undergraduate and graduate students in the Art Therapy program at PennWest University, Edinboro. Where she oversees a campus-based studio and its online counterpart in her pursuit of making creative expression more accessible. She provides post-graduate supervision when time allows and encourages creative engagement for clinical nourishment and processing. Identifying as an artist and avid gardener, she's often exploring media and techniques to inform clinical practices.



Sheila Lorenzo de la Peña, PhD

Katherine DeGaetani is a master's student in art therapy at PennWest University. As a graduate assistant at PennWest, she co-facilitates the school's virtual art programming and assists with faculty research. Her journey has found her working in recreational therapies in both inpatient and community settings; and teaching debate and civic engagement in prisons. Painting, photography, and game-playing function as both self-care and inspiration for her budding clinical practice.



Katherine DeGaetani

Empowering and Supporting Women in Leadership **Aly Eagle, PhD**

Learn more about the significant barriers women experience as they strive to climb the corporate ladder, how to empower future generations of women leaders, along with developing skills and tangible ways to support women who currently hold leadership roles.

Dr. Alyson Eagle is the Assistant Director of Employer Relations at Gannon University. During work hours, she aspires to work directly with Gannon students to connect them to their dream job and/or internship. Outside of work, Aly is committed to social injustice work by passionately advocating for equality rights, specifically surrounding women's rights and LGBTQ+ activism. She co-leads a Dream Weavers - Erie women's group focused on building community and supporting one another to achieve their goals and aspirations.

Aly received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Penn State Erie, The Behrend College. She is a proud Gannon alumna, who graduated from the Clinical Mental Health Counseling master's program in December 2015 and Organizational Learning and Leadership doctorate program in May 2023.



Alyson Eagle, PhD

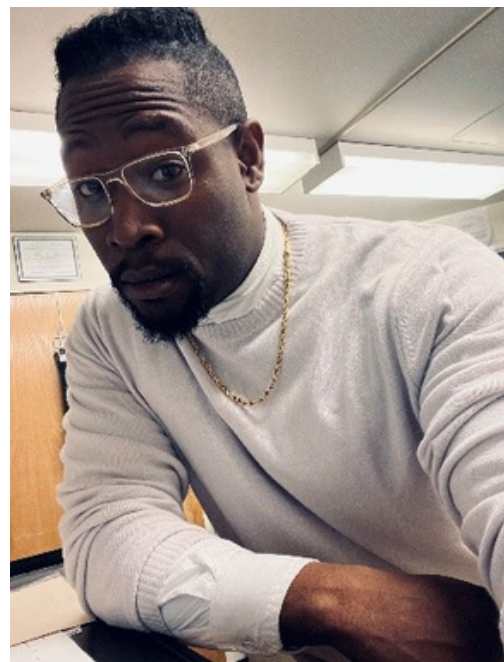
"Intercultural Emigration "

Anuti Ngangana, MS, NCC

As a member of the black and brown communities in the United States, Anuti has faced and overcame a number of adversities. Across his shared experiences of hardships, academic achievements, and professional developments throughout the mental health field, he has found inspirations, and motivations towards navigating through the field scope of Black & Brown Mental Health. Anuti will be sharing his story and collected knowledge of what it means to be an Intercultural Refugee and research collected throughout his personal, professional and academic life that helped in developing a tool for measuring the intercultural competencies of young people and professionals in the mental health field.

Originally born in Monrovia, Liberia, Anuti Ngangana and his family escaped from a violent civil war in the early 1990's, labeled as a refugee of war, now American citizen. Anuti's family was fortunate enough to find family and friends who supported and helped he and his family start a new and distant life in the United States.

Anuti is currently employed at Perseus House Inc. as the Program Director of The Boys Residential Treatment Facility in Erie Pennsylvania. Anuti has obtained his bachelor's degree in psychology, master's degree in clinical Mental Health Counseling, and is currently preparing for his doctoral defense later this Fall 2023 as a doctoral candidate.



Anuti Ngangana, MS, NCC

Panel: What is an Employer's Responsibility to DEI?

Adrienne Dixon, PhD, Mandy Fauble, PhD, Shari Gross, MA, Steve Minick, LPC, Nick Viglione, PhD, & Jaime Zewe, LPC

The focus on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives in the workplace became a mainstream topic in 2020. Three years later, the prevalence of DEI discussions in the zeitgeist have faded, yet many issues remain. In this session, you'll hear from leaders from local behavioral health agencies including Sarah Reed Children's Center, UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor, Harborcreek Youth Services, Family Services of NW PA, the VA, and Perseus House, on the importance of DEI in the workplace and what responsibility employers have to foster this culture.

Adrienne Dixon is the CEO/President of Sarah A Reed Children's Center and is on faculty in at PennWest University in the counseling program. Adrienne holds a master's degree in counseling, a Post Masters Certificate in Marital and Family Therapy and a PhD in Counseling Psychology.

Adrienne has over 35 years of clinical experience as a professional counselor, educator, and administrator. Her area of focus has been with children and families and includes setting such as inpatient, residential treatment, drug & alcohol, and outpatient services. Additionally, she conducts professional training and workshops for organizations in the areas of Diversity, Organizational Competence, Clinical Interventions, Trauma Informed Care, Strengths Based Assessment, and Supervision.

Adrienne research interests and consultative services include Behavior Health Care, Cultural Competence and Multiculturalism. Her literary contributions include a book chapter in, Culturally Competent Practices with Children and Youth who have Serious Emotional Disturbance, a treatment manual for cultural competence, numerous articles, professional presentations, and collaborative manuscripts.



Adrienne Dixon, PhD

As the president and CEO of one Erie's largest provider of mental and behavioral health services, Dr. Dixon is dedicated improving the mental health and well-being for all people, especially for children and families. She is also committed to promoting diversity, inclusion, and health equity and creating transformative systemic and structural changes that foster real change. This vision offers the promise of hope, well-being, and equity in these difficult times.

Mandy Fauble, PhD, LCSW, is Director of Clinical Care Services at UPMC Western Behavioral Health at Safe Harbor. She also provides administrative oversight to UPMC Jameson partial hospitalization and UPMC Chautauqua ambulatory behavioral health. She has been with Safe Harbor since 2002. Dr. Fauble completed her PhD at Case Western Reserve University in 2009, where her research focused on how maternal experiences of child maltreatment negatively impacts children's mental health outcomes.

Dr. Fauble's clinical interests include serious mental illness, substance use disorder and families, trauma, and crisis intervention. She serves as Project Director for three HRSA grants awarded to the Hamot Health Foundation and is a behavioral health scientist on a CDC grant for suicide prevention awarded to the University of Pittsburgh's Program Evaluation and Research Unit (PERU), in addition to prior grant activities.



Mandy Fauble, PhD, LCSW

She has been an assistant professor at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania (Penn West) since 2012, and an adjunct faculty member at Mercyhurst University from 2005-2023. She is a certified trainer of Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) and Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR). Dr. Fauble is currently a board member of the the Erie Coalition for a Trauma Informed Community, where she co-chairs the executive committee, Sarah Reed Children's Center, and the LGBT funds advisory board at the Erie Community Foundation, where she chairs the grants committee. Dr. Fauble recently completed a term as a board member of the Rehabilitation and Community Providers Association of PA (RCPA). Dr. Fauble was one of 2016's Mercy Center for Women's 12 Women Making History, and the 2016 cohort representative for the 2020 celebration.



Shari Gross, MA

Shari Gross is currently the Director of Finance and Treatment Services at Harborcreek Youth Services in Erie Pennsylvania. She earned a Master's Degree in Clinical Psychology at PennWest Edinboro University and worked extensively in the social service arena in community as well as hospital settings. She served as the Director of the Erie County Department of Human Services from 2010 to 2014, and also as a consultant to human services non-profit and governmental organizations. She is the longstanding President of the Erie Food Cooperative Board of Directors. She is a singer/songwriter, a writer of adult fiction, and pursues her interest in ancient architecture and culture through study and travel.



Steve Minick, LPC

Steve Minick is Vice President of Programs at Family Services of NW PA. He is a Licensed Professional Counselor who has spent thirty plus years in the mental health, substance abuse and human services field. He is a founding partner and former co-chair in the Erie Coalition for a Trauma Informed Community (ECTIC) and is a member of the Core Implementation Team at Family Services of NW PA to support a more trauma-informed/healing-centered agency.

Dr. Nick M. Viglione is currently the CEO of both Perseus House, Inc. (PHI) and Perseus House Charter School of Excellence (CSE) located in Erie PA. PHI is a 501c3 non-profit that provides award winning residential and education services to adolescents who are delinquent and/or dependent or experiencing barriers in their school system that warrant alternative services. CSE provides educational services to students that are 2-3 years below grade level. Nick is a national trainer for Education and Treatment Alternatives, providing evidence-based prevention/intervention models to school districts, residential programs, probation departments, prisons and mental health facilities across the Country. He is also a national trainer for the Life Space Crisis Intervention Institute, which has an international training consortium providing best practice intervention strategies to pinpoint and respond to youngsters in crisis. He has taught as an Adjunct faculty at Gannon University and is currently a member of local, county and state advisory committees. He is a published author and recipient of the 2006 Arnold Goldstein Humanitarian Award. His career has involved residential, community, home, and school settings. He received his B.S. in Psychology, M.S. in Counseling Psychology, and his Doctoral degree in Education Leadership. Nick's educational certifications include Guidance Counselor, Secondary Principal, Administration, and holds a Letter of Eligibility for Superintendent.



Nick Viglione, PhD



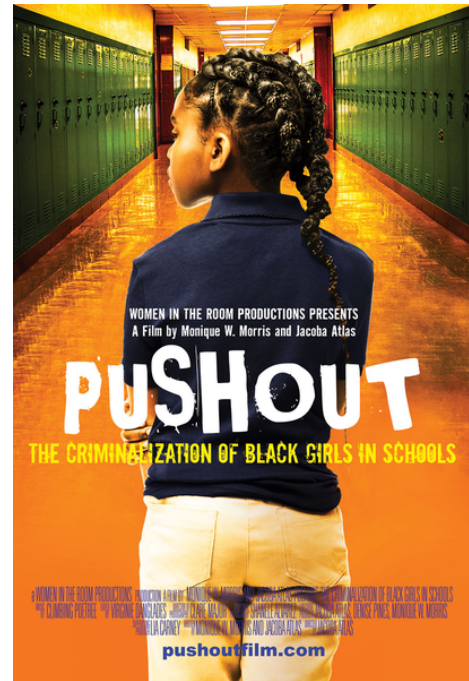
Jamie Zewe is the Chief of Behavioral Health at the Erie Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Prior to becoming the first officially designated Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) mental health chief in the VA system in 2018, she served as the Assistant Chief for 10 years, and a therapist for five. As the Chief for the clinic, she has ultimate responsibility for programming, staffing, quality assurance, policy development, and accreditation for the outpatient and residential services that employ over 100 staff members. She received a B.A. in Psychology from Penn State Behrend in 2003, an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Edinboro in 2003 and another M.A. from Edinboro's Clinical Mental Health Counseling program in 2016. She serves as the Northeastern Consortium leader for Licensed Professional Counselors in the VA system and serves on a national workgroup that serves to increase advocacy, mentoring, and support to LPCs within the VA. Her advocacy efforts extend beyond employment and she is an active member of Free Mom Hugs' local chapter which serves to provide support to LGBTQIA+ youths and adults who lack familial support and acceptance.

Jamie Zewe, LPC



Film Screening "Push Out: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools"

PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS is a feature length documentary that takes a deep dive into the lives of Black girls and the practices, cultural beliefs and policies that disrupts one of the most important factors in girls' lives – education.



Panel Discussion

Maurice Clarke, LPC, Ken Nickson, M.Ed., Nicole Platz, MS, and Chandra Slocum, M.Ed.

Facilitated by: Adrienne Dixon, PhD

Following the screening of **PUSHOUT: THE CRIMINALIZATION OF BLACK GIRLS IN SCHOOLS**, join us for a panel discussion focusing on resources and partnerships in the Erie area focused on supporting our youth.



Maurice Clarke, LPC

Maurice Clarke, currently possesses an Associates of Arts in Legal Studies, a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, with minors in juvenile justices, corrections, and forensic investigations, and a Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling. Maurice is currently employed as a Licensed Professional Mental Health SUD Counselor at the Erie VA's Medical Center Behavioral Health department. Maurice is a Nationally Certified Counselor, and a Licensed Professional Counselor, for the State of Pennsylvania. Maurice has twelve years of experience working with adults, adolescents, and children in a variety of settings. Maurice works with adolescents and adults. He is skilled at working with individuals, couples, and families and is trained to work with most areas of clinical disorder. Clinically, he employs a faith-based approach using Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. Maurice currently specializes in Drug and alcohol Counseling, Issues related to Incarceration, Trauma and PTSD, Relationship Issues, Anger Management, Faith-Based Counseling, and Emotional Impulse Control issues.

Born and raised in Erie, PA, Ken Nickson, Jr. is a 1996 graduate of Central High School. He graduated from Clarion University of PA, in May 2002 with a Bachelor of Science in Education, specializing in Elementary/Special Education. He earned his Master's in Educational Leadership in 2006 from Gannon University and currently holds a Principal Certificate and a Superintendent Letter of Eligibility. His professional career began in Pittsburgh, during the final semester of student teaching for Clarion, when he was hired as an Emotional Support teacher and given his own classroom in Pittsburgh's Public Schools. It was there that Ken began to fuse his formal education with his life experiences to impart knowledge and impact the lives of the 10 middle school aged boys under his tutelage. Since then, Ken has worked his 20-year career with Erie's Public Schools in various roles including his current role as Coordinator of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion always holding the education and empowerment of the student as an integral priority. Ken is married to his high school sweetheart Tica, a Birth Doula and Lactation Consultant, who currently works as the Director of Prevention for Emma's Footprints, and Founder of Birthroot Community Doula Alliance. Together they have 4 kids, all of which are student athletes who attend Erie's Public Schools. Ken also has a son who lives in Columbus, Georgia who is recent graduate from that area's public school district.



Ken Nickson, Jr, M.Ed.

Ken and his family attend Believers International Worship Center. He is a man of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated. When away from work, his time is spent coaching and watching his kids play sports. He enjoys date nights with his wife, and sneaking in some racquetball, biking, and fishing in the numerous waterways in his beloved hometown.



Nicole Platz, MS

Nicole Platz, MS is the Chief Community Impact Officer at the Achievement Center of LECOM Health. She is a family therapist by trade, but now strives to have a larger systemic impact on the Erie region through her work as an Executive Committee member and Coordinator of the Erie Coalition for Trauma Informed Community (ECTIC). Nicole's work focuses on educating the community on the impact and prevalence of trauma, as well as ways to support the mental health needs of students K -12.

Chandra Slocum was born and raised in Erie, Pennsylvania where she was a proud member of the first graduating class of Northwest Pennsylvania Collegiate Academy. After graduation, Chanda attended Slippery Rock University where she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education. In 2005, Chandra returned to the Erie area and accepted a position as a sixth-grade teacher with Erie's Public Schools. By 2010, Mrs. Slocum had completed a master's degree in educational leadership from Edinboro University. A few months after graduating, Chandra accepted a new position as a middle school assistant principal where she remained until 2019.



Chandra Slocum, M.Ed.

Mrs. Slocum has always been passionate about removing the barriers that prevent students from learning so, in 2019, she moved into her current position, Supervisor of Alternative Programming for Erie's Public Schools. In this role, she also coordinates the district's homeless program and serves as the district's foster care point of contact. As service to the community is important to Chandra, she has been a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. since 2003. She currently serves as the corresponding secretary for the local chapter. In her free time, Chandra's most important role is being a mother to her eight year old son, Mich, and a wife to her husband, Aaron.



Thank you to our Partners who helped make this year's summit possible.



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