10th Annual Cultural Conference
Engaging Diverse Populations

Friday, November 8th, 2013

Presenters’ Biographical Information

Morning Keynote Presenters:


Nydia Garcia Preto, LCSW is the Associate Director of the Multicultural Family Institute. She is a nationally known teacher, presenter, and family therapist. Co-editor of Ethnicity & Family Therapy (3rd ed., 2005) & The Expanded Family Life Cycle (4th ed. 2011), and many publications on working with Latinos and their families and adolescents and their families. Private Practice, Highland Park, NJ. Formerly: Co-Director, Cultural Competence Training Center for Central NJ. & Dir. Of Adolescent Day Program at UMDNJ, Piscataway, NJ. Has served on Boards of several professional organizations and received awards for her work in promoting social justice in the field of family therapy. Her MSW is from Rutgers University.

Afternoon Keynote Presenter:

Mykee Fowlin, PsyD, better known as Mykee, is no stranger to the stage. He has been formally acting since age 11, but started creating voices (via prank calling) at age 9. In addition to his talents on stage, he has an undergraduate degree in psychology from Evangel University, in Springfield, Missouri, and in the fall of 2001, he attained a doctorate degree in clinical psychology from Rutgers University, GSAPP. Oddly enough, he suffers from delusions of grandeur, for, while performing, he is convinced that every audience member is his patient. His programs combine both his professional acting talents and his psychological training. His mission is to create an atmosphere of worldwide inclusion, not just tolerance, towards all people. He has worked extensively with all age groups in the United States and in other countries. His work has included peer mediation, diversity trainings, gender equity workshops, and violence prevention seminars. He hopes that all audience members will leave his performance with that wonderful, awakening feeling of beauty: the beauty within one’s self and the beauty within others; the celebration of our differences, and the acceptance of our shared experiences.
Workshop Presenters:

Debra Chatman Finley, LPC, is a therapist in private practice in Somerville, where she provides therapy for individuals, adolescents, couples and families. In addition, Debra co-facilitates a bi-weekly support group for Women of Color. She is a licensed Professional Counselor and is also National Board Certified Counselor. Debra is certified in domestic violence, child maltreatment and trauma, and is trained to use EMDR. She earned her Bachelors degree in Psychology from Seton Hall University and her Master’s degree in Counseling Psychology from the College of Saint Elizabeth. Debra is also a graduate and former Associate Faculty of the Multicultural Family Institute.

Reverend Patty Fox is keenly aware of her blessings. She has a beautiful family, and she does the work she loves and to which she feels called. Patty is a licensed social worker, pastoral therapist, trainer and organizational consultant who has held management and direct service level positions in non-profit organizations serving low-income families, victims and survivors of abuse, as well as people living with HIV/AIDS. An ordained Presbyterian minister, she serves quarter time as an associate pastor at the Reformed Church of Highland Park and is thrilled to become the newest chaplain for Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry.

Karen Herrera, LCSW, MS, is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice in Maplewood NJ. She provides therapy for individuals, couples and families as well as supervision for clinicians. Karen earned her bachelor’s degree from Hunter College in Dance and Psychology. She continued at Hunter and completed their Master’s level dual degree program, earning both an MS in Dance Therapy and an MSW in Social Work. Karen’s postgraduate training includes The Women’s Therapy Centre Institute and The Multicultural Family Institute. Additionally, she is trained in, and incorporates Emotionally Focused Therapy into her practice. Karen’s special interest is working with mixed race individuals and inter-racial couples.

Lucinda Holt, M.A., is director of communications at Answer, part of the Rutgers’ Center for Applied Psychology that provides and promotes comprehensive sexuality education for young people and the adults who teach them. She developed and is implementing Answer’s communications plan, which is focused on using traditional and social media to expand Answer’s reach and increase its visibility. Lucinda oversees Answer’s media relationships and external communications, including all aspects of Sex, Etc., Answer’s national, award-winning print and online resource produced by Answer’s teen editorial staff. Ms. Holt has worked for Condé Nast Publications and youth organizations such as Prep for Prep and the Columbia University Liberty Partnership Program. She holds a Master of Arts in anthropology from Columbia University.
Michael LaSala, PhD, LCSW is director of the MSW program and associate professor at the School of Social Work at Rutgers University. He has been a practicing psychotherapist and teacher/trainer for 30 years and his research and clinical interests are the couple and family relationships of gay men and lesbians. His current work examines parental influence on gay youth’s safe sex behaviors. Dr. LaSala’s book entitled: Coming out, coming home: Helping families adjust to a gay or lesbian child (Columbia University Press) describes the findings and practice implications of a National Institute of Mental Health study of 65 gay and lesbian youth and their families. Other examples of Dr. LaSala’s work can be found in Social Work, Family Process, the Journal of Marital and Family Therapy, Families in Society and the Journal of Lesbian and Gay Social Services and his blog for Psychology Today (http://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/gay-and-lesbian-well-being). Dr. LaSala is a much sought after speaker on gay and lesbian couple and family issues and has presented workshops, keynotes, and plenaries in Sweden, Canada, Finland, Estonia, Italy, and throughout the U.S. He continues to practice as a licensed clinical social worker in the state of New Jersey. Visit his website at: www.michaellasala.com

Gliceria Perez, MSW, LSW, is a psychiatric social worker at the Raritan Bay Mental Health Center in Perth Amboy, New Jersey where she works with individuals, groups and families of Latino descent. She is the lead clinician for the Families Fit Program at the Raritan Bay YMCA working with at-risk pre-teen and teens as well as their parents. Ms. Perez also co-facilitates a bi-monthly Women of Color Group in Somerville, New Jersey.

Frank Picone, LCSW, earned his Masters of Social Work from the School of Social Work at Rutgers University. Frank is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker as well as a certified School Social Worker. For the past 25 years, Frank has worked in a variety of settings and roles including in community mental health centers as a crisis screener and primary therapist, in a family service office as a family therapist and in residential settings serving severely emotionally disturbed youth as clinical and administrative director. For the past 15 years as Director of Frank Picone Seminars he has provided clinical and staff development consultation and training to mental health centers, residential treatment facilities and school systems throughout the country focusing on work with challenging youth. Frank is also an instructor for the School of Social Work at Rutgers University post graduate Family Institute. For more information please visit Frank’s website at www.positiveculturechange.com

Elizabeth Schroeder, EdD, MSW, is the Executive Director of Answer. She is an internationally recognized expert in the field of sexuality education and youth development who has trained thousands of youth-serving professionals, adolescents and parents around the world. She is frequently asked to comment on national sexuality education issues in the media and is one of the most sought-after keynote presenters at national and international conferences on sexuality education. Among Dr. Schroeder’s awards are the William R. Stayton Award in recognition of outstanding leadership in the field of human sexuality and the first-ever Carol Mendez Cassell Award for excellence in sexuality education. She is a co-founding editor of the American Journal of Sexuality Education and has written extensively about sexuality and relationship issues. Her most recent publication is the four-volume book series, Sexuality Education: Past, Present, and Future.
Nicci Spinazzola, Ed.S., LMFT, LPC, ACS, is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Professional Counselor and a NJ Disaster Response Crisis Counselor. She is currently the Clinical Director at the Richard Hall Community Mental Health Center of Somerset County. With over 30 years of experience working in the related fields of crisis intervention, trauma, grief and loss she has a practice specialty of working with at risk youth and their families. 

She provides consultation and training for local universities, school systems, social service and public safety agencies and supervision to clinicians seeking licensure or consultation. She has provided training for the certification of Disaster Response Crisis Counselors and Emergency Psychiatric Screeners.

She was appointed to the Governor's Task Force on Adolescent Suicide Prevention and has served as the Traumatic Loss Coalition Coordinator in Somerset County. She is on the Clinical and Professional Advisory Board of the Society for the Prevention of Teen Suicide (SPTSNJ.org) and maintains a Private Practice in Morristown, NJ.

Nate Terrell, LCSW, has twenty-five years of experience as a trainer and consultant through Organizational Growth, Inc. which he runs along with his wife, Dr. Anita Foeman. He has provided training on strategies to achieve cross-cultural competence and understanding, effective cross-cultural clinical work, working with men, building community, eliminating bullying in schools, conflict resolution and other related topics for a wide variety of nonprofit, corporate and educational organizations. The trainings he and his wife provide build on the wisdom they have gained as partners in a multi-racial family.

Nate Terrell also has a private practice in Mullica Hill, New Jersey where he provides individual, marital and family therapy.

Areas of specialty include families with children with special needs, cognitive therapy, mindfulness and how to develop self-compassion. Finally, he teaches interpersonal communication at Temple University where he is an adjunct professor.

Aileen Torres, PhD., is currently the Associate Director of Clinical Services at Youth Consultation Services (YCS) Institute for Infant and Preschool Mental Health and Past-President of the Latino Psychological Association of New Jersey (LPANJ). Dr. Torres represents LPANJ on New Jersey’s, Department of Children and Families, Advisory Group on Child Abuse and Neglect Mental Health Evaluation. She was formerly the Director of the Bilingual Integrative Trauma Treatment Program at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center.

Dr. Torres, a licensed clinical psychologist in NJ and Puerto Rico, is also in private practice in Montclair where she specializes in psychological testing assessments, mainly for immigration purposes. Most of these psychological immigration-related evaluations are related to torture, family separation, and domestic violence.

The Cultural Conference is cosponsored by:
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