

Welcome to our first fully virtual annual conference!

This past year has brought with it many obstacles and adjustments to our professional and personal lives. We have had to reimagine how to do the work that has been at the heart of WACAC's mission for more than 50 years: support and advance counseling and enrollment professionals from California and Nevada as they help all students realize their full potential. This conference is the capstone on a year that none of us will soon forget. And we are grateful so many of our members made time to volunteer or attend one of the many programs and events we offered this year.

Knowing this will be like no other Western conference, the committee has worked tirelessly to include those things that we value most: thoughtful and engaging sessions, an opening speaker who embodies our conference theme, *Voices for Access*, and presentation of the WACAC Awards at the membership meeting and closing session on May 20th! And of course, multiple opportunities to engage (SIG meetings), network (Wake Up with WACAC), and social activities (virtual drag trivia anyone?!).

The fun starts now with this conference-in-a-box. Welcome - we hope you'll have this at your side throughout the week. Thank you for making this event a part of your professional development in a year where I hope you will look back and remember fondly the work we accomplished together!

Sincerely,
Phil Moreno
2020-21 WACAC President

Check out the
conference schedule & find
all the info you need on our site:
try.revolutionprep.com/WACAC21

Renew your
WACAC
membership

July 1

thank you to our conference committee members:

Breanne Boyle, Co-Chair
Keith Sanpei, Co-Chair
Esperanza Bernal
Sarah Blank
Sebastian Brown
Megan Carlier

Myra Castro
Shiraz Chavan
Dr. Jocelyn Chavez
Nikki Chun
Lauren Cook
Jessica Greene

Noor Haddad
Marcel Hite
Stacy Kadesh
Deanna Kilgour
Allie Kvidera
Maggie Landeros

Annie Mills
Phil Moreno
Becky Motta
Alicia Ortega
Dr. Tacey Rodgers
Jenny Umhofer



Megan Red Shirt-Shaw

**WACAC 2021
Virtual Conference
Keynote Speaker**

Presented by the IDEA Committee

Download Megan's Policy and Practice Brief
to further understand the work we have to
do to go beyond land acknowledgements

bit.ly/WACACkeynote

As an educator, I see Native students struggle to surmount the odds against them in their own homelands at colleges and universities, and often it is emotionally challenging. As a Lakota person, I feel my own strength when I am "home" in the lands that were my ancestors, and no one can take that feeling away from me. It is the same for all Indigenous peoples and it is something that an empty land acknowledgement, without commitment to Native nations, fails to express. This is why returning institutional land to Native nations to rebuild futures is critical, and through models of success that already exist - why the move towards land-based reparations in the form of tuition assistance is possible. While tuition or financial assistance is not the sole solution- we know there are many other systems of change that have to happen for students to be successful. However, colleges and universities, especially those that benefited from the first Morrill Act of 1862, must acknowledge and represent the true history of dispossession as a form of rematriation, by giving stewardship back to Indigenous communities. What better way to do so, than by empowering its next generation of leaders to graduate debt free on their traditional homelands? Your rent is due, Higher Education.