

1st Annual ASPEC Department Conference



ASPEC: Multidisciplinary Collaborative Problem-Solving

Virtual Conference
October 14, 2023
10:00am – 4:00pm Pacific



ASPEC Conference 2023

Thank you for joining the Applied Behavior Analysis, School Psychology, and Educational Counseling (ASPEC) Department for a day of interactive and collaborative presentations. The 2023 ASPEC conference will bring together the ASPEC community to reflect, celebrate, inspire, and present innovative research through professional collaborations. We will honor each program's separate philosophies while appreciating commonalities. The conference will commit to bringing our diverse voices together to shape the future of collaborative practices in the ASPEC fields. The theme for this year's conference is - ASPEC: Multidisciplinary Collaborative Problem-Solving.

Keynote Speaker - Dr. Kim Levey

Dr. Kim Levey serves as the Associate Dean, Academic Affairs in the Sanford College of Education at National University, a private non-profit institution in San Diego, California. Kim previously served as the Associate Vice President, Curriculum & Educational Effectiveness. With a passion for education in all its forms, her career and research are focused on developing future educators and administrators, assessment of and for learning, strategic planning, education policy, and organizational dynamics and change. Kim also is an adjunct faculty member at National University where she teaches and develops curriculum in both doctoral and masters programs. She has presented at the national Council on the Accreditation of Educator Preparation Conference and the WASC Senior College and Accrediting Commission Academic Resource Conference, International Academic Conference of Exploring Leadership and Learning Theories in Asia Conference, and the Association for the Society of Cuban Economy Conference. Kim currently serves as the Board of Directors President for Banding Together, a non-profit organization providing music therapy services to people with special needs. Prior to joining academia, she worked in the non-profit, advertising, and financial services industries. Kim holds a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from California State University, Fullerton, a Master of Public Administration from National University, and an Ed.D. in Organizational Leadership from Pepperdine University. Kim lives in San Diego, California and enjoys athletic activities of any kind including volleyball, hiking, and tennis. She also enjoys international travel, reading, watching documentaries, trying new restaurants, and playing sports with her niece and nephew. Kim can be reached on [LinkedIn](#) or by email at klevey@nu.edu.

ASPEC Conference Committee

Dr. Tricia Crosby-Cooper

Dr. Trube Miller

Oscar Silva

Monica Seechan

Schedule

10:00am – 11:00am

Welcome and Introductions
Keynote Speaker – Dr. Kim Levey

11:00am – 11:30am

Educators' Moral Orientation and Their Commitment to Core Professional Values in Practice: Opportunities for Collaborative Practices in Schools
Dr. Linda Cummins & Dr. Laurie Wellner

11:35am – 12:05pm

Proactive Collaboration to Support Student Success
Dr. Faheema Abdool-Ghany & Oscar Silva

12:10pm – 12:40pm

Interprofessional Collaboration: On-site Mental Health Counselors and Teachers
Brandon Hutson, M.Ed.

12:40pm – 1:40pm

Lunch Break

1:45pm – 2:15pm

Cases on Current Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities in School Counseling
Dr. Mark Nguyen, Dr. Trube Miller, Dr. Sladjana Rakich, & Oscar Silva

2:20pm – 2:50pm

The BEST! Classroom Behavior Continuum Scale Report for Educators
Dr. Sharlyn Crump

3:00pm – 4:00pm

Closing Remarks & Socializing

Speaker Index

Dr. Faheema Abdool-Ghany is a certified special education teacher and a licensed behavior analyst, allowing her to provide direct services to children and their families. Her teaching focuses on ABA and provides hands-on training in the field to help students understand its applications. Throughout her career, Dr. Abdool-Ghany has been dedicated to helping children and educating the next generation of professionals.

Dr. Tricia Crosby-Cooper is a Professor in the Applied Behavior Analysis, School Psychology, and Educational Counseling (ASPEC) Department at National University. Dr. Crosby-Cooper is the regional faculty lead for San Diego and has been a credentialed school psychologist for over 20 years working with various urban and suburban populations. Dr. Crosby-Cooper is also a Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP). Her most recent publication is titled *Implementing Culturally Responsive Practices in Education*. Dr. Crosby-Cooper received her PhD at UC Riverside, her Masters at UMASS-Amherst, and Bachelor of Arts at Spelman College.

Dr. Sharlyn Crump is an Associate Professor for the MSABA Program at National University. Dr. Crump is the CEO and founder of International ABA Institute LLC (IABAI) and The BEST ABA Program. Dr. Crump has over 30 years of extensive training and research in the behavior change process. A graduate of Pepperdine University and a Board-certified behavior analyst, Dr. Crump has trained thousands of behavior-change agents and classroom educators. Dr. Crump is an Associate Professor, and has been an Academic Program Director, and ABAI/VCS (credentialing) Coordinator and Subject Matter Expert. In addition, Dr. Crump is a key stakeholder with the support and launching of the first HBCU ABA MSABA program. Dr. Crump has served on numerous Advisory Committees and organizations to facilitate cultural humility and relationship building during the behavior change process. Through this work, she has been honored and awarded accolades as a Leader in the ABA, Autism, and IDD communities and has been honored in Who's Who as a Leader in Education. Through her international research, she established the International ABA Institute LLC to meet the global need for well-trained behavior practitioners world-wide.

Dr. Linda Cummins earned her MSW and Ph.D. from The Ohio State University and has worked as a social work and education researcher, policy practitioner, and educator for 30 years. She is a full professor at National University in the ASPEC department, teaching doctoral research courses in the 1:1 program and chairing dissertation committees. She is co-author of two books, *Social Work Skills for Beginning Direct Practice* (4th ed.) (2017), and *Policy Practice for Social Workers: An Ethic of Care Approach* (2nd ed.) (2023).

Brandon Hutson is a doctoral student at NU in Educational Leadership through School of Education. Brandon Hutson has been an educator for 15 years. He is beginning his fifth year as an assistant principal in South Carolina. Brandon will have completed his doctoral program in November 2023.

Dr. Trube Miller is an Assistant Professor in the Master of Science ABA Program at National University.

Dr. Mark Nguyen, Ed.D., is an Assistant Professor in the School Psychology program at National University. Dr. Nguyen received an Ed.D. in Educational Leadership, with concentration in K-12 Urban Leadership from the University of Southern California in 2009. He is also a National University Alumni, earning his M.S. degree in School Psychology in 2002. He

received his B.S. in Child Adolescent Studies with a Minor in Sociology from California State University, Fullerton in 2000. He holds a Pupil Personnel Service Credential in School Psychology and an Administrative credential. He is dedicated and passionate about education, where he has spent the past 20 years holding various educational positions. Dr. Nguyen started off as a School Psychologist, Assistant Principal, High School Principal (first Vietnamese principal in California at the HS level), district and county Director of Special Education, Educational Consultant, Adjunct Professor prior to becoming an Assistant Professor. Dr. Nguyen is the regional faculty lead for Fresno and the Student Success Mentor for the School Psychology program. He has worked at National University since 2009.

Dr. Sladjana Sandy Rakich is an Associate Professor in the Educational Counseling department at National University. Dr. Rakich received a Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate University. She has over two decades of experience in Pk-12 education as a teacher, school counselor, and administrator. Dr. Rakich's recent publications include an edited research volume: "Cases on Current Issues, Challenges, and Opportunities in School Counseling" (2023).

Oscar Silva is affiliated as Faculty for the Master of Science ABA Program at National University. As the Student Success Lead Faculty, Oscar works with students and instructors using culturally sensitive and collaborative approaches to develop individualized learner support plans to foster positive learning outcomes. Oscar is passionate about disseminating and making Applied Behavior Analysis accessible to all learners, practitioner retention, and creating learning opportunities for practitioners working to obtain a BACB certification. Oscar also provides ongoing coaching and mentorship to Registered Behavior Technicians and Behavior Practitioners in the clinical setting. Oscar has worked with learners across the Neurodivergent Community for over ten years. Oscar leads cohorts of students working towards their BACB certification as an instructor. He has also developed courses under the fifth edition of the task list and is working on his Doctorate at National University.

Dr. Laurie Wellner is a Deputy Chair in the Graduate School of Education at Touro University, New York. She serves as an Adjunct Faculty member at National University chairing dissertations. Dr. Wellner has served as an educational leader for 30 years specializing in issues regarding organizational leadership, faculty development, course design, program development, special education, and the successful communication and collaboration with stakeholders for the improvement of the educational process. Dr. Wellner is the author of several articles and book chapters, a meta-analysis of the literature in the area of trust theory, a curriculum guide for Applied Behavior Analysis, as well as other writing, leadership, conferences, and research projects. She regularly chairs dissertation research at the doctoral level. She is a passionate advocate for the success of all.

If you have any questions or concerns during the virtual conference, please contact Monica Seechan at mseechan@nu.edu.

