



COLORADO

Department of Education

2023 Transition Leadership Institute

Speaker: Lauren Jones, CTE Program Director for Special Populations, Counseling & Middle School

Co-Presenters: Stephanie Mijo and Brandon Wright

Session Title: We need your PoWeRful and Wild Career Conversation Minds!



Lauren Jones (Austin), is a licensed school counselor, nationally certified counselor, candidate for NCDA: School Career Development Specialist Credential, past expeditionary learning instructor, teen adventure guide and Adjunct Lecturer for School Counseling Graduate Programs. She is in her 12th year as the Career & Technical Education (CTE) Program Director for Special Populations, Counseling and Middle School (sometimes Equity too) serving statewide school districts and postsecondary institutions by providing trainings & resources that help support the programming for implementation and collaborative efforts that parallel Colorado's education initiatives that support Career Literacy and Meaningful Career Conversations, important acronyms such as: ICAP, PWR, ACE, Graduation Guidelines, Career Pathways, WBL and more. Her passion for students and their authentic, meaningful learning can sometimes be contagious. Her advocacy for School Counselors within the CTE family is prominent in the work she does. Lauren also began and coordinates the implementation of Middle School CTE programs, serves and wears many other hats including: Board member for BIONIC: Believe It Or Not I Care, Advisory Member for the Coalition for Career Development, co-supervisor of Colorado's statewide PWR/ICAP Facilitators, CTE Champion Trainer with Advance CTE, Region V representative for ACTE Counseling & Career Development Division, one of the founding members for the CCCS Equity and Inclusivity Council & constant advocate for Special Populations and everything CTE in Colorado! She's a mama to three chickens, a sweet pup named Journey and oodles of garden vegetation. When not working, you can find her on the river, on a cruiser bike, hiking the Colorado Trail, camping in her 1959 camper named Xanadu, doing horticultural therapy in her backyard or living it up at the Jersey Shore.

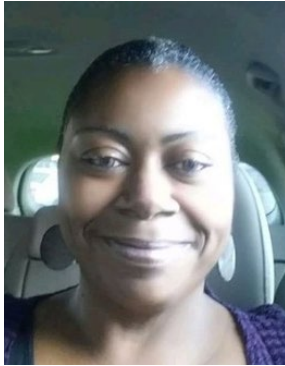


Stephanie Mijo is a licensed school counselor practicing at Discovery Canyon Campus High School, supporting students in exploring career & postsecondary options. Working with kids since they were a kid herself, Stephanie has found a passion in supporting the uniqueness of all kids & watching that uniqueness contribute to the overall health of our global community. Stephanie's first love is their work, of which they are actively engaged in at both a local and state level. In their free time Stephanie enjoys supporting local music with their partner Christian, digging into advocacy work, and guzzling coffee at local coffee shops.



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Brandon Wright is a passionate, hardworking individual that's dedicated to working individually or collaborating with a team to meet and beat challenges while providing exceptional customer service. Brandon is a dependable, enthusiastic, and an innovative thinker ready to contribute to bringing organizational mission, vision, and goals to life. Serving as an ICAP Facilitator for the state of Colorado, past Learner Advocate for Donnell-Kay and current Student Engagement Coordinator for Aurora Public Schools. Brandon also showcases her talents in the culinary world.