

Diálogos Virtuales and the Center for Achieving Black Wellness and Anti-Racist Education (CABWARE)



Present

"Education and Mental Wellness at the Intersection of Black Identities: Critical Dialogues."

This panel presentation brings together people from different intersections within the Black community to explore, highlight, and celebrate their intersectional identities. Panelists include representatives from the Black community who also identify as part of the LGBTQ+, transgender, disability, and immigrant community. *Understanding intersectionality is critical to advancing educational and mental wellness equity within the Black community.* Our goal for the panel discussion is to amplify voices and encourage educators and mental wellness providers to be conscious of intersectionality and aware of the intersecting oppressions experienced by individuals in the Black community. Educators, school psychologists, and counseling providers are encouraged to attend.

Moderator



Dr. Sesen Negash
Co-director of CABWARE,
Director of the Marriage and
Family Therapy Program

Panel



Amber St. James



Fatima Haghi



Lorenza Hilliard



Monica Sanders

Tuesday, April 6, 2021 | 12:00 pm to 1:30 PM (PT)

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Meet the Panel



Amber St. James is the African Bearded, death dropping, cartwheeling, split queen of San Diego known for her revolutionary activist work in and out of drag and her entertaining high energy performances she is also the First Ever San Diego Mx.Gay and the first ever Mx International Pride both of which being gender neutral titles in the International Imperial Court System and the Imperial Court De San Diego. Amber has spoken at a number of panels including the International Gender Odyssey Conference. Not only is she an award winning Activist here in San Diego California being awarded for her work in 2018 From Tracie Jada O'Brien for the San Diego LGBT Centers Trans Day Of Remembrance, She is also a recent college graduate with a bachelors in Interdisciplinary Studies in 3 departments (Africana Studies, Communication, Counseling and Social Change). Amber also created and facilitated trainings on combating Anti-blackness For San Diego State University in Collaboration with their Black Resource Center, while also helping facilitate impactful events and programs through her work with the San Diego State University Pride Center including facilitating a conversation between themselves and Doctor Jon Paul for the Pride Centers Queer and Trans People Of Color Retreat.



Fatima Haghi is a first-year graduate student in the SDSU School Counseling program. Prior to starting graduate school, she received a B.S. from UCSD in Biochemistry and Cell Biology and worked in the diagnostics field as a Chemist. Fatima is a first-generation student and Somali immigrant. Growing up in City Heights, San Diego, Fatima saw that there were limited opportunities for students to pursue a higher education. These experiences motivated her to advocate for access to higher education in her community. After graduation, Fatima volunteered with community organizations to support and empower students on their journey to higher education through college preparation workshops and mentorship. As a future school counselor, Fatima is passionate about serving students in her community and advocating for equity and access for all students.



Lorenza Hilliard is a native San Diegan and hails from a southeast neighborhood where the vast majority of its inhabitants were either Brown or Black. Her introduction to the larger world began when she was a participant of the first busing program to a White high school with a large foreign exchange program. Not only did this experience open her worldview to other cultures but the limitations of her own. It has been an ongoing learning experience as she pursued higher education. Ms. Hilliard holds Master of Science degree in Rehabilitation Counseling from San Diego State University with certificate in Psychiatric Rehabilitation which she earned in 2009 after receiving a bachelors degree in Human Services in 2005. Ms. Hilliard is a U.S. Army veteran and supplements her academic credentials with 25 years of practice working for the Veterans Administration in several roles that included vocational rehabilitation counselor where she retired after 10 years of service assisting disabled veterans return to work. She also served as a veterans service representative and supervisory management program assistant. Ms. Hilliard is well trained, seasoned, resource knowledgeable, and has specialized expertise in working with persons with disabilities, particularly from a recovery and rehabilitation perspective.



Monica Sanders is an Associate Marriage and Family Therapist in San Diego. Her educational background was navigated as a first generation college student who received her Bachelor's degree at Sacramento State University in Child Development, and a Masters of Science specializing in Marriage and Family Therapy at San Diego State University. Monica's pronouns are (she/her/they) and she identifies as a Black, Queer woman. She currently works at a group therapy practice located in the Mission Valley area. Her therapy practice primarily centers the Black, LGBTQIA+ and polyamorous communities. Monica grew up in City Heights San Diego with ten older siblings. Much of her passions related to therapy stem from being the youngest of such a large family, and acquiring a fascination for relationships. Her experience as a Black, queer woman in San Diego has allowed her to see the value of wellness awareness, which informs how she supports her clientele who navigate similar intersectional identities within Black, Queer San Diego.

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