Educators Inquiry Meetup

Featured Presenters:

- Dr Scott Lankford (Professor of English emeritus, Foothill College; GEN Executive Board Member)
- Dr. Sharon Sikora (Ph.D. Chemistry, National Assessment of Education Steering Panel Member)

* and YOU!
GEN Inquiry Meetup Goals

- **Engage** community college educators from across the nation
- **Foster** inquiry and inspiration
- **Internationalize** community college education
- **Create** “next steps” you can implement immediately
Today’s Inquiry Question:

How can you confront the Climate Crisis?
● In your classes?
● In your curriculum?
● In your campus activities?
An Urgent Introduction:  
Student Climate Strikes in 500+ Cities Globally in 2022

Bay Area youth gathered in San Francisco, where they marched to two locations, leaving red hand ..
My Own Sample Climate Teaching FAILURE
My Top 5 Climate Teaching Hacks

1. Emphasize Youth Climate Leaders
2. Emphasize Stories — not Stats
3. Emphasize Me-Search — not Re-Search
4. Emphasize Inquiry — not Info
5. Teach Locally / Think Globally
Sample Climate Hack Solutions:

● Frontload chapters which profile youth climate leaders — both were former community college grads!!!

● Require Me-Search papers — focused on “a place you love.”
Student Outcomes

1) Improved Student Writing, Critical Thinking, and Research Skills!
2) Current students organized local club/campus/community events!
3) Former students have now led student climate strikes at UCSD, UCLA!
Former Foothill Students > Intl Climate Justice Leaders

- Michelle Romero — Green for All Executive Director
- Daisy Rosalez — Bioneers Indigenous Youth Programs International Coordinator
- Maria Azhunova — Stanford Law School’s Bright Award International Conservationist of the Year 2020
Dr. Sharon Sikora (Ph.D. Chemistry, Univ of Denver)

- Recently appointed to the steering panel for the National Assessment of Education Progress (NEAP) to help formulate recommendations for updating science criteria in "The Nation's Report Card" for 2028.
- Has written curriculum for the Smithsonian as well as an NGSS-based high school chemistry curriculum in the context of climate change.
- A former Congressional Einstein Fellow, she currently serves as Director of Middle School Curriculum for Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, CA.
If only....
Challenge....
Solution....
The Story of the Coral Reefs...
The Chemistry Content...

Compounds: Ionic vs Covalent

Ion Formation

Structure of Water

Hydrogen Bonding

Chemical Reactions

Covalent Molecular Shapes

Combustion Reactions

Polarity

Equilibrium

Precipitation Reactions

Partial Pressures

Lewis Structures

Gas Laws

Stanford
Global Educators Network
Imperfect, yes….progress, most definitely
Support Students By....

● Connecting learning objectives to a Climate Storyline

● Sharing Successful (as well as not too successful) Examples

● Being Fearless in Unpacking Complex Systems for students
Breakout Questions

1. **Your Challenges:**
   what obstacles do you face teaching climate change and/or organizing climate-based campus activities?

2. **Your Success:**
   what successes have you achieved teaching climate change and/or organizing climate-based campus activities?

3. **Your Next Steps:**
   how can you respond to urgent global student calls for climate education and/or action?
1. **ACE Action for the Climate Emergency** — Inspiring K12 Teaching Resources
   
   [https://acespace.org/about-us/](https://acespace.org/about-us/)

2. **Sustainability Leaders Drawdown Course** — Across-the-Curriculum Solutions
   
   [https://www.sustainabilityleadersnetwork.org/resources/drawdown-course/](https://www.sustainabilityleadersnetwork.org/resources/drawdown-course/)

3. **EPA Climate Change Resources Webpage** — links to NOAA, NASA, EPA, etc.
   
   [https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/climate-change-resources-educators-and-students](https://www.epa.gov/climate-change/climate-change-resources-educators-and-students)

4. **Bioneers Resources for Indigeneity Education**
   
   [https://bioneers.org/back-to-school-resources-for-indigeneity-education-zmaz2108/](https://bioneers.org/back-to-school-resources-for-indigeneity-education-zmaz2108/)