



NEED TO KNOW WEBCAST

Equitable Access

Removing Barriers to Learning in Digital Spaces

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Thursday, December 3, 2020
7-8 pm ET

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With the sudden shutdown of schools in the spring of 2020, educational institutions of all levels and iterations were forced into new, foreign digital learning arenas. While many institutions have made efforts to increase digital literacy, access to technology is often relegated to funding, which is still taking steps toward being sufficient across the country. Coupled with varying access to that same technology in homes of educators and learners alike, the lack of equity in this new digital learning environment became glaringly apparent. The challenges persisted—and even grew—in the fall. Reaching learners with these immense gaps in access,

knowledge, and technology has been a daunting task—but an attainable one. This webcast seeks to share the insights of those resolute educators who have found how to connect with their learners in spite of such barriers. The goal of the webcast is to pass on the knowledge of researchers, teachers, and program leaders who've found alternatives for technology access to level the playing field, and to share pedagogical tips that make the learning process in digital spaces more equitable for everyone.

Please note that participation in this webcast does not provide NAEA professional development credit.

Presenters:



Heidi Powell

Heidi Powell is an artist and scholar of Native American (Lenni Lenape) and Norwegian descent. She currently serves as an associate professor and the director of the online art education MA program at the University of Florida. As part of her research and practice, she explores cultural positioning in arts pedagogy. Her recent work on memory pedagogy and piggybacking focuses on Indigenous and isolated histories and their relationship to contemporary society as landscape in art education contexts. Foundational to her work is the notion of story, reemphasizing the conflictual and the consensual in society. Powell has been working with the U.S. Embassy/Florida-DR Summit in the Dominican Republic, and also researches cultural continuity through arts practice in Guatemala and other countries. She has served as a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow to Alaska and the Northwest Coast, a CIES Fulbright Scholar to Iceland, a Jewish National Fund Fellow to Israel, among other accomplishments. The *International Journal of Education Through Art* (IJETA) recently published a visual essay about her work in Guatemala titled "Alfombras: Creative Acts of Cultural Memory in Art Education."

Presenters:



Bette Naughton

Bette Naughton calls upon her years of experience and field research working with students of all abilities to create adaptive, engaging lessons for children of all abilities. She looks at what a student with special needs can do, rather than what they cannot do, and creates adaptations to engage the students in a meaningful artistic exploration built on their strengths. Her passion for this topic has enabled her to remove many of the obstacles students with disabilities encounter during the process of creating and responding to art.

Naughton's primary research has been in understanding how students' conditions, syndromes, and diagnoses affect them, so that teaching strategies can be adapted to provide successful endeavors for all learners. An artist herself, she understands the power of art as an avenue for self-expression and communication. For students with disabilities, art is often a crucial path to communication.



Paige Gandara-Valderas

Paige Gandara-Valderas was born and raised in San Antonio, Texas. She is currently serving as a high school art teacher in San Antonio at Burbank High School. She teaches Art I; Drawing II, III, and IV; AP Studio Art; and Yearbook. Gandara-Valderas attended St. Mary's University, where in 2017 she earned her BA in K-12 art education with a minor in visual communications. Her background in visual communications has helped make the process of transitioning into online learning easier because of her experience with graphic design, video editing, journalism, and photography. Gandara-Valderas

loves the profession that she chose, which is why she decided to further her education. She is currently a 2nd-year graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, earning her MA in art education on the university's schools track. The program has allowed her to explore the field more deeply and entwine her professional practices with personal practices. As a professional, working caricature artist, Gandara-Valderas travels the country and works events around Texas. Her research will bring together the field of art education and the art of caricature.