Conference to Restore Humanity! 2024: Vision into Reality

Sponsorship Opportunities
July 22-25, 2024. Virtual.

About
Young people and educators deserve better from their schools. This conference aims to inform, guide, and actionize teachers toward fixing the problems of the classroom and advocating for a just society.

Conference to Restore Humanity! is an international invitation for K-12 and college educators to engage in a human-centered system redesign: centering the needs of students and educators toward a praxis of social justice. This includes deeply understanding hands-on learning, purpose-finding, community action, and disrupting the status quo of the classroom.

We are providing educators with the proper tools to build environments that value the humanity of all involved. Our goal is to create a space that breeds innovation through like-minded individuals who draw upon hundreds of years of history and countless research studies. Over the course of four days (and more, if needed), educators will see transformation in action, showcasing how our imaginative visions can become reality. All previous conference content is available on our website.

Themes

**Restore meaning and purpose to learning.**
Our classes must unite toward experiences which foster hope and opportunity. We need students to drive their learning toward meaningful, creative opportunities to create a democratic, just, and purposeful society.

**Fight for social justice as we transform education.**
We must take the side of students in creating school environments that fight for student rights and affirm their inherent worth, voice, and community. As we transform school and society, we will reckon with and act on systemic injustice.

**Eliminate dehumanizing practices from schools.**
At a time where “learning loss!” is weaponized against students, schools, and teachers, we need to reframe the deficit lens of education toward one of hope and advocacy. Together, we can counteract the harmful practices of discipline, assessment, and authoritarianism in the classroom.

**Focus on student and teacher voice, well-being, and needs.**
Listening and learning is central to progressive education. It is not possible to act on the needs of students and educators without taking the time to engage in conversation. Our collective mental and physical health is being tested, and now is the time to push for change.
Format
This conference is designed from the ground up to best fit a virtual format. The traditional conference format is costly to attend, environmentally unfriendly, and it doesn't allow everyone to engage or have a voice in the learning community. Most online conferences are simply trying to replicate in-person conferences...and that doesn't work! We're doing things different:

Flipped Keynotes & Extended Q&A
We recognize that the Q&A session and ensuing discussion is often the most valuable part of the presentation. Each day, a keynote video (with a transcript) will be released on our conference platform. This prerecorded media will serve as an introduction to a participant-led community conversation on the following day with the keynote speaker.

Self-Paced Tracks
We want to provide participants with as much time as possible to engage with the resources provided by contributing faculty members. Each learning track will offer a variety of ways to engage in their content, from interactive activities to discussion boards. All track resources (including those not signed up for) will be made available after the conference (forever!)

Preserving Humanity
A shift to virtual learning does not mean we lose human connection! This conference is meant to serve as a connector: providing a virtual space for people to network and learn from one another. Our learning space that allows you to consistently interact with others.

Our conference is hosted on Zoom - for video calls, and Discord - for chat and resources.

Our conference is designed purposefully around the accessibility and sustainability of virtual learning, while engaging participants in a classroom environment that models the same progressive pedagogy we value for our students.

2024’s theme is centered on vision into reality: finding schools around the country transforming their spaces in unconventional ways, showcasing what’s possible in public systems in building a human-centered education system.
2024 Line-Up

Keynotes  ...+1 more to be announced

Carla Shalaby is dedicated to education as a practice of freedom, focusing on critical pedagogy and literacy, democratic classroom management, and the role of teaching in social justice. She has held significant educational roles, including director positions at Brown University and Wellesley College, and began her career teaching in New Jersey. Shalaby holds advanced degrees in education and is the author of Troublemakers: Lessons in Freedom from Young Children at School.

Dr. Mary Helen Immordino-Yang is a distinguished scholar specializing in the intersection of psychology, neurobiology, and education, focusing on social emotion, self-awareness, culture, and their impact on learning and development. Her work includes a range of studies on adolescent brain development, SEL competencies, and mindsets, and she has authored Emotions, Learning and the Brain on the educational implications of affective neuroscience.

The Orchard View Innovative Learning Center in Muskegon, MI is a 16+ adult education and high school completion center focused on learning by doing, self-directed education, empowering all learners, and community connections. These classes are free to the public and aim to improve adult learners’ education levels while enhancing access to employment, job training, and post-secondary education opportunities.

Learning Tracks  ...+1 more to be announced

Trevor Aleo will lead the Progressive Education in Practice track, centered on interdisciplinary and multimodal learning, leaning into various ways in which educators can embrace “new” forms of media, such as board & video games, podcasts, and digital storytelling. He is a co-author of Learning That Transfers: Designing Curriculum for a Changing World and a doctoral student at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

8 Live Events

Each day, educators will engage with students, teachers, and school leaders at innovative schools around the country conducting human-centered practice in their buildings. Our goal is to showcase public schools reimagining what’s possible and doing something different in their community.
2023 Recap
Conference to Restore Humanity! 2023 featured four keynote speakers and three asynchronous tracks:

Keynotes
- Dr. Antonia Darder, critical pedagogue and student of Paulo Freire
- José Luis Vilson, author, activist, and math educator focused on community transformation
- Cornelius Minor, author, activist, and English educator centered on student dialogue
- Iowa WTF, student collective focused on protecting LGBTQIA+ youth, gun control, and more

Tracks
- A Green Education to Change the World: Hosted by David Hill, a research and scientist design student at Harvard, which focuses on creating diverse STEM representation through environmental justice.
- A New Perspective Using Game Design: Hosted by Drs. Matthew Farber & Tracy Fullerton, two game designers and professors who imagine what classrooms could be through the lens of gaming.
- Rebellion by Design: Anti-racism & UDL: Hosted by Andratesha Fritzgerald, an author and advocate, on creating accessible learning with the lens of social justice.
2022 Recap
Conference to Restore Humanity! 2022 featured three keynote speakers and five asynchronous tracks:

**Keynotes**
- Dr. Henry Giroux, the founding theorist of critical pedagogy.
- Dr. Denisha Jones, educator, activist, and co-editor of Black Lives Matter at School.
- Circle Keepers from Harvest Collegiate High School in New York City, a student collective focused on social justice.

**Tracks**
- Building Anti-Carceral Practices: Hosted by Drs. Connie Wun, Sabine Vaught, and Damien Sojoyner, on dismantling the carceral network between school, prison, and society.
- DIY at the Edges: Surviving the Bipartisanship of Behaviorism by Rolling Our Own: Hosted by the Ryan Boren, Inna Boren, Kristina Daniele & Chelsea Adams of Stimpunks. Stimpunks combine “stimming” with “punks” to advocate for neurodiversity and push back against systems that restrict our humanity.
- Childism in Education: Hosted by Drs. Tanu Biswas and John Wall, professors centered on empowering children by critiquing and transforming adultist norms.
- Feedback-First Education: Growth Over Grades: Floop helps students and teachers to be more effective learners at school, at home, and at work by building their lifelong feedback literacy.
Attendees & Feedback
Our 2022 & 2023 conference had 125-150 attendees who were primarily K-12 teachers, with pockets of professors and education consultants.

Our conference feedback has been extremely positive. Although we are making some adjustments to make the format even more accessible in 2024, we hear excellent things:

“This conference will change your life. It puts into perspective the things that people who care about students as human beings care about - you will find your people here if that’s what you care about. It is absolutely worth attending.”

“...Conference to Restore Humanity was engaging, inspiring, and empowering. Being able to tune in at my own pace and on my own terms was a game-changer for me, and I’d like to see similar experiences from ALL conference providers going forward.”

“I was unprepared for how radically human, and connected, the conference is. The flipped keynotes, and the trust to host them as a Zoom room instead of a webinar presentation format in particular struck me as radically inclusive and human.

“It’s easy to get discouraged with everything that’s happening in the world today, particularly in education. The Human Restoration Project’s conference is one remedy. I left feeling energized, inspired, and most importantly, no longer alone in my fight to humanize education. This conference reignited my passion and pushed me to rethink some long held biases that I didn’t realize I had. I’m eager to put into action many of the ideas I had during my week with them. Additionally, the format of the conference was incredible. This group is rethinking and challenging the status quo at every turn, making for a more accessible and inclusive experience for everyone. And their commitment to share resources for free is something that sets them apart.”

“As a trans human rights educator this conference was incredibly nourishing and eye opening in terms of what it means to work in progressive education. From the philosophical to the practical it transformed the way I view education, now not only as a tool to be prepared for resistance but as a tool of resistance itself.”

“I attend many conferences, and help to plan some myself, but the Conference to Restore Humanity is by far the most valuable professional development I attend. At traditional conferences, the conversation usually ends when the conference does. At CTRH, the conversation just keeps going. There's so much power in this community.”

“I really enjoyed this conference! Initially I was a little skeptical of the “flipped” format and the use of Discord, which I was unfamiliar with - but it worked! It was great to listen to speakers from a variety of areas, and to engage with other conference participants. Sometimes I feel like my educational philosophy is vastly different than many of my coworkers, so it just felt good to be around educators who were more on the same page as me.”

“If you are passionate about transforming our schools to meet 21st century learners where they are and to empower both teachers and students with autonomy and creativity, I highly recommend this conference. It has given me hope that together we CAN change our schools from toxic wastelands to flourishing communities of excited learners.”
Financials & Sponsorship Perks

Conference to Restore Humanity! 2024 aims to attract 250 attendees. Our goal is to lower ticket prices this year substantially: $75 for early bird sales, $100 for the normal ticket price (from $150 to $200). We offer a $25 discount for members of the BIPOC, AAPI, Trans, and/or Disabled communities as well as free scholarship opportunities. In 2022 & 2023, we were revenue-neutral after paying our conference speakers & facilitators as well as our platform fees. We prioritize paying keynotes and faculty at a competitive industry rate.

Our 2024 total costs include:

- $12,000 for keynote speakers ($3,000 ea.)
- $4,000 for faculty members ($2,000 ea.)
- $1,000 for tech and platform fees
- $1,000 for transcription

Total: $18,000

In 2024, we are seeking partners to allow for full sponsorships of interested attendees as well as assist in event operations. Your partnership allows us to attract a diverse audience of educators seeking to reimagine classrooms around the globe. Our sponsorship package is designed for our virtual-first conference and includes:

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<tr>
<th>Benefit Description</th>
<th>Advocate (USD)</th>
<th>Sustainer (USD)</th>
<th>Partner (USD)</th>
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<tr>
<td>*Systems-change: Adjust the rate of ticket prices for all participants. Minimum: $25.</td>
<td>Adjust the ticket price of incoming attendees by $50. ($100 -&gt; $50).</td>
<td>Adjust the ticket price of incoming attendees by $25. ($100 -&gt; $75).</td>
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<td>Complimentary conference registration</td>
<td>As needed within organization.</td>
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<td>Visibility on main conference website &amp; curated archived materials</td>
<td>Very large logo included on website including lead generation/hyperlink.</td>
<td>Large logo included on website including lead generation/hyperlink.</td>
<td>Small logo included on website including lead generation/hyperlink.</td>
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<td>Virtual exhibitor space on Discord, our asynchronous chat space for the entire conference</td>
<td>Included: This space can be used to engage with our audience, post resources, host Q&amp;As and office hours, and more.</td>
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<td>Inclusion of emails to your website in conference flyers and event announcements</td>
<td>Included in all announcements and emails.</td>
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<td>Social media posts highlighting your sponsorship of the event with links to your website</td>
<td>At least five specific posts about your organization, including mentions in at least 4 HRP general podcasts.</td>
<td>At least three specific posts about your organization, including mentions in at least 2 HRP general podcasts.</td>
<td>At least one specific post about your organization.</td>
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<td>Recognition in preliminary event and all recorded keynotes &amp; Q&amp;As. Inclusion of links in YouTube descriptions</td>
<td>Included in all keynotes and videos.</td>
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For more information on sponsoring our event, please reach out to Chris McNutt to get involved (chris@humanrestorationproject.org).

*Human Restoration Project will refuse requests for sponsorships that are not consistent with our mission and vision. Further, we do not sell participant data and do not provide emails of participants.