



# Members of Color Empowerment Conference September 16-17, 2022

Hyatt Regency Princeton  
102 Carnegie Center, Princeton, NJ

Preregistration required by July 15, 2022

## Join us for the Inaugural conference of the MOC Network!

*During the pandemic, all arrangements are subject to change in response to public health directives*

### Workshop offerings (see descriptions on pg 2)

1. **MOC & breaking through NJ politics**
2. **You & UniServ: The Role of UniServ in Supporting MOC**
3. **It's ok to not be ok: Public School Mental Health Workshop – Teachers Edition**
4. **A-D-V-O-C-A-C-Y ... Find Out What It Means for You!**
5. **Mindfulness, Relationships and Community Build Resilience and Improve Mental Health**
6. **What are YOU going to do about it? Microaggression, Racism, Education, MOC leadership, & YOU!**
7. **Crying, "Wolf!" The Campaign Against Critical Race Theory in American Public Schools as an Expression of Contemporary White Grievance in an Era of Fake News**
8. **Social, Racial & Economic Justice: Why the Struggle Continues**

**REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 4 P.M. ON FRIDAY**

**Each workshop is 4.5 hours.**

Session 1 is Friday night; Sessions 2 & 3 are on Saturday.

*Due to safety concerns & lack of childcare provisions, no children are permitted*

- **NJEA MOC EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE**
- c/o WSFS, PO Box 13661, Philadelphia, PA 19101-3661
- Enclose a check payable to "NJEA/MOC".
- Preregistration required & accepted on a first-come basis.

*(Please print below)*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_\_

### Choose ONE rooming option below

- Double occupancy – \$240\* per person
- \*Must indicate roommate or pay for a single room.**

Roommate's Name \_\_\_\_\_

- Single occupancy \$310
- Commuter \$140

### SELECT ONE SEMINAR:

1
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SELECT TWO ALTERNATES:

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**1. MOC & breaking through NJ politics \***

**PRESENTER:** Eloy Delgado (Associate Director & Lobbyist for NJEA Government Relations)

New Jersey is the hardest state in our nation to break through politically. For those considered outsiders, the structures in place prevent individuals from having a voice and representation. There are no greater outsiders than people of color. Attendees will learn the basic power structures that exist in New Jersey, understand how to navigate the structures, and be provided with the tools to run for office.

**2. You & UniServ: The Role of UniServ in Supporting MOC \***

**PRESENTERS:** Desiree Brennan, Fatimah Hayes, Anna Waltman (NJEA Reg. 2 Field Reps.)

What does UniServ do? Do you know who your UniServ field rep is? What are the roles and responsibilities of field representatives? Learn how UniServ acts as the bridge to you and your county, NJEA and NEA and how to make sure that your local and county make space for MOC. What are the demographics of your associations: Exec Boards, Committee Chairs, ARs? Learn how UniServ can support MOC: Legal Assistance – grievances, affirmative action complaints, EEOC, and bargaining through a racial/social/economic justice lens.

**3. It's ok to not be ok: Public School Mental Health Workshop – Teachers Edition \***

**PRESENTER:** Jeremias Salinas (Consultant, NJEA UniServ Reg. 21)

Teaching is passion and the vast majority of us in the field actually love what we do, but we sometimes put our mental and emotional health aside so that we can continue to do the job. We have to take a moment to reflect on the realities we are facing and take care of our mental and emotional health to be able to perform in our professional and personal lives.

**4. A-D-V-O-C-A-C-Y ... Find Out What It Means for You! \***

**PRESENTER:** Sheila Caldwell (NJEA Member, Matawan-Aberdeen EA)

You feel you don't have the power to advocate for yourself and others, or participate in advocacy spaces? In this workshop you will discover the basic leadership and advocacy skills you already possess. In this workshop you will draw connections to situations that have systemically roots and how inequities and being "othered" might impact advocacy opportunities. Walk away with up to five strategies to employ your own advocacy skills, allies, organizations, including NJEA and NEA current advocacy initiatives, where you can start your grander advocacy. This workshop is for all attendees..

**5. Mindfulness, Relationships and Community Build Resilience and Improve Mental Health \***

**PRESENTER:** Amanda Adams (Associate Director for NJEA PDII)

Participants will explore how trauma impacts us and how the three core protective systems can help us heal and protect us from future harm. We will explore our collective gifts, learn some regulation techniques, talk about healthy relationships and how to create a community and connect to a larger community.

**6. What are YOU going to do about it? Microaggression, Education, Racism, MOC leadership, & YOU! \***

**PRESENTER:** Sundjata Sekou (NJEA Member, Irvington EA)

Has your competence at work ever been questioned? Have you ever felt that your contributions aren't acknowledged? Are you concerned that being assertive will be perceived as aggression? Years of racism and microaggression, which is indirect, subtle, or unintentional discrimination against members of color, have caused many of us to feel like second-class citizens in our school and, in too many cases, in our union. What are we going to do about it?

**7. Crying, "Wolf!" The Campaign Against Critical Race Theory (CRT) in American Public Schools as an Expression of Contemporary White Grievance in an Era of Fake News \***

**PRESENTER:** Dr. Keith E. Benson (President, Camden EA)

The recent fervor over critical race theory (CRT) in American public schools is the result of a confluence of contributing factors. We will briefly survey America's collapsing contemporary news media industry before discussing contextualizing white rage throughout American history. We will also discuss the modern conservative media machine pushing fake news highlighting the (nonexistent) issue of CRT in primarily suburban public schools as an exemplification of white rage to protect whiteness and its hegemony for political gain.

**8. Social, Racial & Economic Justice: Why the Struggle Continues\***

**PRESENTERS:** Naomi Johnson-Lafleur (NJEA Reg. 9 Field Rep), Adjua Lafleur (NJEA Member, Washington Twp EA[Glou]), Ayanna Lafleur (NJEA Member, Trenton EA)

The participants will gain a deeper understanding of our fight for justice by discussing specific examples of social, racial, and economic justice that exist today. The work of five current activists (Chris Smalls, Latosha Brown, Jesse Hagopian, Laverne Cox and Rev. William Barber) will be explored. Injustice is everywhere whether we see it or not. After attending this workshop participants will be more analytic within their spaces and consciously work towards promoting equity and justice.