



The 21st Century School Leadership Academy (21CSLA) is dedicated to the professional learning and support of California's educational leaders--teacher, site, and district- to create more equitable learning environments that ultimately improve success for underserved students.

The 21CSLA initiative provides high quality, equity centered professional learning for educational leaders of schools and districts in California that receive Title II funds. Programs are no-cost to participants and include leadership coaching as well as an emphasis on improving instruction and achievement outcomes (including through distance learning) for English Learners, students with disabilities, low income students, and other historically marginalized students.



## Our 21CSLA CORE Coaches



Kristen Buczek



Amy Chou



Joanne Sith



Rachelle Nelson



Rebecca Coen



Santos Gonzalez



# 21CSLA Project Manager



## KRISTEN BUCZEK

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Kristen is an educational enthusiast and has made it her life's work to empower other educators to bring the most equitable practices into our schools. Throughout her career, she has served in many roles including classroom teacher, mentor, instructional coach, facilitator, assistant principal and principal of a school recognized as California Distinguished and named one of the Top Schools in Los Angeles serving students from under-served communities. Ultimately, Kristen has become energized by working with leadership and teacher teams, TK-12 in building capacity and systemwide coherence.

She is proud to have worked alongside expert consultants who have helped hundreds of educators develop best practices in strategic planning, professional learning communities, classroom instruction, and more all in the service of students. It is her unwavering belief that, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

## 21CSLA'S IMPACT STATEMENT

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In partnership with the California Department of Education (CDE), California Collaborative for Educational Excellence (CCEE), State Board of Education (SBE), California Subject Matter Projects (CSMP) and Regional Academies, 21CSLA will develop a robust, equity-forward approach to expand the capacity of California leaders at all levels. Informed by improvement science, this initiative will improve instruction, schools, and districts to better meet the needs of underserved students, ultimately creating more equitable schools for historically marginalized pupil groups.



UCLA Center X



# Professional Learning Coaches



## AMY CHOU, ED. M

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Amy is an evolving equity-minded educator who is committed to building transformation, resilience, and promise because every voice and contribution matters.

She has been in the field of education, youth development, leadership, philanthropy and community building for over 10 years. She is a dynamic facilitator who uses art and storytelling to nurture the growth and development of those she serves. As a transformative leader and coach, she is inspired to co-create an equitable path forward together with community to increase transformative relationships and systemic change through authentic interconnection.

Amy holds a Master's in Education from Harvard Graduate School of Education and a Bachelor's in Fine Art from University of California, Los Angeles.

## JOANNE SITH

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Joanne is a career educator who strives to build liberatory school cultures that provide every student with a high-quality education that is not just about ACCESS but also self-empowerment. Her 11 years of experience has been active with deep inquiry, implementation of equitable practices, and a dedication to pedagogical methods that prioritize racial equity.

As a prior teacher and school leader, she is inspired to collaborate with other leaders in fostering a school culture wherein ALL feel safe and supported in cultivating equity-mindedness for systemic change.



# Leadership Coaches



## RACHELLE NELSON

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Rachelle has been in education reform for over 25 years as a special education teacher, school administrator, charter school founder, a leader in advocacy for diversity & equity, and a board member of several non-profit organizations.

Her experiences and expertise have aided in the successful development of English Learner programs, special education departments, social emotional learning initiatives, technology integration, district wide professional development series, and the implementation of effective instructional practices to increase student achievement.

She has dedicated her career to improving teaching and learning practices to ensure our most underserved students gain access to opportunities that they deserve.

## REBECCA COEN

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With over 12 years as a school administrator and 15 years as a classroom teacher, Rebecca has a history of successful educational leadership in diverse settings and communities. Rebecca is passionate about getting others excited about achieving shared goals and advancing the field of education. She holds an Honors BA in Literature from the University of British Columbia, a MA in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies from California State University at Northridge, and is a current EdD candidate working toward an advanced degree in Educational Leadership and Strategic Change. She is dedicated to helping other leaders build their professional capacities. She is deeply committed to serving students and believes that, with a commitment to a growth mindset, every person is capable of achieving success. It is this philosophy that has helped her to build student- and teacher-teams who are strong, confident problem-solvers.





## SANTOS GONZALEZ

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Santos has spent the last 25 years working as a teacher, administrator, and coach in San Diego. Her expertise is in equity-centered leadership practices that create powerful outcomes for all students. She is committed to working in communities that are traditionally disenfranchised. She had extensive experience growing and leading Dual Immersion programs, implementing research-based instructional practices that meet the needs of the school community, and creating school environments with strong SEL supports .

In addition, she is a school turn-around specialist, anchoring her work in improvement science and creating solid school-specific systems that produce positive results for students with predictability.

She is excited to support district, school, and teacher leaders in building resilience and helping them develop mental models for equity-centered decision-making

## 21CSLA GUIDING PRINCIPLES

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- Support productive critical dialogue across the state to address pervasive leadership challenges that impede student learning, especially for underserved student populations.
- Focus on leadership for equity, including issues of instruction, at 3 levels: teacher leaders, site leaders, and district leaders.
- Models and builds capacity in alignment with the CA Quality Professional Learning Standards (QPLS) and culture of continuous improvement.
- Differentiated design that is informed by local needs and job embedded.
- Develops and models alignment with priorities of CDE, CCEE, and SBE.