

Application for Conversations about Diversity and Belonging – Winter 2021

Missouri NEA offers these FREE trainings with the goal of creating a cadre of trained discussion leaders. We encourage you to find a partner to participate in this training so you can lead discussions together. See session description on second page. Email completed application by midnight Jan. 23, 2022, to Laurie.Bernskoetter@mnea.org. This opportunity is exclusively for MNEA members.

First and Last Name _____ MNEA Member? _____

Home Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Cell Phone _____ Personal Email _____

School email _____ What is your race and/or ethnicity? _____

School District or College _____

What are your preferred gender pronouns? _____ He/him/his _____ She/her/hers _____ They/them/theirs

What is your role? ___Teacher ___Administrator ___Paraprofessional ___Counselor ___Other: _____

What is your grade level(s) and subject(s)? _____

First year employed as an educator: _____

Introduction to Conversations about Diversity and Belonging: Tues., Jan. 18, 2022, 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Register at www.mnea.org/Belonging. Registration is limited to (30) people.

Conversations about Diversity and Belonging - Applications close at midnight on Sun., Jan. 23, 2022.
Participants have the option of one graduate credit hour for \$80 from Baker University.
Six sessions - All sessions to be held on Tuesdays from 6:30-9:00 p.m.
Dates: Feb. 8, Feb. 22, Mar. 8, Mar. 29, April 12, and April 26.

_____ Initial to confirm commitment to attend all Tuesday sessions and complete the assignments.

_____ Initial to confirm commitment to organize and implement at least one conversation in your workplace or community, applying the discussion/reflection skills you have learned and practiced.

MNEA/Local NEA association roles you have served in - please list below.

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District/School/College Committee experience:

_____ Professional Development Committee _____ School Leadership Committee
_____ Other - please list:

Are you interested in leading future 1-to-2.5-hour presentations of *Introduction to Conversations about Diversity and Belonging* in your area? (MNEA will provide additional training) _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, attending the six-session training program is required.

If yes, please list any previous experience presenting OR why you would be a good presenter.

Why do you want to participate in the Conversations about Diversity and Belonging sessions?

Session description:

Conversations about Diversity and Belonging: Re-Centering Empathy & Equity is a six-session facilitated and interactive virtual program that provides a foundation for initiating and engaging in relational conversations about race, otherness, equity, and belonging in various settings: home, work, and community. This program uses timely open-source materials that provide access to key racial literacy perspectives and a selection of literary works by authors of color to frame conversations about diversity and belonging. Re-centering Empathy and Equity builds a peer cohort through conversation, stories, racial literacy, critical thinking, and the practice of reflective and dialectic skills that support leading small group discussions on race and belonging. Registrants are expected to attend the full program and to commit to organizing and implementing at least one conversation in their workplace or community, applying the discussion/reflection skills they have learned and practiced.

Facilitators: Michele Chang and Margery Doss

Michele Chang holds a Master of Public Health from Emory University. Since 2016, she has served as a facilitator for conversations on diversity in community settings. Chang continues to train groups to be facilitators of group discussions on diversity and has designed and co-taught high school programs on diversity and equity. Since 2019, Chang co-facilitates programs on diversity and equity specifically designed for educators.

Margery Doss, NBCT, completed this training in 2021. Doss led diversity initiatives in her school building and served in various leadership roles with Special School District NEA. Doss recently became a certified yoga instructor.

Co-Designers: Palma Joy Strand and Michele Chang

Palma Joy Strand is currently a Professor of Law (full tenured professor) in the Negotiation and Conflict Resolution Program at Creighton University. Since 2017 she has also been teaching virtually. In 2004, Strand began facilitating conversations about diversity and belonging, both in the context of classes taught through several universities and as stand-alone programs. She continues this work today.

Missouri National Education Association / www.mnea.org / 800.392.0236

