

# Bridging Research & Community Voices for Educational Impact

March 31, 2025

**Center for Equity, Leadership, and Social Justice in Education (CELSJE)**

**9:00-9:15 Registration/Refreshments**

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**9:15-9:30 Welcoming & Opening Remarks**

Dr. Qi Shi (CELSJE Director) and Dean Afra Hersi

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**9:30-10:30 Opening Panel Discussion Topic:  
“Community Concerns, Strategies, & Research for Solidarity & Strength”**

**Panelists:** Rashawna Sydnor, MEd, Dr. Sedrick Smith (Baltimore City Public Schools), Owen Andrews (Anne Arundel Community College), Dr. Margarita Gomez, moderated by Dr. Stephanie Flores-Koulish

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**10:30-11:00 Featured RPP Exemplar:**

**“Leading Forward: Self-Advocate Educators as Trainers”**

**Presenters:** Dr. Leah Saal, Dr. Lisa Schoenbrodt, Raven Shields and Candace Herget

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**11:00-11:45 Roundtable RPP Lightning Talks by Researchers:  
Helping Vulnerable Communities**

**Presenters:** Dr. Pethigamage Perera, Dr. Robert Gilbert, Dr. Marina Lambrinou, Dr. Kristine E. Larson, Dr. Nouf Bazaz, Dr. Karen Terrell, Kristina Collins, M.S., Dr. Jessica Shiller, Dr. Omari Jackson, and Dr. Regina Massella

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**11:45-12:15 Roundtable Discussions**

**Student-Directed Needs Assessment**

**Led By:** Dr. Josh Smith and Community of Inquiry (COI) Students

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**12:15-1:00 Lunch**

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**1:00-1:15 Needs Assessments Presentation**

**Led By:** Community of Inquiry (COI) Students (Desvan Moody and Amelie Burns)

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**1:15-1:30 Closing Remarks & Q&A**

**Led by:** Dr. Carey Borkoski

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**1:30-2:00 Networking**