



MASTER OF ARTS IN COMMUNITY AND TEACHER LEADERS

MACTL News & Notes | Summer 2021

Dear MACTL Community,

We hope all of you and your loved ones are doing well and staying safe! With reduced rates of COVID, increases in vaccinations and face to face classes resuming in the fall, we eagerly anticipate our new normal! We hope that everyone emerges from this unprecedented time in our history more resilient and determined. Here is an update of exciting MACTL news!

MACTL 2021 Graduates: With the culmination of the Fourth MACTL Research Symposium, the MACTL cohort has fulfilled their requirements for graduation! The symposium was a great success and it highlighted the wonderful work of the graduates.

MACTL Alumni Honored with Prestigious NEIU Alumni Awards: Two of our MACTL alumni have been formally recognized by NEIU for their contributions to their communities. 2017 MACTL alumnus, Berhane Hailemichael, was awarded the highly respected Community Leadership Award. 2018 MACTL alumnus, David Robertson, was awarded the Outstanding Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) Alumni Award. David was also the speaker in NEIU Alumni All Access event on May 20, 2021.

MACTL sponsored events: MACTL faculty have created and sponsored very successful and well attended campus/community wide events including those that focus on wellness and on creating flourishing communities without prisons and policing.

MACTL and Chicago Teachers Union Partnership: Our partnership with the Chicago Teachers Union and MACTL is growing strong! Through this partnership, Chicago Public School (CPS) teachers enroll in the MACTL program and register for classes at reduced tuition. Please share the news with your CPS colleagues. If your school district would like to create a partnership with MACTL, please contact us.

On behalf of the MACTL program, we celebrate our graduates and look forward to hearing more from our alumni.

Sincerely,
The MACTL faculty

2021 MACTL
Graduates

Alumni Awards

Requesting
MACTL Alum
Speakers

Culturally
Relevant Teacher
Wellness Series

Prison+
Neighborhood
Arts/Education
Project



CONGRATULATIONS to our 2021 MACTL Graduates!!!



The MACTL faculty want to acknowledge the hard work of our MACTL students, who endured the challenges of remote learning, COVID, health concerns, employment instability and so much more. They are excellent examples of resilience, professionalism, and perseverance. We also thank those family and friends who supported and loved them throughout this journey. The MACTL community applauds the camaraderie, commitment, hard work, and accomplishments of our graduate students. We are so very proud of our graduates and welcome them into the MACTL graduate community. Below please find our graduates and their research projects.

1. Amanda Nieves
Evaluating the Impact of a Virtual Environmental Education Program on Elementary Students in Chicago
2. Courtney Keenan
Educational Equity in the Classroom: Promoting Transformative Social Emotional Learning
3. Elizabeth Lee
Creating an Aquaponics Farming Curriculum: Educating Teachers to Improve Food Security in Their Neighborhoods
4. Elizabeth Scheinkopf
Teaching Race and Racism in Social Studies: Examining Teacher Readiness
5. Gabe Salgado
Male Elementary School Teachers: Exploring the Factors of Influence
6. Gertjan Vriend
Building Critical Skills in a World of (Mis)Information
7. Keon McCottrell
Professionals' Beliefs and Comfort in Equitable Enforcement of Discipline
8. Robin Fisher
Transforming Middle School Curriculum: Engaging Students Through Multiculturalism and Art
9. Sammy Jo Hosler
Children's Recreation Habits: The Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak
10. Susana Luna
Women in School Leadership in Illinois: Gender Barriers and Challenges
11. Tyrone M. Sally
Understanding Cyberbullying

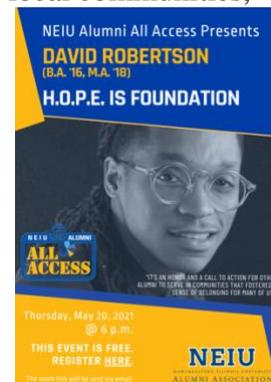
NEIU 2020 Outstanding GOLD Alumni Award



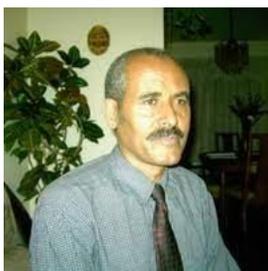
2018 MACTL alumnus, David Robertson, was awarded the prestigious Outstanding GOLD Alumni Award which recognizes the tremendous accomplishments of alumni who have achieved notable success quickly following graduation. Honorees offer inspiration and encouragement as models for principled leadership and a commitment to serving others.

David is a graduate student at Columbia University School of Social Work majoring in Clinical Social Work and minoring in Emerging Technology, Media and Society (EMS) and Advanced Certificate in Cooperation and Conflict Resolution. David is the Founder and Executive Director of the [H.O.P.E. Is Foundation](#), an organization that supports local communities, education organizations, by creating mobile technology mental health and SEL curriculum, research, products and programs for youth and young adults. David combines his wealth of knowledge about trauma-informed practices with contemporary methods like restorative practices and wellness writing to support organizations in creating shared experiences that foster belonging and connection. David has partnered with and consulted for University of Chicago, AmfAR, Berkeley City College, First 5 Alameda, Chicago Department of Public Health, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, The Department on Aging, among other organizations to enhance the impact of their work with employees and other stakeholders.

David also presented at the NEIU Alumni: All Access virtual event where he shared his journey as the founder and executive director of the H.O.P.E. Is Foundation, an organization that supports local communities, education organizations, by creating mobile technology mental health and SEL curriculum, research, products and programs for youth and young adults.



NEIU 2020 Community Leadership Award



2017 MACTL alumnus, Berhane Hailemichael, was awarded the highly respected Community Leadership Award which recognizes an outstanding alumnus who has fulfilled the obligations of education through distinguished leadership and service to his or her community beyond what is required by his or her job or profession. Since emigrating to the U.S., Berhane uses his past as a child soldier during the Eritrean War to fuel his desire as a human rights activist. His dream is to advocate for people's social and justice issues. He believes education and hard work can beat poverty. He wants to share his experience with his community and to participate in their daily lives and activities. Since 2016, he continues to advocate for justice and equality as well as expanding education and developmental programs in his community. In 2017, he became an active member in establishing the Eritrean Assistance Organization in Chicago and Environs (EAOC). He has been voluntarily teaching his mother language of Tigrinya to Eritrean children and believes that to save Eritrean values, culture, and identity, he must serve, teach and invest in their children's future.

Requesting MACTL Alum Speakers

We would like to invite our alums to speak to the current MACTL students. This can be done informally during the cohort orientations or more formally as guest speakers in our classes. We know our MACTL alums are doing great things in their lives, workplace, communities and families that we believe will inspire our current and future MACTL students.

We would like to begin a MACTL presentation series wherein members of the MACTL community present to the NEIU university and beyond. If you are interested in presenting in this type of forum, please let us know. Contact Dr. Hua Bai (h-bai@neiu.edu).

Culturally Relevant Teacher Wellness Series

Dr. Isaura Pulido organized the *Culturally Relevant Teacher Wellness Series: Put on Your Own Oxygen Mask Before Helping Others*. This seven-part series featured dynamic guest speakers who offered techniques and strategies on how to manage the work-life balance. Below please find the guest speakers and the topics.



1. Nancy Easton, Ashley Reyes
Self-Care: Freeing the Mind, Body and Spirit
2. Kamau Rashid
Kinenga-Sesa: Balance and Transformation
3. Tim Mays
This is Their Class Too: Classroom Leadership
4. Gabriel Cortez
Circles, Wellness, and Equity in the Classroom
5. Victor Arroyo
Looking Within the Smoking Mirror: Drawing on Indigenous Concepts for Self-Care
6. Cortez Watson
“Disturbing the peace!”: Hip-hop, Learning Science & Disruption
7. Tanya Lozano
Health Inequalities and Building Communities of Resistance

Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project



In partnership with local and national community-based organizations that continue to lead the way to build abolition – groups like Critical Resistance, Black & Pink, Love & Protect, Parole Illinois – Prison + Neighborhood Arts/Education Project (PNAP) launched two years of programming with two events featuring key thinkers and organizers in conversation about teaching and learning, cultural work, and abolition. Dr. Erica Meiners co-organized two events featuring local and national organizers, cultural workers, educators and scholars who are building radical teaching and learning pathways for currently and formerly incarcerated communities, sustaining crucial campaigns for freedom, and creating more just and beautiful communities.

The first event was, *Teaching and Learning for Freedom: Visions, Study, and Practice*, featured Colette Payne, Julian Thompson, Danny Murillo, Romarilyn Ralston. The second event was, *Imagining and Remaking a World Without Prisons: Visions, Study, and Practice*, featured Angela Y. Davis, Kathy Boudin, Beth E. Richie, Timmy Châu. Both events (and more) are available on PNAP’s website: <https://pnap.org/>



Got an update? Please email us. We will be sending out a periodic MACTL News & Notes. We would love to share your news!

