

# 2022 MEA Conference for Aspiring and Early Career Educators

Saturday, March 19, 2022

9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A Virtual Offering



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings Aspiring and Early Career Educators!

Welcome to our annual conference that MEA has planned just for your needs. It has been a difficult couple of years and yet you have adapted to every challenge with grace and dedication to your students, your colleagues, and public education. Your resiliency in the face of so many personal and professional challenges is inspiring and reminds us of the importance of educators in the lives of students.

As much as this conference will support your professional growth and offer helpful tips for your work with students, it is also a time of healing for you. The cover art of this announcement includes an image of Kintsugi art. Kintsugi is the Japanese art of golden joinery or golden repair where lacquer mixed with precious metal is used to "repair" broken pottery. The result is a beautiful piece where value is added by highlighting the flaws or imperfections.

For me, it is a metaphor for public education especially during these challenging times. It reminds us that rather than lament damage, loss, or trauma, we need to focus on the beauty of resilience and the strength of our students, their families, and ourselves to rebuild stronger and more beautifully because of our challenges.

Our sessions will focus on topics such as implementing restorative practices in the classroom, utilizing student-centered classroom management strategies, and teaching students to practice mindfulness, among others. We want your needs to be met so we have a session on student loan forgiveness and will offer a session where you can learn from and ask questions of our MEA early career educator leaders known as MiNE - Michigan New Educators.

The pandemic has laid bare so many issues facing public education in Michigan. We know that you are leaders on your campuses and in your classrooms and welcome you to embark on a leadership journey with your union brothers and sisters in the Michigan Education Association. Together we can serve as the unwavering voice for school employees' rights, working conditions, and benefits; for best practices; for healthy neighborhood schools; and for social justice across our most vulnerable communities.

We hope that you find our conference uplifting and encouraging. We want you to take this time to connect and network with public educators from across the state. We have some fun surprises planned as our way of reminding you how important you are to your union family and your students.

Enjoy the 2022 Aspiring and Early Career Educators Conference. Thank you for everything you do for public education and students.



**Paula J. Herbart**  
MEA PRESIDENT



# 2022 MEA CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING AND EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS

Saturday, March 19, 2022 • 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

A Virtual Offering

*Giveaways  
at general  
sessions!*

## CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

The series platform will open five minutes in advance. Please log in during the time allotted between each event to check in to allow the sessions to start on time.

Platform Opens	Session Start Time	Session
8:55 a.m.	9 a.m.	Welcome & Introduction*
9:30 a.m.	9:35 a.m.	100 Series
	10:35 a.m.	Break
10:40 a.m.	10:45 a.m.	200 Series Sessions
	11:45 a.m.	Break
12:10 p.m.	12:15 p.m.	Keynote Speaker: Leah Porter, Michigan Teacher of the Year *
12:45 p.m.	12:50 p.m.	300 Series Sessions
1:50 p.m.	1:55 p.m.	Closing Remarks*

\*There will be gift giveaways at the indicated sessions. Members must register for the session and be present at time of giveaway to win.\*

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION

**Registration Deadline: March 1, 2022**

**Session enrollments are limited. Register early!**

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### REGISTRATION PROCESS

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Online registration only.

Click the button to register. If that direct link doesn't work on your device, you can:

1. Go to **www.mea.org/login** and log in (you can create your login credentials there or reset a lost password).
2. Scroll down to Register for Conferences and click to log in.
3. After logging in, click on Upcoming Events.

**PLEASE NOTE:** To use online registration, each member must sign into their MEA account so that the information is on their record. One MEA member cannot register another MEA member.

Please verify that your email address is correct in the system before registering. This is how you will receive a confirmation email to let you know that the registration was processed correctly.

Session availability will be in real time so there is no need to list/select a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choice when registering online (as you do when submitting a paper copy with payment). If the session is available to select as the member is registering, there are seats available in that session.

**IMPORTANT:** If you receive a message about any time overlap, you have registered for overlapping sessions and will need to remove one of the sessions before you can finalize the registration. The system is trying to help make sure your registration is complete/correct so no further action will be required on your part prior to the conference. Watch for a confirmation email. This will be your proof that the registration processed all the way through the system.

If you do not receive a confirmation email immediately following registering, please notify Taylor Mayville at **tmayville@mea.org** to confirm your registration was processed.

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### CONFIRMATION EMAIL

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A confirmation message will be sent to the email on file for the member. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please contact Taylor Mayville at **tmayville@mea.org**.

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### REGISTRATION FEES

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Due to the 2022 MEA Conference for Aspiring and Early Career Educators being a virtual offering, no fees will be charged to attend. However, you must be a member in good standing with the MEA and pre-register to participate.

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### REGISTRATION GUIDELINES

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- All persons attending all or any part of the conference must register.
- Plan to register early since some sessions have limited enrollment.
- If you find you can no longer participate in any/all of the virtual sessions, please be sure to cancel via email including your name and local unit or chapter. Please send email to **tmayville@mea.org**.

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### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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Contact Taylor Mayville at **tmayville@mea.org**.

# 2022 CONFERENCE FOR ASPIRING AND EARLY CAREER EDUCATORS

## STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS (SCECH)

TO PARTICIPATE: If you would like to participate in the State Continuing Education Clock Hours (SCECH) Program, please indicate that during the online registration process by selecting SCECH credit from the course selection. The sessions that are eligible for SCECH credit are listed below. .

**\*SCECHs are pending approval from the Michigan Department of Education.**

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## STATE CONTINUING EDUCATION CLOCK HOURS (SCECH) ELIGIBLE SESSIONS

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*If you have any questions about the SCECH program or what is required of you, please call 517-333-6262.*

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## 101 INCORPORATING MINDFULNESS

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There are news stories almost daily that discuss the negative toll stress takes on us. Our jobs are stressful. We have had our lives disrupted by a pandemic. Inflation may be causing financial concerns. Our students are not exempt from stress and are often less able to handle their emotions. Practicing mindfulness has been shown to improve physical and mental health. In this session, participants will engage in a brief mindfulness exercise and learn some techniques that can be implemented in the classroom to support the overall wellbeing of themselves and their students.

**Presenter:** Kurt Scholler, Creative Wellness

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## 102 STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

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Navigating student loans can be a daunting task. Mistakes can be costly and may make it impossible to take advantage of loan forgiveness programs. In this session, learn what loan forgiveness programs are available and what steps you need to take to qualify for them.

**Presenter:** Jon Toppen, MEA UniServ Director

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## 103 CONFLICT MANAGEMENT: RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

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*This session will be repeated in the 200 series.*

How do we create safe and joyous classrooms where ALL students thrive and are academically successful? The focus of this session is on the implementation of Restorative Practices in our schools to support student achievement. We see that over-reliance on punitive strategies like suspension or expulsion isn't working. The UCLA Civil Rights Project has found that schools with high suspension rates are less safe, less equitable, and have lower academic outcomes. In this session, we will discuss building positive relationships with our students and how positive relationship building is supported and maintained through the inclusion of Restorative Practices in our classrooms and buildings.

**Presenter:** Debra Cohn, Secondary teacher of Visual Art and Spanish World Language, Starkweather Academy, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

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## 104 WALKING THE WALK: HOW I LEARNED TO BACK UP MY WORDS WITH ACTIONS AND KEEP ALL STUDENTS SAFE

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Join 2020-2021 Michigan Teacher of the Year Owen Bondono as he discusses what it means to be an ally keeping all students safe in the classroom. Through storytelling and actionable suggestions, teachers will learn how they can back up their words and actually ensure that all students are safe in their classroom. He will help participants find the confidence to pursue equity and inclusion work even if others challenge the value of that work.

**Presenter:** Owen Bondono, Oak Park Public Schools

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## 201 EMBODIMENT: MEETING YOURSELF WHERE YOU ARE

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It is hard to meet a student where they are if we are not attuned to our own nervous system state, needs, and strategies of support. In this session, you'll learn to befriend your nervous system and learn concrete ways in which you can move toward a more meaningful and resilient experience, personally and professionally.

**Presenter:** Heather Vaughan-Southard, MAEIA Professional Learning Director

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## 202 LEVERAGING SUPPORT SYSTEMS

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This session will give you everything you ever needed to know about mental health support services in schools (at least everything you can get in one hour). You will learn about some of the mental health issues that you and/or your students may face; how, when, and from whom to get outside support; and other strategies to aid emotional health.

**Presenter:** Kim Twarowski, School Counselor, Utica Community Schools

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## 203 MONTESSORI FOR EVERYONE

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Maria Montessori believed that establishing peace is the work of education and advocated for a focus on social emotional development and a student-centered classroom. In this session, you will learn about Montessori teaching strategies that can be implemented in any classroom and will lead to student success. This session will be facilitated by a trained and seasoned public Montessori teacher currently teaching in an urban setting.

**Presenter:** Skye Kapinus Vaden, Lansing Public Schools

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## 204 CONFLICT MANAGEMENT: RESTORATIVE PRACTICES IN SCHOOLS

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*This is a repeat of session 103.*

How do we create safe and joyous classrooms where ALL students thrive and are academically successful? The focus of this session is on the implementation of Restorative Practices in our schools to support student achievement. We see that over-reliance on punitive strategies like suspension or expulsion isn't working. The UCLA Civil Rights Project has found that schools with high suspension rates are less safe, less equitable, and have lower academic outcomes. In this session, we will discuss building positive relationships with our students and how positive relationship building is supported and maintained through the inclusion of Restorative Practices in our classrooms and buildings.

**Presenter:** Debra Cohn, Secondary teacher of Visual Art and Spanish World Language, Starkweather Academy, Plymouth-Canton Community Schools

# KEYNOTE

PLATFORM OPENS 12:10 PM  
SESSIONS BEGIN 12:15 PM

## LEAH PORTER

### 2021-2022 Michigan Teacher of the Year

#### Teacher, Holt Public Schools

Leah Porter is a third grade teacher at Wilcox Elementary School and the 2021-2022 Michigan Teacher of the Year. Previous to this school year she has been a Kindergarten, Reading Recovery, and Intervention teacher in Holt Public Schools. Rooted in a passion for literacy and learning, she has stood as a leader and advocate for the youngest learners. With a drive for community outreach and support, she has developed and led an annual summer outreach program for historically underserved youth, providing enrichment and literacy experiences within the community. As leader of the Wilcox Elementary Student Council, she provides leadership and volunteer opportunities for 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade students in projects and fundraisers for the school and community at large that support local students and families. She has recently become a co-chair on the Student Committee of her district Equity and Access team, leading and supporting projects in mentorship, student leadership, and developing character and leadership curriculum which strives to provide equitable experiences for all students.



# 300 SERIES

PLATFORM OPENS 12:45 PM  
SESSIONS BEGIN 12:50 PM

## MINE - MICHIGAN NEW EDUCATORS PANEL DISCUSSION

MiNE Coordinators are teachers from across the state, across disciplines, across grade levels who are leaders working to create networking and professional learning opportunities for early career educators.

MiNE Coordinators: Jordan Baines, Troy Public Schools

Anthony Barnes, Kalamazoo Public Schools

Colin Campbell, Royal Oak Public Schools

Skye Kapinus Vaden, Lansing Public Schools

Brittney Tylenda, Monroe Public Schools

Jaycob Yang, Utica Community Schools

Join MiNE for a panel discussion focused on the traits and qualities that teachers must possess to support student emotional health and academic success. The pandemic has showcased the need for key educator traits of flexibility, adaptability, a love of learning, and a student-focus. Excellent teachers share the qualities of empathy, compassion, a suspension of bias, and a drive for self-improvement. The MiNE panel will share strategies for developing as leaders in and out of the classroom and will focus on effective techniques that help both educators and students survive and thrive during challenging times. Panelists will answer your questions.





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# #meaeducators



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**MiNE**  
MICHIGAN NEW EDUCATORS

**Michigan New Educators**

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## Michigan Education Association

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The mission of the MEA is to protect, advocate and advance the rights of all education professionals to promote quality public education for all students.