



PROFESSIONAL SUMMER LEARNING COMMUNITIES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

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In today's world, a growing number of children are impacted by Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), leading to unique and diverse needs. The Special Populations PLC is a network of dedicated youth development professionals who serve young people from various special populations. This includes, but is not limited to, youth with physical, cognitive, or learning disabilities, those experiencing homelessness, illness, or bereavement, immigrants, LGBTQ+ youth, and children exposed to domestic violence or trauma.

The Special Populations PLC fosters a supportive community where professionals can connect, share resources, and address emerging trends in youth development. Through expert-led discussions, networking opportunities, and collaborative resource-sharing, the PLC empowers members to better serve their communities. Key topics explored include trauma-informed care, social-emotional learning (SEL), staff and volunteer support, vicarious trauma, and more.

Who Should Join this PLC?

If you work with youth who have unique needs due to ACEs, a diagnosis, or challenging life circumstances, this group is for you. Join a community that shares your passion for making a difference, while gaining access to the tools, resources, and connections that can enhance your impact.

Working collaboratively and compassionately, we are addressing key issues such as:

- Full-time year-round leadership staff self care
- Supporting staff and volunteers
- Recruitment
- Vicarious trauma
- Trauma informed care
- Social emotional learning and 21st century skills

PLEASE SAVE THE DATES!

- **Shifting the Paradigm: Creating Communities Where Everyone Belongs**
Speaker: Lisa Drennan, Founder of MERGE Inclusion.
Date: Wednesday, September 18, 1pm EST (60 min)
- **Engage and Enroll: Effective Marketing for Summer Programs**
Speaker: Dan Weir, Senior Consultant at Immersive 1st
Date: Tuesday, October 15, 11am EST (60 min)
- **Summer Learning Summit**
PLC Meeting (3 hours)
Educational Session: Monitoring DEIB – Recipes for Success
- **Weaving Literacy into Summer Programs**
Speaker: Elizabeth M. McChesney, Youth Services Consultant
Date: Tuesday, January 14, 1pm EST
- **Unlocking the Power of Sleep: Best Practices for Summer Programs**
Speaker: Dr. Lisa Meltzer, Owner of Nyxeos Consulting
Date: Wednesday, March 5, 11am EST

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