

Pre-Conference Workshop

2024 CCAE Southern & South Coast Fall Conference

Thursday, November 21

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: About Dr. Nora Kenney



Dr. Nora Kenney earned M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Language and Literacy, Society and Culture from the UC Berkeley School of Education, where she also taught and conducted research for over a decade. She has administered, taught, and conducted research in K-12 and community-university partnerships for UC Berkeley primarily in Oakland, California. Dr. Kenney's work focuses on equity and the relationship between education and social mobility. For over twenty years she has taught and led innovative programs in primary, secondary, post-secondary, adult, and correctional education settings, all in underserved communities and with historically underrepresented populations.

Dr. Kenney currently serves as the Palomar College Rising Scholars coordinator, where she oversees a large program for currently and formerly incarcerated students. The program is the subject of a documentary created by Palomar College Television (PCTV), a multiple-E Emmy-winning film production team; *Almost Home: Life After Incarceration* has won two Emmys, premiered at the TCL Chinese Theatre (Hollywood) in June 2023, and is being screened on Alcatraz Island in August 2024. Dr. Kenney plays a large role in the film and serves as its academic advisor. The film also continues to be screened in national festivals, correctional facilities, colleges, and universities.

After Dr. Kenney had a difficult childhood and transition to adulthood, an English professor at MiraCosta College inspired her to pivot her pathway. Through her professional trajectory, she has discovered how community college, adult education, and programs like Rising Scholars realize her passion for liberation through education.

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