



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16

Schedule of Events

| TIME | EVENT | DESCRIPTION | LOCATION |
|-------------------|--|--|--------------------|
| 9:00AM - 9:45AM | BREAKFAST AND REGISTRATION | Check in, get your nametag and swag, and enjoy a full breakfast with coffee and beverages. | Lobby/Pre-Function |
| 9:45AM - 10:15AM | WELCOME REMARKS | Get grounded, get excited, and gear up for a great event! | Summit |
| 10:30AM - 12:00PM | Using Mentoring Best Practices and Afrocentricity to Increase the Academic and Social Outcomes of Boys of Color Dedrick Sims, Arvian Harper, Markell Lucas, Vizier LuQman; Sims-Fayola Foundation Team | Unlock the potential of culturally responsive mentoring in this engaging workshop designed for educators, mentors, mentoring programs, and advocates across disciplines. Explore the critical issues facing boys of color in education and discover actionable strategies to promote their academic success and well-being. Led by esteemed educator and researcher Dr. Dedrick Sims and the program leaders of the Sims-Fayola Foundation, this session centers on the Sims Framework for Academic Achievement of Boys of Color (SFAABC). Grounded in Afrocentric principles, Nguzo Saba, and best practices in mentorship, SFAABC offers a comprehensive approach to addressing the unique needs of boys of color in educational settings. Join us for a dynamic exploration of culturally responsive mentoring and take the first step towards creating a more equitable and inclusive educational landscape for boys of color. | Summit |
| 10:30AM - 12:00PM | Demonstrating Mentoring Program Impacts on Delinquency, Substance Use & Suicidality: The Importance of Long-Term Evaluation Heather Taussig, Professor; Program Director - Fostering Healthy Futures, University of Denver and Kempe Center (University of Colorado) | Fostering Healthy Futures (FHF) is an evidence-based mentoring program for youth with child welfare involvement. This workshop will focus on strategies for maximizing the impact of your mentoring program (regardless of the population served) and evaluation techniques that will help showcase outcomes. Using FHF as an example, this workshop will review strategies for: (1) developing realistic targets given your program design, (2) ensuring your evaluation and measurement strategies are well aligned, and (3) considering post-program follow-up with participants to examine important longer-term outcomes. This workshop is geared towards those interested in developing or refining their evaluation strategies to demonstrate impact. | Elevate |
| 10:30AM - 12:00PM | Bringing Joy and Happiness to Mentoring: How to Create a Kinder Space for You, your Mentee and Your Organization Shari Collins, Shari Collins Consulting, Owner and Lead Consultant | Did you know that one factor that has the biggest impact on overall levels of happiness is social support? A vital happiness indicator is being able to rely on someone, especially in times of need. Positive psychology strategies can have an impact on personal levels of happiness, can create influence throughout your organization, and can lead to happier, kinder, and more joyous mentoring experiences. Learn positive psychology facts, engage with others, and leave with action steps to implement right away. You won't want to miss it! | Ascend |

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| 10:30AM - 12:00PM | <p>From Audit to Action: The Power of Asset Based Language Allison Alexander, Aspen Community Foundation, Director of Strategic Partnerships Ali Welch, The Buddy Program, Development Director</p> | <p>In this workshop, we'll delve into how and why language and our word choice impact systems and outcomes for communities. We'll discuss the language audit process and help attendees identify deficit-based language and opportunities for a positive shift. From a development/fundraising perspective, we'll talk about overcoming barriers to implementing asset-based language when communicating with donors and grantors, and we'll cover actionable steps to deepen your impact when communicating with your constituencies.</p> | Discover |
| 12:00PM - 12:30PM | LUNCH AND NETWORKING | <p>Find a new friend, connect with colleagues, and enjoy lunch in any of the seating areas inside or on the terrace.</p> | Lobby/Pre-Function |
| 12:30PM - 2:00PM | <p>Being That Safe Space: Mentoring and Celebrating LGBTQ2S Youth Val Ponce Nájera, Aliadxs LLC - Educator and Inclusivity Expert</p> | <p>All youth deserve to have spaces where they can be uplifted, loved and celebrated! Become that supportive adult to LGBTQ2S youth by learning all you need to know to be the ultimate ally. In this workshop, we will learn the basics of LGBTQ2S inclusion, the effects of acceptance on LGBTQ2S youth's mental health and an easy guide to nurturing safe spaces for LGBTQ2S youth.</p> | Elevate |
| 12:30PM - 2:00PM | <p>Thriving Together: Wellness Strategies for Mentors and Mentees of Color Dr. Asia Lyons, CEO Lyons Educational Consulting Dr. Eleonora Cahill, Executive Director, Resilient Futures</p> | <p>Supporting our mentees of Color as they navigate racialized experiences can be challenging, especially if you, as a mentor, are also having a similar experience. From our interactive workshop, participants will understand the impacts of racism-related stress and racial battle fatigue on mentors and mentees of Color. They will also learn strategies to combat this vicarious trauma while showing up fully for their mentees and themselves.</p> | Ascend |
| 12:30PM - 2:00PM | <p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion (D.E.I.) Let's Talk Vicki Scott, Aurora Mental Health & Recovery, Manager Aurora Youth Options</p> | <p>This session is focused on championing the values of justice, equity, diversity and inclusion. Using these elements as a platform to stretch creativity and innovation beyond our cultural boundaries, moving us from moralistic understanding to pragmatic utility. This foundations session will provide Mentors and staff within our programs foundational elements of understanding working daily within the diversity of our daily lives as we will identify our own intersectionality. This will be engaging, practical with the ability to tweak to match our own program needs.</p> | Discover |

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| 12:30PM - 2:00PM | <p>Next-Level Mentoring: Transformative Trauma-Informed Practices Angela Sillas-Green, Creating Change Counseling and Education; Owner, Therapist and Trainer</p> | <p>This workshop is designed to deepen understanding of the crucial relationship between self-awareness and effective mentoring. Participants will explore how the brain processes stress and trauma, gain insights into their own emotional responses, and develop strategies to build stronger, trust-based relationships. By engaging in reflective practices and learning when to seek support, attendees will enhance their personal well-being and professional growth, ensuring they are well-equipped to support youth resilience and development. This interactive session will provide advanced tools and insights, fostering a nurturing environment for mentoring programs, mentors, and mentees.</p> | Explore |
| 2:15PM - 3:00PM | <p>Screening for DEIJ-Aligned Mentors Roundtable Bri Sanchez, The Buddy Program, Mentoring Program Coordinator Katie Garcia Martinez, The Buddy Program, Mentoring Program Coordinator</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Elevate |
| 2:15PM - 3:00PM | <p>Crafting an Impactful Story: Social Media Strategies for Mentoring Programs Roundtable Yogita Tahilram, MENTOR, Digital Content and Engagement Manager</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Ascend |
| 2:15PM - 3:00PM | <p>Sustainability and Fundraising Roundtable Tim Wills, MENTOR, Chief Impact Officer</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Discover |
| 2:15PM - 3:00PM | <p>The Intersection of Neurodivergence and Mentoring Roundtable Thomas R. Wilson, R&H Creative Advocacy and Storytelling LLC, Owner-Operator</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives. FUEL UP WITH GRAB AND GO SMALL BITES AND REFRESHMENT.</p> | Explore |

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| 3:00PM - 3:15PM | SNACKS AND DRINKS | Fuel up with grab-and-go small bites and refreshment. | Lobby/Pre-Function |
| 3:15PM - 4:00PM | Strategies and Success in Peer Mentoring Roundtable Carlo Kriekels, YESS Institute, Co-founder & CEO | Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives. | Elevate |
| 3:15PM - 4:00PM | Centering, Empowering, and Elevating Youth Voice Roundtable Preston Adams, Love and Liberation, Founder and CEO | Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives. | Ascend |
| 3:15PM - 4:00PM | Conflict Resolution - Handling Difficult Situations in Mentoring Roundtable Courtney Rawson, SOS Outreach, Eagle County Program Manager | Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives. | Discover |
| 3:15PM - 4:00PM | Recruiting, Hiring & Retaining Staff Roundtable Susan Duncombe, Wholehearted Consulting LLC, Founder/Consultant | Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives. | Explore |
| 4:15PM - 5:00PM | KEYNOTE SPEAKER commUnity Brandon Leake, Called To Move - CTM, Founder and CEO | In this engaging presentation, Brandon focuses on realizing your intrinsic value, which leads to prioritizing self-care and communal well-being in the face of the tremendous work being done for the sake of youth. For there is no community, without you. | Summit |
| 5:15PM - 7:15PM | SUMMIT RECEPTION | Join us for connection and culinary delights. Food and drink are included with Summit registration; guests must preregister at the time of ticket purchase. | Great Divide Brewery (2nd floor) |

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| 8:00AM - 8:45AM | BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING | Connect with friends and colleagues and enjoy a light breakfast with coffee and beverages. | Lobby/Pre-Function |
| 8:45AM - 9:30AM | PARENT VOICES: A PANEL ON PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT Moderated by: Angela Maher, Save Our Youth, Education Manager Ericka Porter, Rise Up Training & Consulting CEO & Lead Consultant/Trainer | This panel will allow attendees to hear key insights directly from parents of mentees on how programs can best engage them as true partners in the mentoring relationship. Come ready to learn and ask questions from the experts themselves - parents! | Summit |
| 9:45AM - 11:00AM | Strength Unleashed: Empowering Mentors and Mentees for Resilience Against Exploitation, Bullying, and Suicide, While Discovering Superpowers and Nurturing Mental Health Dawn Chisholm, Community Mission AZ Director/Together Building Youth - Collaborator Kimberly Muhammad, Zuri's Circle Director/Together Building Youth - Collaborator | In today's interconnected world, the prevalence of bullying, grooming, and youth suicide remains a pressing concern. This workshop explores the transformative potential of fostering meaningful connections between trusted adults and the next generation of mentors and mentees to combat these pervasive challenges. By harnessing superpowers like empathy, communication, mentorship, and by cultivating a growth mindset and the practice of journaling, individuals can create environments of trust, support, and resilience. Through strategies such as active listening, constructive dialogue, and effective mentoring programs, this workshop highlights the pivotal role of nurturing relationships in empowering youth to navigate and overcome adversities. By fostering a culture of openness, empathy, and empowerment, we can pave the way for a brighter, more inclusive future where every individual feels valued, supported, and equipped to thrive. | Elevate |
| 9:45AM - 11:00AM | The Art of Connection Brandon Leake, Called To Move - CTM, Founder and CEO | This is an interactive workshop that emphasizes the need for creative arts as a method to build bridges between our youth clients and their mentors. Where spoken words may fail, written words may be brought to new life. | Ascend |
| 9:45AM - 11:00AM | Effective & Authentic Parent and Family Engagement Angela Maher, Save Our Youth, Education Manager Ericka Porter, Rise Up Training & Consulting CEO & Lead Consultant/Trainer | We all know youth work IS parent & family work, but it can often feel like we are missing the mark in how we engage parents and families as mentoring professionals and organizations. This interactive workshop will provide tips, tools, and currently used evidence-based strategies on how to best engage with parents of GenZ mentees. | Discover |



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| 9:45AM - 11:00AM | <p>Political Literacy for Youth Leaders Mauryell Smith EI, Apprentice of Peace Youth Organization, Program Coordinator</p> | <p>Enhance your political literacy and civic engagement skills in this dynamic workshop designed for youth leaders. Through interactive activities and practical exercises, you'll learn to critically evaluate political information, understand governmental structures, and advocate effectively. Gain tools to promote civic participation and hold public officials accountable. Ideal for youth leaders, mentors, and educators looking to foster informed, active citizenship within their communities. Join us to empower yourself and others for a more engaged and democratic society.</p> | Explore |
| 11:00AM - 11:15M | HEAVY SNACKS | Fuel up with grab-and-go small bites and refreshment. | Lobby/Pre-Function |
| 11:15AM - 12:00PM | <p>Empowering Newcomer Youth Roundtable Fryda Faugier Ferreira, Hands to the Future, Manager of Programs & Outreach</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Elevate |
| 11:15AM - 12:00PM | <p>Building Community Partnerships Roundtable Erich Nelson, Friends of the Children</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Ascend |
| 11:15AM - 12:00PM | <p>Resiliency: Let's Pour Into Our Youth! Roundtable Aspen Chin, The Lounge, Executive Director</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Discover |
| 11:15AM - 12:00PM | <p>Leadership Roundtable (for executive-level leaders) Curtis Hearst, Partners of Delta, Montrose & Ouray, Executive Director</p> | <p>Designed for peer learning and sharing, these 45-minute sessions will be guided by leaders in the field. Participants will have the opportunity to engage in collaborative dialogues and work together to develop innovative solutions and initiatives.</p> | Explore |
| 12:15PM - 12:30PM | CLOSING CELEBRATION | Engage in encouraging wrap-up activities and take a moment to complete the overall event survey. Your feedback matters! | Summit |