



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

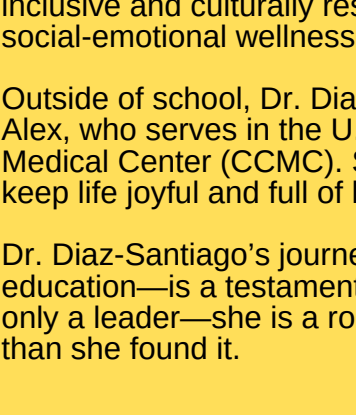
MAY 27, 2025

- 9:00AM Welcome**
Cherese Oduke & Henry Rondon, CAS-CIAC
Student Moderator – Emily Tessier, Berlin High School
- 9:05AM Panel Discussion**
- 10:05AM Break/Transition**
- 10:15AM Breakout Sessions**
1. Katie M. Amenta & Ana Nascimento (LMC Room)
2. Dr. Anabelle Diaz-Santiago (Chorus Room)
3. Dr. Erin Cravez (Multipurpose Room)
4. Kerrie Glassman (Auditorium)
5. Jennifer Stone ()
- 11:15AM Dismissal**



EMILY TESSIER – STUDENT MODERATOR

I'm a senior at Berlin High School and proud to serve as the Upbeat Coordinator, where I've enjoyed fostering school spirit and building community. In the fall, I'll be continuing my journey in the arts at the Hartt School of Music at the University of Hartford, pursuing a BFA in Dance Performance. I'm excited to deepen my training, express myself through movement, and grow both artistically and personally in this next chapter.



DR. ANABELLE DIAZ-SANTIAGO

PRINCIPAL, MOSER SCHOOL, ROCKY HILL

Dr. Anabelle Diaz-Santiago is a passionate and visionary educational leader who brings heart, resilience, and purpose to every school community she serves. Currently, the proud principal of Moser School in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, Dr. Diaz-Santiago is known for her student-centered leadership, her commitment to equity, and her deep belief in the power of education to change lives.

Born in Puerto Rico, Anabelle transitioned to the United States at the age of nine, arriving in Hartford, Connecticut with her single mother and nothing but the clothes on their backs—searching for a better life. As a first-generation American, she faced the challenges of a new language, culture, and

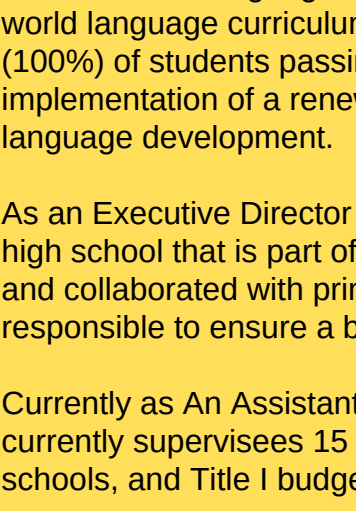
environment with courage and determination. She attended a technical high school, initially believing she was not "college material" and trained to be a hairdresser. But her story didn't end there.

Driven by her growing love for learning and a desire to make a difference, Anabelle defied expectations and became the first in her family to attend college. She went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in Art Education, a Master's in Educational Leadership, and later, a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from Central Connecticut State University.

With over two decades of experience in education, Dr. Diaz-Santiago began her career as a Visual Arts Instructor and evolved into an accomplished school administrator, serving in secondary urban, and elementary suburban public school settings. Her leadership is marked by innovation, collaboration, and a heartfelt dedication to student success. She has built strong partnerships with families and staff, advocated for inclusive and culturally responsive practices, and led initiatives that uplift student voice, STEAM learning, and social-emotional wellness.

Outside of school, Dr. Diaz-Santiago is a proud wife and mother of two incredible adult children—her son Alex, who serves in the U.S. Navy, and her daughter Analise, a cardiac sonographer at Connecticut Children's Medical Center (CCMC). She shares her home with two energetic and loving boxer pups, Luna and Lili, who keep life joyful and full of laughter.

Dr. Diaz-Santiago's journey—from a young girl finding her place in a new country to a transformative leader in education—is a testament to perseverance, faith, and the power of believing in what's possible. She is not only a leader—she is a role model and a true change-maker, committed to leaving every community better than she found it.



VIVIANA CAMACHO

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT, NEW HAVEN SCHOOLS

Viviana Camacho was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. After living in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands, she moved to Connecticut in 1986 as a high school student where she attended Wilbur Cross High School her freshman year and graduated from Branford High School. Currently, she resides in New Haven, CT with her son, Michael Terrell Conner Jr. She has a unique perspective of urban and suburban education due to her experiences which started in New Haven Public Schools as a substitute teacher.

Ms. Camacho started as an elementary bilingual teacher at FAME formerly known as Columbus Family Academy. In 2002, she began her administrative career as an assistant principal in Meriden, CT. She returned to New Haven Public Schools in 2003 and served as an assistant principal and interim Title I Director. She also pursued other administrative opportunities in Bridgeport, CT as an elementary and high school principal as well as the world language coordinator for the Greenwich Public Schools. She joined the Hartford Public Schools in 2019 to serve as an Executive Director for School Leadership and returned to New Haven in 2022 as Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Leadership/School Improvement.

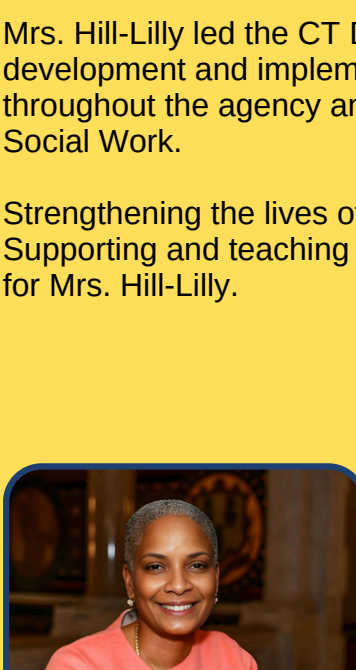
As the World Language Coordinator for the Greenwich Public Schools, Ms. Camacho realigned the K-12 world language curriculum to the Common Core State Standards. This redesign led to the highest percent (100%) of students passing the AP exam in five different languages. In addition, she launched the implementation of a renewed system of assessments for the elementary schools to measure students' language development.

As an Executive Director for School Leadership, she supervised up to 16 schools, overseen a turnaround high school that is part of the Commissioner's Network, facilitated construction meetings for two schools, and collaborated with principals and finance to ensure equitable budget practices that are fiscally responsible to ensure a balanced budget.

Currently as an Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Leadership/School Improvement where she currently supervises 15 schools, Commissioner's Network Grant, School Improvement Grants at 5 schools, and Title I budget that is over 13 million dollars of grant funds.

Viviana Camacho received a bachelor of arts degree in communications from Central Connecticut State University in 1995; a master of arts degree in elementary education from Southern Connecticut State University in 2000; a 6th year degree from Southern Connecticut State University in education leadership in 2004; and completed the executive leadership program at the University of Connecticut in 2017. In addition, she also completed the Superintendent Leadership Program with the Association of Latinos Administrators & Superintendents in 2018.

In 2020 she was recognized as one of CT 100 Women of Color. She currently serves on the board Casa Otoñal, Junta, and Parent National Parent Organization. Nationally she serves on The School Superintendent Association (AASA) Advisory Board for Aspiring Latinx Superintendents, and Facilitates the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents (ALAS) Student Leadership Academy Alumni Network



JODI HILL-LILLY

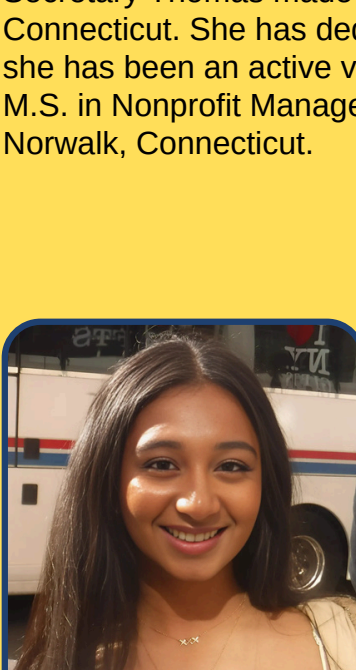
COMMISSIONER, CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Jodi Hill-Lilly is Commissioner Designate of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families (DCF) and has been with the department since 1988. In December 2023, Mrs. Hill-Lilly was nominated by Governor Ned Lamont to serve as commissioner of DCF pending approval during this legislative session of the Connecticut General Assembly.

In her prior role as Deputy Commissioner of Administration at DCF, Mrs. Hill-Lilly was responsible for the Department's administrative functions including Financial Services, Human Resources, the Academy for Workforce Development, Information Systems, Multicultural Affairs and Systems Development. Mrs. Hill-Lilly has over 31 years of direct service and management experience in child protective services. For the last 14 years, she has served as a national consultant, trainer, and speaker for a number of federal and state initiatives including but not limited to; the Child and Family Service Reviews, Minority Professional Leadership Development (formerly The Minority Adoption Leadership Institute), Making Baltimore City a Trauma Informed System, Training on Adoption Competencies, and the National Child Welfare Workforce Institute.

Mrs. Hill-Lilly led the CT DCF initiative on Racial Justice and was responsible for assisting with the development and implementation of policy, training, and coaching on issues related to race and culture throughout the agency and the community. Mrs. Hill-Lilly holds both a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Social Work.

Strengthening the lives of children and families has been at the core of Mrs. Hill-Lilly's work experience. Supporting and teaching child welfare staff to do this work is a true passion and a rewarding experience for Mrs. Hill-Lilly.



STEPHANIE THOMAS

CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF THE STATE

Stephanie Thomas was sworn in as Connecticut's Secretary of the State on January 4, 2023. With a distinguished 30-year career advising and problem-solving for nonprofit organizations, running her own business, and serving as a State Representative of the 143rd District (Norwalk, Wilton, Westport), Secretary Thomas brings a unique blend of business expertise and a passion for civics to public service.

Since taking office, Secretary Thomas has led the implementation of significant election reforms in the state, including the roll-out of early voting and a new centralized voter registration system. In September 2023, she secured a historic investment of \$25 million to replace the state's aging tabulators, marking Connecticut's first voting machine upgrade since 2006. During her term, Secretary Thomas will also institute the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of Connecticut and automatic voter registration at several Connecticut agencies.

A former small business owner, Secretary Thomas has worked to pass business-friendly legislation, and she has created a monthly e-newsletter that aggregates funding and training resources in one place to save business owners' time.

Secretary Thomas believes that a healthy representative democracy relies on regular and active participation in civic life by all. To promote robust civic engagement, she has met Connecticut's communities in their own spaces, thereby cultivating a nonpartisan dialogue between the people and their government. She has travelled to barbershops and salons around the state as part of her Connect & Cut series, held civic trivia events at local libraries, encouraged businesses and nonprofits to be civic ambassadors through her innovative CEO (Civically Engaged Organization) program, and put the power of civics into the hands of the public by providing plain-language, civics resources at Civics101.ct.gov.

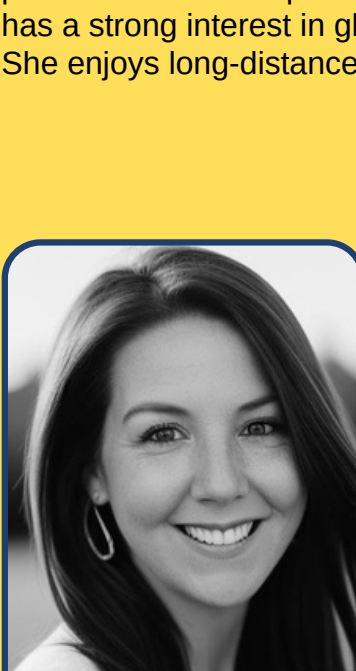
Secretary Thomas made history as the first Black person to be elected Secretary of the State of Connecticut. She has dedicated time to serving on many boards and strategic planning committees, and she has been an active volunteer in her community. She holds a B.A. from New York University and an M.S. in Nonprofit Management from New School University. She and her husband are proud residents of Norwalk, Connecticut.



ANVI BOSE

STUDENT, ROCKY HILL HIGH SCHOOL

Anvi Bose is a junior attending Rocky Hill High School with passions that span from music to math and science to public policy. She currently serves as the representative for the northeast region of the United States on the National Student Advisory Council of the National Federation of High Schools. Additionally, she is a member of CAS-CIAC's Student Equity Advisory Board. In her own time, Anvi loves to sing, write, read Malcolm Gladwell books, and learn!



HALEY KING

MANAGEMENT OPERATIONS, ESPN

Haley King is Storrs, CT native who used her passion for sports to land at one of the most recognizable companies in the media industry, ESPN. The former collegiate and professional soccer player, landed in Bristol, Connecticut in 2003. She has spent more than 2 decades working on a variety of live sporting events such as, The NFL Draft, NBA Draft, Wimbledon, French Open, College Football, Women's NCAA Tournament, Men's Basketball ACC Tournament and the Jimmy V Celebrity Golf Tournament.

Haley is also a Heart Mom, advocating for childhood Heart after two of her three sons have been diagnosed with life threatening heart disease. Haley has created two heart foundations, *London's Legacy* and *Brooklyn's Blessings* to raise money and awareness for children fighting the fight to live longer lives. She has held two free heart screenings in Connecticut for over 150 children. In her spare time, Haley founded *Haley Cakes* in 2011 and creates beautiful custom cakes and cupcakes for clients and events throughout Connecticut.

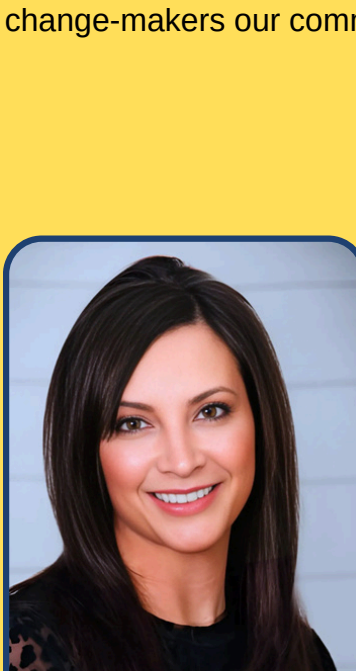


DR. ERIN CRAVEZ

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEON

Dr. Erin Cravez is a hand and upper extremity surgeon specializing in treatment of conditions of the hand and wrist, with a special focus on peripheral nerve injury, the brachial plexus, and orthopaedic microsurgery. Dr. Cravez was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska. She attended Hamilton College for her undergraduate degree and returned to the Pacific Northwest to attend medical school at the University of Washington. She was elected to the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, in which she served as an officer and graduated with honors. She completed her orthopaedic surgery residency at Yale New Haven Hospital, where she held in love with southern Connecticut and became invested in the community.

She then completed a hand and microsurgery fellowship in Los Angeles at the Joseph H. Boyes Hand Fellowship of LAC+USC and Keck Hospital, under the tutelage of renowned microsurgeon Dr. Milan Stevanovic. She has completed several academic book chapters and has been published in various peer-reviewed orthopaedic and surgical journals. Dr. Cravez remains involved in resident education and has a strong interest in global health, having completed medical missions in Africa and southeast Asia. She enjoys long-distance running, travel, and spending time with her husband and two young children.



KATIE M. AMENTA

PRINCIPAL, BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Amenta is the proud Principal of Berlin High School and has dedicated the last seventeen years to building a positive culture and climate within the Berlin school community. Mrs. Amenta taught English and Capstone for twelve years at Berlin High School, where she also served as the Women's Soccer coach for ten of those years. She was spotlighted for District Teacher of the year in 2017 and a semi-finalist for CT State Teacher of the Year in 2018. After serving as an Assistant Principal for three years, Mrs. Amenta was appointed

Principal last June. Mrs. Amenta was recognized for serving as the youngest Principal in Berlin High School history, and as the second female acting Principal in school history. Mrs. Amenta was formerly a Division I athlete and holds degrees from Central Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University, and Sacred Heart University. Mrs. Amenta's roots are forever embedded in Berlin High School as she is a Berlin High School graduate herself and is devoted to continuing the deep traditions and school spirit she cares so deeply about. Outside of her professional life, Mrs. Amenta notes her most important role of all, mother to two amazing daughters. Mrs. Amenta continues to be very involved in youth sports and believes that all young women deserve the building blocks to overcome the barriers in their lives.



ANA NASCIMENTO

SCHOOL COUNSELOR & OPEN CHOICE LIAISON

BERLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Mrs. Nascimento is a dedicated School Counselor and Open Choice Liaison at Berlin High School, where she has proudly served since 2014. She is deeply committed to supporting students through every phase of their high school experience, including academic planning, postsecondary readiness, and social-emotional growth. Her work is grounded in equity, advocacy, and ensuring that all students feel seen, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

Mrs. Nascimento began working in educational settings at the age of sixteen, starting in an early childhood program and later serving students with special needs at the Gengras Center while completing her graduate studies. She began her school counseling career at Windham High School before finding her professional home in Berlin. She holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Connecticut and a master's degree in School Counseling from the University of Saint Joseph. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor, a National Certified School Counselor, and is currently completing her sixth-year degree and 092 administrative leadership certification at Sacred Heart University.

A first-generation American and proud Portuguese daughter, Mrs. Nascimento draws strength and inspiration from the women in her family, especially her mother, who immigrated to the United States at the age of 25 and became an award-winning graphic designer. Above all, Mrs. Nascimento is most proud of her role as a mother to two daughters, who inspire her every day to lead with purpose and heart. She believes that when young women are empowered to take up space and use their voices, they become the change-makers our communities need.



KERRIE GLASSMAN

VP OF OPERATIONS

MIDDLESEX ORTHOPEDIC & SPINE ASSOCIATES

Kerrie Glassman is a dynamic and results-driven healthcare executive with a proven track record of operational leadership, strategic transformation, and team empowerment. As Vice President of Operations at Middlesex Orthopedic and Spine Associates, a Spire Orthopedic Partners practice, Kerrie leads with purpose, aligning strategy with values to drive both performance and people-centered care.

With over a decade of experience in healthcare operations, Kerrie is known for leading with integrity, compassion, and accountability. She believes deeply in the power of transparent communication, collaborative leadership, and creating cultures where individuals feel seen, supported, and inspired to grow. Kerrie's approach is grounded in her unwavering commitment to doing what's right—for patients, for providers, and for her team.

A champion for women in leadership and an advocate for meaningful change, Kerrie is honored to participate in the Women in Leadership in Connecticut Conference. She continues to dedicate her career to empowering others, challenging the status quo, and building systems that make excellence sustainable.

JENNIFER STONE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER

& ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

NAUGATUCK HIGH SCHOOL

Jennifer Stone takes immense pride in her dual roles as a dedicated PE teacher and Assistant Athletic Director at Naugatuck High School, where she is a driving force in physical education and athletic leadership. With 25 years of experience spanning both private and public schools, she has shaped the lives of students across nearly every grade level, K-12—only 8th grade has yet to experience her expertise!

Beyond the gymnasium, Mrs. Stone is equally passionate about fostering student leadership. As the advisor of Greyhound Nation, she empowers student-athletes to develop their leadership skills, serve their community, and foster personal growth—all while strengthening the bond between NHS and the greater Naugatuck area.

A proud Naugatuck High School alumna, Mrs. Stone's commitment to education is evident in her academic journey. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education from Keene State College, a Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of St. Joseph, and a Sixth Year Degree in Educational Leadership with a Specialization in Social Justice from Sacred Heart University. Her passion for advocacy and equity is woven into her work, ensuring that every student finds their voice, confidence, and potential—on and off the field.

Rooted in her hometown, Mrs. Stone lives in Naugatuck with her husband and their three sons, whom she affectionately calls her "my boys." Her mission is clear: to create a safe, supportive, and inspiring environment where students feel encouraged to grow, lead, and shape the future. As a fierce advocate for female leadership, she strives to show young women that strength, resilience, and determination can break barriers in athletics, education, and beyond.