

2026 Virtual Institute on Community Transformation

Program Schedule

Please note: all times are in EDT; do not distribute beyond registered TRHT Institute participants.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16, 2026

11:00 am – 12:00 pm	**Cluster Group Meeting with TRHT Mentors (ET/CT Timezones)**
12:00pm – 1:30 pm	**Lunch**
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	**Welcome, Opening, and Mentor Introductions** *Dr. Mary Ann Villarreal, Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success and Executive, American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), Interim President, California State University, Dominguez Hills* *Dr. Randi Congleton, Executive Director of Student Success and Campus Impact* *American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)* **Plenary Discussion** *Lynn Pasquerella, President, American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U)* *Gail Christopher, Founder of the Ntianu Center for Healing and Nature, Executive Director of the National Collaborative for Health Equity (NCHE)*
3:15 pm – 6:30 pm	**Community Healing Circles and Small Group Methodology Debrief/Q&A** A Community Healing Circel (**Rx Racial Healing Circle**) is a welcoming, conversation-based gathering where people come together to share stories, listen deeply, and build trust across racial and cultural lines. The "Rx" simply means prescription for healing, a reminder that connection, honesty, and empathy are powerful remedies for the divides we often feel in our communities. Many people feel nervous talking and are worried



they'll say the wrong thing, be misunderstood, or stir up conflict. A healing circle flips that on its head. You don't need expertise. You don't need the "right" words. You just need a willingness to listen and be present.

After the healing circle, facilitators will lead a conversation on healing circle methodology and answer questions from participants.

6:45 pm – 7:45 pm ***Cluster Group Meeting with Mentors for Pacific and Hawai'I time zones**

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17, 2026

9:30am to 10:00am **Cluster Group Meeting**

10:00am to 11:00am **Individual Team Time**

11:00am to 12:15pm **Building Courageous, Power-Sharing Partnerships Between Campus Centers and Community Organizations: A Reflection**

Randi Congleton, Executive Director for Student Success and Campus Impact, AAC&U Moderator

Panel
Gabriella Archuleta, Voices for Utah Children
Uday Sharad Joshi, University of Maryland Baltimore County
J. Goosby Smith, Pepperdine University
Susan Womack, We 2gether Creating Changes
Loretta Edelen, Austin Community College

In a climate shaped by polarization, distrust, and widening inequities, campus and community coalitions are being called to rise with greater courage, reciprocity, and shared power. Leaders from TRHT/TCHT Campus Centers



and community-based changemakers from Salt Lake City,

Utah came together in May to examine what it truly means to build and sustain transformational partnerships. Panelists will share examples of collaborations that confront inequity, elevate community wisdom, and strengthen local ecosystems of healing. Participants will also reflect on their Salt Lake City institute experience, lessons learned, community built, and commitments for the work ahead.

Together, panelists will identify key takeaways and practical strategies for moving forward with humility, alignment, and a renewed commitment to truth, racial healing, and transformation.

12:15pm to 1:15pm **Lunch**

1:30pm to 2:45pm **Concurrent Sessions: (75 minutes)**

1. **Supporting Professionals Committed to Belonging: Strategies to Prevent Burnout**
   Jermaine Pearson

   Who cares for the caretaker? Who provides healing to healers? Racial Justice and Diversity, Equity & Inclusion work can be emotionally and mentally exhausting, particularly in light of today's socio-political climate. Although the work we do is needed and essential to college campuses, it is important to know one's limitations and identify areas that may trigger our own past trauma of working in the academy. This workshop will help professionals cope with triggers regarding race and provide self-care practices for those engaging in racial equity work.

2. **Overview of the TRHT Framework**
   Randi Congleton, Executive Director for Student Success and Campus Impact, AAC&U
   Khayree Williams, Austin Community College
   The Truth, Racial Healing, & Transformation Framework is a comprehensive, community-centered approach designed

to uproot the false hierarchy of human value and build equitable systems that allow everyone to thrive. TRHT focuses on systems, narratives, and relationships, aiming to create structural change.

This session introduces the five pillars and equips attendees with the language, concepts, and strategies needed to begin applying the framework in their own institutions and communities. Austin Community College will serve as an example of how multi-campus institutions can activate the **f**ramework by coordinating circles across diverse campus environments. By rotating circles among campuses with distinct cultures, histories, and community relationships, ACC demonstrates how institutions can build shared understanding while honoring local context. This model also highlights how **c**ommunity partnerships can deepen the impact of Traveling Circles by bringing multiple voices into dialogue and strengthening cross-campus cohesion.

Whether you are new or seeking to deepen existing efforts, this overview provides a powerful foundation for collective action.

3:00-4:30pm **Concurrent Workshops (90 minutes)**

1. **Navigating the Pivot: Sustaining Community Transformation and Shared Humanity in a Shifting Landscape**
   Sharon Stroye, Founder, CTW Consulting
   Tessa Updike, The Citadel
   Danielle Moore, The Citadel
   Higher education institutions across the country are experiencing a significant pivot. With shifting political climates, evolving terminology, and changing institutional priorities are challenging campuses committed to community transformation, belonging, and shared

humanity. Yet, the work must continue. This interactive workshop equips higher education leaders, TRHT/TCHT practitioners, and institutional change agents with practical strategies to navigate the pivot while sustaining meaningful transformation — without relying on language that may create resistance in politically sensitive environments. Grounded in the TRHT framework and informed by national mentoring experience, this session introduces a Center for Humanity Healing and Transformation model designed to:

- Sustain institutional transformation, build trust across differences, strengthening belonging and community, advance student success and institutional effectiveness, reframe transformation in politically sustainable ways.
- Participants will explore how to shift from language-centered work to impact-centered transformation, ensuring institutions continue advancing shared humanity, healing, and belonging regardless of political or leadership transitions.

2. **Community Healing Circle Design for Beginners**
   Gwenn Weaver, Consultant
   This session is designed for institute participants who are new community healing circle facilitators. This session will unpack the core elements of the community healing circle and will unpack the process for designing and co-facilitating a Community Healing Circle.

3. **Restorative Justice & TRHT: Collaborating to Build a Restorative Community**
   Leslie Lewis, 3 Stories Consulting
   Jamal Epperson, Loyola Marymount University
   Sheryl Wilson, Bethel College
   The cornerstone of restorative justice (RJ) is the notion that, in the face of harm and wrongdoing, we can find healing and strengthen resilience in our communities by building relationships based on respect and personal responsibility. The foundational pillars of the TRHT framework, Narrative

Change and Racial Healing & Relationship Building, call us to embrace our shared humanity in order to dismantle the belief in a false hierarchy of human value. Both approaches share practices and methodologies such as circle work and story-telling in reaching for the transformations they seek. In this workshop we will explore the intersections between RJ and TRHT and how those intersections can lead to a broader concept of community healing within the context of the current climate. We will examine the types of community and campus organizations doing RJ work, learn about the kinds of cases they are handling, and think about how to strategically partner with these organizations to enhance and expand the work of your TRHT/TCHT campus center.

4. **Building A Collaborative Culture at Austin Community College District a multi-campus system**
   Khayree Williams, Austin Community College
   Jessica Oest, Magazine Editor
   Austin Community College's Truth, Community Healing, and Transformation (TCHT) Center, in collaboration with the Collaborative Culture Magazine staff, will share an overview of how we launched a magazine publication featuring the voices of Students, faculty, staff, and community partners.
   This nearly 90-page publication highlights the lives, cultures, and experiences of our more than 75,000 diverse Riverbats (mascot). It also showcases and strengthens our TCHT institutional work. While helping to build connections across all 10 ACC campuses.
   Join us as we explore ways you can use a similar model to elevate storytelling, strengthen belonging, and enhance the collaborative culture at your own institution.

4:30-5:00pm	**Break**
5:15-6:30pm	**Mentor Consultations** 5:15pm to 5:45pm ET 6:00pm to 6:30pm ET
6:30-7:00pm	**Cluster Group Meeting, Pacific and Hawai'I time zones**
7:00-7:30pm	**Individual Team Time, Pacific and Hawai'I time Zones**



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THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026

10:00am to 11:00am	**Individual Team Time**
11:15 am to 12:30 pm	**Consultations** 11:15am to 11:45am ET 12:00am to 12:30pm ET
12:30 pm to 1:30 pm	**Lunch/Nourish and Knowledge** Do you have additional questions about TRHT, TCHT, or just seeking wisdom and community? This is the place to be! Join mentors over lunch for wisdom, food, and engagement.
1:45pm to 3:00pm	**Concurrent Sessions: (75 minutes) Both Zoom Meeting**

1. **A Call to the Beginning, Reclaiming Our Roots Through Community Partnership**
   Sharon Stroye, CTW Consulting, Moderator
   Eric Ford, University of Maryland Baltimore County
   Mama Rashida, Wombwork Productions Inc.
   Tessa Updike, The Citadel
   LaVanda Brown, Charleston YWCA

   During the Salt Lake City convening, participants had an opportunity to visit community sites whose work and mission align with the five TRHT pillars. This panel brings together mentors with their local community partners who have walked alongside them from the very start. To be designated as an AAC&U, TRHT campus center, every campus center was required to have a committed community partner, an intentional design choice that grounded the work in real, local relationships rather than abstract programming. This session reconnects us to that

original vision.

Moving the conversation from Salt Lake City, Utah to local contexts, panelists will share how community partnerships have shaped their collaboration with TRHT and TCHT campuses, the ways they have co-created healing-centered work, and the lessons learned about trust-building, shared leadership, and sustaining long-term engagement. Mentors will reflect on how these partnerships have influenced their strategies, expanded their reach, and kept them accountable to the communities they serve.

This panel invites campus centers to re-anchor themselves in the relationships that make transformation possible. It's a call to remember where we began and to imagine where we could go when we remain rooted in community.

2. Community Healing Circle Design- Advanced

Gwenn Weaver, Consultant

This session is designed for institute participants who are experienced community healing circle facilitators. This session will take a deeper dive into the elements of the community healing circle and will unpack the process for designing and co-facilitating a Community Healing Circle.

3:00pm-3:15pm **Break**

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm **Concurrent Workshops (1 hour)**

1. **It's My Story: The Importance of Representation Throughout Our Institutional Histories**

   Tessa Updike, The Citadel

   Archivist and TCHT director Tessa Updike will share The Citadel's efforts to research, collect and share underrepresented stories from the college's history, and what four years of student feedback tells us about the importance of representation. Participants will have an opportunity to engage with each other and Tessa to



determine what practical and concrete steps they can take to move this work forward on their own campuses.

2. **Planting and Harvesting: How a Community College in Texas is Funding the TCHT Movement**

   Eric Castillo, Alamo Community Colleges District

   Community colleges serve as powerful engines for local transformation—expanding educational access, strengthening workforce development, and building civic partnerships. In Texas, where community colleges enroll more than half of all undergraduate students in public higher education, these institutions are uniquely positioned to support innovative community initiatives through strategic funding, partnerships, and institutional infrastructure. While the political terrain continues to shift, one community college district found strategic ways to navigate the ongoing climate turmoil. This presentation shows how one Texas district used strategic grants to grow the "TCHT Movement", illustrating how targeted funding, cross-sector partnerships, and mission-driven leadership can turn early “planting” efforts into long-term community impact. By aligning grants with community work, leveraging institutional resources, and collaborating with nonprofits and civic groups, the college sustained grassroots efforts even with limited budgets. Using a “planting and harvesting” framework, participants will gain insights into how educational institutions can cultivate sustainable partnerships that generate both community transformation and student opportunity.

3. **Navigating Community Partnerships in Today’s Landscape**

Susan Womack, We Together Creating Change

The TRHT framework is rooted in community-centered engagement—grounded in deep listening, shared learning, and collective intentionality—to dismantle hierarchies of human value. When Campus Centers cultivate genuine relationships with their surrounding communities, they are better positioned to serve as hubs for truth, racial healing, and transformation that reach well beyond campus boundaries.



This session will examine how to navigate and sustain community partnerships amid today's complex and shifting landscape. Participants will explore evolving funding approaches, strategies for adapting when circumstances change, and ways to frame TRHT work so that both campus and community partners remain meaningfully connected. The session will also offer partnership examples and practical insights into building and sustaining authentic relationships and leveraging those partnerships to advance narrative change, racial healing, and policy impact.

4. **TRHT Micro credentialing at UMBC: Recognizing and Validating the knowledge, skills, and abilities participants acquire through meaningful engagement with our campus center**

Eric Ford, University of Maryland Baltimore County

Uday Sharad Joshi, University of Maryland Baltimore County

In this workshop, participants will learn about the four micro credentials offered at the University of Maryland Baltimore County Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) campus center. These badges recognizes learners who demonstrate real-time proficiency in the interpersonal, emotional, and relational skills central to the TRHT framework. The discussion will center around how UMBC recognizes staff, students, faculty and community members for exploring how historical and contemporary inequities shape identity, opportunity, and belonging. UMBC validates practicing the skills of deep listening, empathy, and collaboration and cultivates the awareness and leadership necessary to foster inclusive and equitable communities.

4:20 pm to 5:15pm	**Individual Team Time**
5:20 pm to 6:20 pm	**Presentations with Mentors**
6:30 pm to 7:00pm	**Closing Remarks**

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Institute Mentors

Khayree Williams, *Austin Community College*

Tessa Updike, *The Citadel*

Leslie Lewis, *Duke University, Three Stories Consulting*

Eric Castillo, *Alamo Community District College*

Susan Womack, *We 2gether Creating Change*

Sharon Stroye, *CTW Consulting*

Eric Ford, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*

Institute Speakers

Lynn Pasquerella
President, AAC&U

Jermaine Pearson, *Consultant*

Felicia Beard
Associate Vice President, Racial Equity Philanthropy and Strategic Partnerships at the Community Foundation

Gail Christopher
Executive Director, National Collaborative for Health Equity and Founder (NCHE), Ntianu Center for Healing and Nature

Gwenn Weaver
Independent Consultant

AAC&U OPPO Staff

Mary Ann Villarreal
Vice President for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success

Randi Congleton
Executive Director for the TRHT Campus Centers, AAC&U

Sahar Qasmi
Program Associate for Diversity, Equity, and Student Success, AAC&U

Institute Session Types

- **Cluster Group Meetings** provide time for campus teams with similar goals or contexts to share ideas and strategies in discussions facilitated by Institute mentors. Cluster group meetings will be accessed through the AAC&U Institute page, under "Clusters" and each cluster section will be named after the mentor and cluster number (e.g., "Cluster 1 – Eric Ford").

- **Concurrent Workshops** provide in-depth study, analysis, and resources around the major themes and issues listed in the campus team applications. Teams should select the workshops most relevant to their goals/interests and divide themselves between the workshops.

- **Consultations with Institute mentors** provide an opportunity to discuss the specific aspects of your plan and to refine it throughout the week. On Wednesday (June 17th) and Thursday (June 18th), an email will be sent to Campus Team Leads with a link to book a consultation for the following day using the Calendly platform.

- **Individual Team Time** is for campus teams to share what they are learning from the workshops and mentor consultations, and to apply that knowledge to the development of their action plans. Schedule adequate team time to work on the development of your action plan. ***NOTE:*** *Teams should plan to meet on their preferred institutional meeting platform; a link will not be provided through the institute platform.*