

## TRACK 2: EDUCATION

# LEVELING THE K-12 PLAYING FIELD TO PROTECT INDIGENOUS CHILDRENS' FUTURES

Education, as a colonizing system, has a long and troubled past and present with Indigenous Peoples. The education system repeatedly represents our people as people of the past, promotes sterilized histories (i.e., histories that protect White Americans from the realities of atrocities leveraged against Native Peoples), and erases Indigenous knowledge systems. Changing the American education system to be a space of hope and power for Indigenous children and communities requires “calling out” the pervasive biases that exist in our schools and classrooms.

Access to data can change the systems designed to undermine Indigenous children. In this series of conversation sessions, we will focus on how to move from the colonizing system of education to a system that empowers and promotes a bright future for our youth and communities. We will provide attendees with data and language that can be used to shift local, state, and national conversations about education. Specifically, the sessions will: 1) demonstrate how educators’ beliefs, practices, and policies in the current educational systems undermine Indigenous children and 2) use strength-based insights to demonstrate how Indigenous knowledge and practices can be used to change the system as we know it to the benefit of our children. Overall, the goal of this series is to level the playing field for Indigenous children by equipping attendees with the necessary data and insights to advocate for an education system that no longer “pushes us out”, but instead incorporates the strengths of Indigenous communities, promotes accurate histories, and empowers our children to reach their full potential.

### Invited Speakers include

- Dr. Megan Bang (Keynote Speaker)
- Sarah Shear
- Rebecca Covarrubias
- Barbara Rogoff
- Diana Cournoyer
- Iloradanon Efimoff
- Melissa Tehee

