

## Breakout sessions added to Equity Conference scheduled for January 21



Nearly 30 breakout sessions have been added to the lineup of the second annual Equity Conference, scheduled virtually for January 21 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The conference will feature three breakout sessions throughout the day, each offering participants a choice of up to nine presentation options.

The sessions have been designed to engage participants in deeper conversations around equity challenges impeding student success and to encourage them to brainstorm practical solutions that empower all members of the educational community. Representatives from institutions addressing their own equity challenges will share their strategies, obstacles, and outcomes. The presentations look at addressing equity for all students, including those with mental health and other special needs, foster youth, English learners, and LGBTQ+ students. Additionally, presentations will focus on equity in all curricular areas. Also among the presentations is a special student panel and a school site practitioner's panel focusing on issues of equity during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference will feature two prominent keynote speakers, Dr. Jamila Lyiscott (below, left) and Father Greg Boyle (below, right). Opening the conference is Jamila Lyiscott, Ph.D., a community-engaged scholar, nationally renowned speaker, and spoken word artist. She serves as an assistant professor of Social Justice Education at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and a senior research fellow of Teachers College, Columbia University's Institute for Urban and Minority Education (IUME). Across these spaces, Dr. Lyiscott's work focuses on racial justice, community engagement, and youth activism in education through the lens of what she has termed, "Vision-Driven Justice."



Father Greg Boyle will close the conference. He is a Los Angeles native and Jesuit priest. From 1986 to 1992, Father Boyle served as pastor of Dolores Mission Church in Boyle Heights, then the poorest Catholic parish in Los Angeles with the highest concentration of gang activity in the city. Father Boyle witnessed the devastating impact of gang violence on his community during the so-called “decade of death” which began in the late 1980s and peaked at 1,000 gang-related killings in 1992. Father Boyle is the author of the 2010 *New York Times*-bestseller *Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion*. His latest book, *Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship*, was published in 2017.

### **Registration**

Educators, community members, and parents are encouraged to visit [tcoe.org/EquityConference](http://tcoe.org/EquityConference) for more information. The fee to attend for Tulare County residents is \$15 per person; those outside Tulare County may attend for \$25 per person.

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**TCOE's Dream Center to be featured in upcoming *Children First* special**



This week, ABC30 will premiere its latest *Children First* special, *Overcoming Obstacles*. The special is available now through a variety of streaming services and will air on the station at 6:30 p.m., Sunday, December 20. ABC30 anchor Jason Oliveira and meteorologist Madeline

Evans will host the program, which features local stories of resilient students and families during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The lead story includes an interview with Bree, a former Tulare County foster youth who was assisted by TCOE's Foster Youth Services (FYS). Bree is interviewed along with FYS Coordinator Beth Wilshire at the program's Dream Center in Visalia. The special also includes an interview with a College of the Sequoias student who plans to become a teacher. This young woman uses her creativity in the kitchen to expand her own charcuterie business, earning enough to pay for her tuition and help her family with expenses. Other stories include Educational Employees Credit Union's (EECU) financial education program called Wise Up, a segment about how the Creek Fire displaced students attending Sierra High School in Tollhouse, and a piece about a mother who found additional support for her child with autism through her local school district.



Tulare County Office of Education partners with ABC30, EECU, and Valley Children's Hospital to produce three *Children First* specials each year focusing on challenges and opportunities among youth in Central California. The program shows how the average person can make a difference in a child's life and highlights local organizations working with children. To see past episodes of *Children First*, visit [www.abc30.com/childrenfirst](http://www.abc30.com/childrenfirst).

*Photo above:*

*~ ABC30's Luis Ramentas and Aurora Diaz interview Bree, a former foster youth who was helped by TCOE's Foster Youth Services. The interview, held at TCOE's Dream Center, will be included in the station's latest Children First special, airing Sunday, December 20 at 6:30 p.m.*

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## Distance Learning Resources

- [Arts All Around Us](#)
- [TCOE Learning at Home](#)
- [TCOE's Educational Resource Services Library](#)

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Editor: [Robert Herman](#), Public Information Officer

Contributors: Marlene Moreno, Jennifer Fisher, Lorena White, and Brooke Killingsworth.

To receive *News Gallery Week*, visit [tcoe.org/GetTheGallery](http://tcoe.org/GetTheGallery), or contact Jennifer Fisher at [jenniferf@tcoe.org](mailto:jenniferf@tcoe.org) or (559) 733-6172.

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