



3rd Annual Child Development Conference January 25, 2025

2025 Topic: **DIVERSITY**

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Amanda Wilcox-Herzog



Presentation:

**Addressing Bias in Practice: The
Foundation of Diversity, Equity,
and Inclusion**



CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30-8:15

Registration and Breakfast

8:30-9:30

Keynote Speaker

9:45-11:00

Break Out Session 1

11:15-12:30

Break Out Session 2

12:30-1:50

Lunch

2:00-3:15

Break Out Session 3

3:15-4:00

**Self-Care, Activities,
Networking
Wrap Up and Raffle**

About the Conference

The Child Development Program (CHDV) at Victor Valley College (VVC) is hosting the 3rd Annual Child Development Conference. The goal of the Child Development Conference is to provide VVC students, local teachers/providers, and community members with an opportunity to experience an affordable conference event. This conference will allow ECE professions obtain professional growth hours for their Child Development Permits, make connections with possible employers, obtain new knowledge for the field; all while being local and at a low cost. The theme for this year's conference will focused on supporting diversity in the classroom.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) are important topics in all fields by creating practices to ensure representation of all areas of diversity are supported in a system. Early childhood education also focuses on anti-bias education which provides additional practices in classrooms that aim to create a safe and inclusive learning environment to support all children and families. Anti-bias education approach encouraging children to respect and embrace differences by addressing all areas of diversity (race/ethnicity, culture, inclusion, gender, religion, family dynamics/circumstances, social economics, extra). To teach areas of diversity in the classroom then teachers must challenge bias by addressing topics on fairness or unfairness and impacts of stereotypes and discrimination. By addressing these sensitive topics then children are being taught empathy, acceptance, critical thinking skills and able to develop a positive sense of self-identity. Many feel that these topics are too advanced for children, but children are aware of these topics at an early age (earlier than many are aware of). Addressing these topics early does reduce feelings of fear and hostility which are connected to harmful behaviors such as bullying. Educators do need to address these topics sensitively and age-appropriately.

Many educators are reporting more issues in the classroom regarding diversity topics and seeking assistance for supporting these issues. Therefore, more teacher training on Anti-Bias Education Strategies is essential to help the local area to serve the children and families. The High Desert area is a rural community which experiences high levels of poverty, child abuse, trauma, children that have or have not been diagnosed with mental health concerns and abilities, serving many ethnicities and people of color in the community, and numerous languages are represented in the area. Many educators and providers reach out to VVC's Child Development Program for additional resources or training for the children and families they are serving; especially related to areas of diversity and inclusion. Therefore, there is a need for this conference in the High Desert area so VVC can provide this opportunity to further the students' knowledge in anti-bias education strategies in their classrooms which supports all areas of diversity in the classroom.

Attendees will be provided a certificate after attending the conference which can be provide to future or current employers and used for professional development hours for their Child Development Permits and learn new techniques to serve the children and families with high-quality strategies.

Contact Person :

Heather Hammond-Williams
+(760) 245-4271 Ext. 2776 (Office)
heather.williams@vvc.edu

Registration and Webpage:

www.vvcfoundation.com/cdc

GOOGLE CLASSROOM LINK:

<https://classroom.google.com/c/NzI4OTA2NDU0ODM5?cjc=bu66khr>

CLASS CODE: bu66khr

Keynote Speaker

Amanda Wilcox-Herzog, PhD



8:30–9:30AM

PAC Building 54

Dr. Wilcox-Herzog is the Chair of the Department of Child Development. She focuses on early childhood development and contexts, particularly early education environments. She is the founder of the Infant/Toddler Lab School at CSUSB and supervises the assessment arm of the Quality Start San Bernardino Project. Prior to coming to CSUSB she taught elementary, preschool, and infant/toddler age children. Dr. Wilcox-Herzog is also interested in developing teacher skills through the enhancement of teacher talk and self-regulatory skills. A recent project involved asking practicum students to wear Fitbits to evaluate their heart rate and increase self-regulation.

Session 1

Nancy Sherod

Creating Equitable Learning Environments for Young Boys of Color



9:45–11:00 AM

PAC Building 54

Join the San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools Early Education Team in sharing with you the ins and outs of the CDC publication *Creating Equitable Early Learning Environments for Young Boys of Color*. Participants will take an honest and comprehensive look at the inequitable experiences of our youngest boys of color in early learning programs. This session will provide an overview and an opportunity to practice strategies for improving racial equity through strengthening racial awareness, addressing implicit bias, and creating culturally responsive environments that are safe, affirming, and engaging for young boys of color and their families

Deydalia
Fraydealvaro



9:45–11:00 AM
SAC– Room B
Building 44

Rose
Cauley



LaTasha
Marshall



Cultural Diversity in the Classroom

Diversity in early childhood education is important for creating an inclusive environment where all children can thrive. This workshop will focus on ways early childhood educators can build a diverse environment and positive relationships to build a culturally responsive classroom. The presenters will share their journeys, illuminating the challenges and successes of working through and beyond the impacts of structural racism.



Session 1

Dominique Metoyer

Creating a Sense of Belonging Through Books



9:45–11:00 AM
SAC– Room C
Building 44

This will be an interactive workshop where we will utilize the concept of “Mirrors, Windows, and Glass Sliding Doors” to learn how to create an inclusive library that addresses the different aspects of children’s experiences, including culture, family structure, gender identity, and immigration/uprooting. Explore the culturally diverse attributes of children and families. Learn why diverse stories matter and how they help promote family engagement and positive family–educator relationships. Participants will leave with a list of books to support their goal in creating an inclusive library.

Maile Juarez

The Diverse Ecological Systems and How They Affect a Child's Development



9:45–11:00 AM
SAC– Room D
Building 44

During this presentation attendees will gain an understanding about how the five major forces of the ecological system developed by Bronfenbrenner impacts a child’s development. Each attendee will learn the five systems, their connections to the child and how they impact a child’s development. As part of one of those systems we play an important part in a child’s development. Attendees will walk away with ideas in creating an environment that supports a healthy development in each child that care for.

Session 2

Rhiannon Ramkisson

Bigger Than Their ‘Behaviors’: Positive Child Guidance for Autistic/Neurodivergent Young Children



11:15AM–12:30PM
PAC–Building 54

This presentation will use up to date research on neurodivergent children and guidance to highlight best practices for guidance of preschoolers with disabilities. The presentation will address the complexity of behaviors, define neurodiversity, and explore how teachers and families can support young children with disabilities/divergent brains in building the skills and self-regulation needed to be successful in school and life. We will explore the differences in behaviorist vs developmental approaches to managing behaviors (including challenging ones), highlighting the importance of respecting the autonomy and unique needs of all children. We will look at how many factors (including communication and sensory differences) can influence behavior/interactions and the best techniques to use for different situations. There will be some discussion on the long-term impacts of practices such as ABA for autistic/neurodivergent children and adults. The concepts of trauma and intersectionality, and how our current systems may further harm our most at-risk families and students will be discussed. Participants will leave session with a more informed understanding of the autistic/neurodivergent experience and ways to support children’s strengths rather than focus on changing their weaknesses.



Session 2

Matthew Bernard



Addressing the prevalence of IPV in the Hispanic community and its relation to childhood trauma and development: A multi-faceted approach

11:15AM-12:30PM

**SAC- Room B
Building 44**

The world of intimate partner violence, formerly and sometimes concurrently known as domestic violence, is often addressed from the perspective of gender, but more than ever, culture and race have become a prevalent aspect. When we consider the ramifications of culture, specifically that of the Hispanic culture, where women are told that the sanctity of marriage prevails over the notion of equality or even happiness for that matter, then the discussion opens itself to new opportunities. Each of the respective aforementioned areas will uncover ways in which we may re-educate the public, explore methods for rehabilitation, and finally form a pathway for preventative care as it relates to breaking generational cycles of trauma. The presentation will go over awareness and education, prevention, rehabilitation, breaking generational cycles of trauma, and redefining the hierarchical prevalence of historical culture vs. relevant and modern-day notions of child rearing.

Emma Herzog



Boys can cry and girls can problem solve: Breaking gender stereotypes through social and emotional curriculum and teaching strategies

11:15AM-12:30PM

**SAC- Room C
Building 44**

One of the most essential elements to being an effective teacher is creating and implementing a welcoming, supportive, and safe learning environment. Children should feel confident and eager to explore. They should feel valued, appreciated, and acknowledged for their unique abilities. Boys AND girls both deserve equal opportunities for learning and participation in your classroom. It's time to reflect and redirect your teaching lens on gender stereotypes. As teachers we need to address our bias's on gender typical expectations for children's behaviors, the toys we see fit for play, and the skills we value as important for boys and girls. Boys can cry and girls can problem solve! Your teaching strategies matter. Come join us to learn more about strategies you can use in your teaching to increase children's social and emotional competencies and provide an learning platform that embodies gender inclusivity.

**Yadira
Arellano**



**Kimberly
Barker**



**Tamarah
Williams**



Session 3

Diversity in the classroom: How educators create a place of inclusion, diversity and equity

2:00-3:15 PM

PAC-Building 54

In the dynamic environment of a preschool classroom, fostering diversity is crucial for supporting young learners' development. This presentation highlights effective strategies that early childhood educators can use to create an inclusive atmosphere that celebrates diverse backgrounds, cultures, and abilities. We will explore the incorporation of multicultural materials, the importance of a welcoming environment, and the role of play in promoting understanding among peers. Attendees will gain practical tools to engage families and cultivate a community that nurtures every child's growth. Join us to learn how to lay the foundation for a more inclusive and equitable future through diversity in the preschool classroom.



Session 3

Baby Sign Language in the Classroom

Aileen Salamanca



2:00–3:15 PM

**SAC– Room B
Building 44**

Put away your pen and paper! Be ready to use your hands to learn baby signs that you can start using now in the classroom or at home. Let's go beyond basic baby signs, such as 'more' and 'eat', and let's learn to sign colors, animals, family members, and emotions. In this hands-on workshop, attendees will be demonstrated how to sign while children are doing fun activities, sign along to books and songs, and how to use sign language to identify emotions. We will discuss three important questions: Why use baby sign language? How to use baby sign language? When to use baby sign language? Since working on my project for the Child Development Master Program at CSUSB, I can share what the research has to say about baby sign language. I will share my experiences of using baby sign language in my toddler classroom during play, mealtimes, and transitions. I have used baby sign language as a TOOL for many reasons in my classroom. Reasons such as one-on-one interactions and to build positive relationships with children and families. My hopes for attendees in this workshop is to have fun, learn, and to practice baby sign language in their life.

Education that Recognizes Trauma: Humane Approaches via Social and Emotional Learning

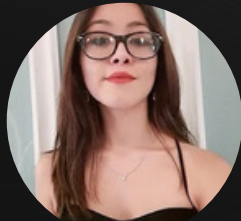
The purpose of this discussion is to provide our audience with an overview of trauma-aware education and social and emotional learning (SEL). Specifically, the focus will be on useful strategies that educational professionals can apply to promote SEL and trauma-aware behaviors in their jobs and classrooms. Regarding the latter, we will talk about the significance of self-care activities for educators as well as compassion fatigue. This session is intended for pre-K–12 educators, both current and future. Administrators, support personnel, and instructors working in higher education settings are welcome to attend and can still gain from the material offered in the session.

**Dr. Tatiana
Pumacchua**



**2:00–3:15 PM
SAC– Room C
Building 44**

**Aiyana
Castanon**



**Cindy Ledesma
Ramirez**



**Michelle
Salazar**



**Melissa
Cuellar**



**Flor Zepeda
Gomez**



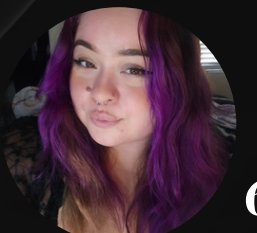
**Anabella
Rocha**



**Isabella
Lopez**



**Jasmine
Pinto**



BREAKFAST

7:30-8:30AM

Nadi Crepes & Mini Pancakes

760-421-9007

Follow on Instagram

@Nadi_Crepes

Mini Pancakes



Hire me for your next event!!!



Nadia Allamirano
760-421-9007
Insta: Nadi_Crepes Philippines 413

With Options:

Two Fruits:
Strawberries and Bananas

6 Different Drizzles

13 Different Toppings

LUNCH

12:30-1:50PM

Taco Options:

Chicken, Beef, Veggies.

Sides:

Rice, Beans, Fresh Garden Salad

Salsa Bar (3 Salsas):

Cucumber, Limes, Onion, Cilantro, Grilled Onion, Cooked Jalapenos, Chopped Cabbage, and Chips.

Three Types of Fresh Waters:

Hibiscus, Lemonade, and Rice Water.

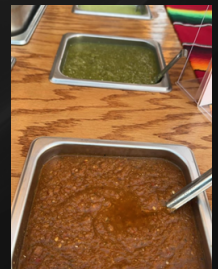


Mariscos el 47

Mariscos Estilo Nayarit

Follow on Instagram

@Mariscos_El_47



All will be in SAC in Building 44

Can participate in multiple

Activities!

Attendees will be able to participate in play-based activities that they will be able to explore, wonder, create and be process focus NOT product focus! Get to take home their creations!

Networking!

Attendees feel free to bring flyers, business cards, share information, meet new people and catch up with friends!

Raffles!

There will be numerous raffles throughout the day due to our generous donations! However, one must be present to obtain their raffle prize! Each presentation will have raffle. The big ones will be at the end of the day! Hint Hint!

Donations

The VVC's Child Development Conference has received generous donations of all sorts. The Child Development Conference is very appreciative all donations (big and small) and for all the support and time that many provided from VVC, the local community and from the presenters.

Victor Valley College

Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences

Foundations

Child Development Center

Associated Student Body

Perkins

Maintenance & Operations

Victor Valley College Faculty Association

Campus Police

Print Shop

Psychology Department

Nursing Department

Auxiliary Services

Performance Art's Center

Veteran's Center

English Department

History Department

Career Center

Child Development Department

STEM and Health Sciences

Public Safety & Industrial Technology

Office of Instruction

Information Technology Services

Community

Discount School Supplies

Program for Infant Toddler Care

Child Care Resource Center

Lakeshore

Science of Parenting

California State Polytechnic University, Pomona

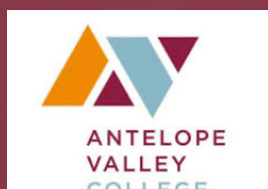
California State University San Bernardino

University, Pomona

San Bernardino Superintendent of Schools

Antelope Valley College

The Discovery Source & Discovery Source



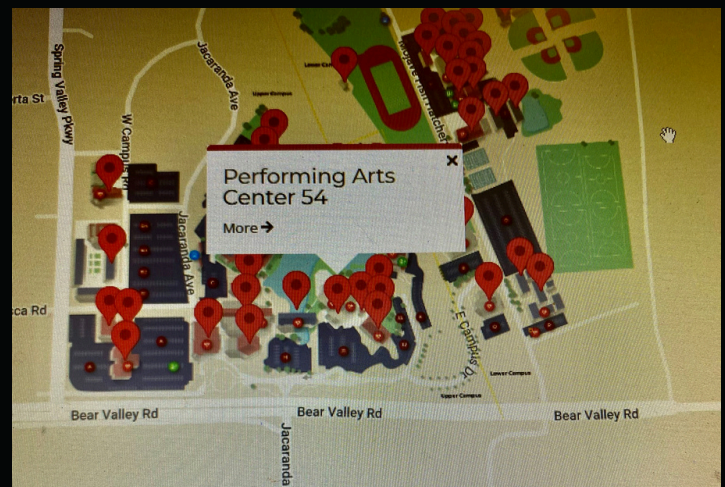
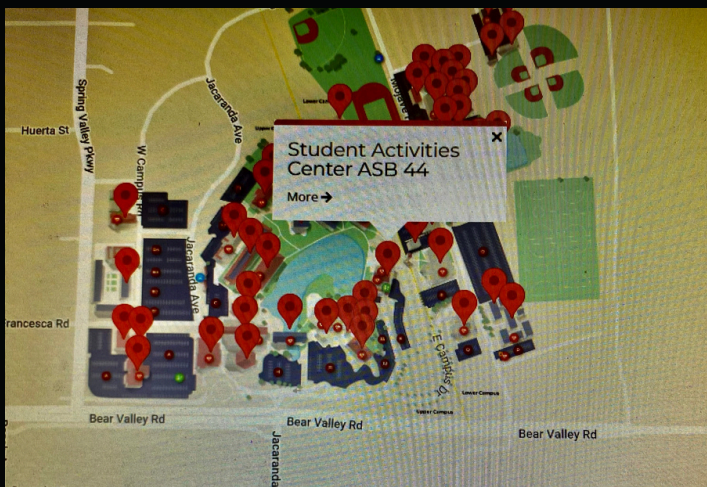
Map

The VVC's Child Development Conference will start in the Student's Activities Center in Building 44 and will have Keynote Presenters and some Breakout Sessions in Performing Arts Center in Building 54 and some Presentations in Student Activities Center in Building 44.

FREE PARKING IN LOT Q- or must pay \$2 in another lot to not be cited.

The webpage has an interactive map too:

<https://www.vvc.edu/campus-map>



Conference Questionnaire Form

The VVC's Child Development Conference Registration requested attendee's to complete the Conference Questionnaire Form which helps with financially supporting the conference. The responses will be confidential and assists with tracking data on the conference.

Please take the time to complete this brief survey.

<https://forms.gle/vV1kqe3wWEv2VHze7>

Conference Overall Evaluation Form

The VVC's Child Development Conference would like to hear about attendee's experiences and suggestions to make the Conference even better.

This also provides data to support the conference by the numerous sponsors

Please take the time to complete this brief survey.

<https://forms.gle/Nx9LMa6AmvqjUVyj7>