



Keynote #2: Saturday May 28th

Belonging as an Outcome: Affirming Student Identity through Culturally Responsive Pedagogy

Ekta Singh

In recent decades, educational research has strongly supported the incorporation of culture and cultural identities into adult learning environments. The role and impact of identity on educational outcomes is something necessary to explicitly address in education systems and classrooms. Each of us is made up of numerous intersecting identities, including gender, race, class, ability, nationality, sexual orientation, etc. Our identities shape how we experience the world and how people see and respond to us. However, many of these identities carry historical barriers and inequities and have been, and continue to be, ignored by the educational system. As educators, how might we intentionally create identity-affirming environments to support, empower, and mentor our students along their complex and unique identity journeys? This session will specifically focus on the benefits of Culturally Responsive Pedagogy which centers students' lived experiences and unique cultural strengths to promote student achievement and a sense of belonging in the classroom and larger school community.



Ekta Singh has been an educator for 17 years and has worked around the world in a variety of leadership roles in secondary, post-secondary and community organizations. She has worked in roles and led a variety of initiatives related to human rights, health equity, gender equality, intercultural competency, and inclusive/anti-racist education. She recently led the development of St. Lawrence College's (SLC) first tri-campus wide, EDI + Belonging framework and currently teaches in the Health Care Administration program at SLC. Ekta is a master trainer in Intercultural Competency (University of British Columbia) and has trained international education professionals across Canada. Ekta is a second generation South Asian, Sikh immigrant and lives in Kingston with her partner and two young children. She loves Mexican food and listening to A Tribe Called Quest.