

# [WORKSHOPS]

## **SERVING PEOPLE FROM ALL PLACES: UNDERSTANDING OUR IMMIGRANT NEIGHBORS, THEIR JOURNEY AND U.S. POLICIES**

Immigration and immigration policy affects many people in our state, in our country, and in our communities. Nevertheless, we often fail to engage the topic in our places of work, worship or the public square. The primary source of knowledge for most people when it comes to immigration and immigrants is the media where there is a pervasive narrative of otherness. This workshop aims to change this perception by equipping participants to have a better understanding of the topic that goes deeper than headlines.

During this workshop, we will lay the foundation for a basic understanding of the immigration system. Together we will define key terms; we will learn what is happening at the US/MEX border and will discover how the border impacts our communities, discuss how to engage within our local and national contexts.

## **DEEPENING CONNECTIONS: UNDERSTANDING HOW CULTURE INFLUENCES OUR INTERACTIONS AND SHAPES OUR ENGAGEMENT**

Are cultural clashes inevitable? Can two people or groups from different cultural backgrounds find common ground and begin to build bridges with one another? If culture is defined as the values and behaviors shared by a group of people, which shape how individuals within the group make sense of themselves and how they interact with their environment and one another, it follows these things can be learned. This skill, cultural intelligence, is an important skill to have when entering a new environment.

People who work overseas undergo cross-cultural training before their departure. Learning the culture of the host country is a necessity if they are to thrive relationally. How culturally sensitive are we in serving immigrant neighbors in the United States? What cross-cultural training do service providers and frontline workers receive? How are service providers-adjusting programs to help immigrant communities thrive?

Sarah Lanier's research introduces us to hot and cold culture climates. We will discuss the impact of culture in provider/recipient interactions. We will explore how cultural competency aids us in fostering healthy relationships and mutual understanding.

## **ETHICAL STORYTELLING: SIMPLE STEPS FOR HONORING THE STORY OF OTHERS**

Each of us has the gift of story. Storytelling comes through the things we say or don't say, know or don't know. It comes through in our facial expressions and our body language. We can't help it- we are storytellers. Sometimes the stories we tell are our own, sometimes they are those of another, and sometimes they are those of the organizations in which we serve.

Stories have the power to position society for a flourishing tomorrow, or to cause history to repeat itself. As story-tellers, we can work for the empowerment or the detriment of others merely by the way we see, listen or participate within a story.

This workshop discusses Nate Ledbetter's 12 principles of Ethical Storytelling with the goal of sharpening our discernment and encouraging us to consider how the stories we create and promote honor the stories of others. Apply these 12 principles before interacting in your neighbors' space: from taking a photo to posting anything on social media.

## [SPEAKER'S BIO]

### ANGELICA ACOSTA GARNETT, M.ED

Angelica Acosta Garnett was born and raised in Bogota, Colombia. Her family migrated to the United States when she was 17 years old. Angelica holds degrees in history and religion, as well as a graduate degree in education from the University of Florida. Angelica lives in Charlotte, NC, where she has worked as a high school US Government teacher, a Communities In Schools Site Coordinator, an immigration law paralegal and an interpreter. Currently Angelica serves for ABARA, an NGO in El Paso, at the US/MEX border, as the director of the Asylum Narrative Translation Project (ANT). Angelica also teaches workshops and equips organizations, around the country, helping them to better understand their immigrant neighbors, and foster healthy cross cultural relationships.



## Angelica Acosta Garnett, M.Ed

Educator, Speaker, Interpreter

I am a bilingual and bicultural professional with 16 years of experience working with and advocating for the immigrant community.

### Contact

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#### Address

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### Education

2006

#### M.Ed- Secondary Education

University of Florida

2005

#### BA - History

University of Florida

#### BA - Religion

University of Florida

### Awards

#### Executive Director

#### Performance Award:

Communities In Schools,

Fall 2011

#### Central Learning Community

#### Teacher of the Year:

Charlotte-Mecklenburg

Schools, Spring 2009.

#### Teacher of the Year:

Myers Park HS, Fall 2008.

#### Teacher of the Year:

Myers Park HS, Fall 2006.

### Languages

#### English and Spanish

As an immigrant, born and raised in Colombia, and educated in the USA, I am highly proficient in both languages.

### Work Experience - Highlights

#### Creator- Project Manager: Asylum Narrative Translation Project

ABARA. El Paso, TX and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. Spring 2022 - Present.

#### Workshop Facilitator and Trainer

Christian Community Development Association, ABARA, Warehouse 242, Myers Park United Methodist, Gaston County Health Department, By Grace Alone Ministries. Spring 2020 - Present.

#### Bilingual Paralegal/ Case Manager, Interviewer and Interpreter

The Cauley Law Firm, Immigration & Naturalization Law Firm, Charlotte, NC. Summer 2012-Spring 2017.

#### Bilingual Site Coordinator & Case Manager at Montclair Elementary

Communities In Schools, Charlotte, NC. Fall 2010 - Spring 2012.

#### Social Studies Teacher - US Government and AP Human Geography,

Myers Park High School, Charlotte, NC. Fall 2006 - Spring 2010.

### Speaking Experience - Highlights

#### Asylum Narrative Training

November 2023, Colorado Asylum Network. Pagosa Springs, CO.

#### Presenter, "Understanding How Culture Shapes Interactions"

October 2023, Mision Adelante, Cincinnati, OH.

#### Immigration Keynote Speaker, National Association of Evangelicals

October 2023, NAE, Kansas City, MO.

#### Presenter, "Dignified Storytelling"

October 2023, CCDA National Conference, Cincinnati, OH.

#### Plenary Speaker, CCDA National Conference

November 2022, Charlotte, NC

#### Plenary Speaker, North Western College

March 2022, Orange City, Iowa.

#### Panelist: Immigration Conversation, CCDA National Conference

October 2021, Kansas City, Missouri.

#### Keynote Immigration Speaker, Women's March.

January 2020, Charlotte, North Carolina.

### Interpreting Experience - Highlights

#### Interviewer/Translator: Asylum Narrative Translation Project

Spring 2022 - Present. ABARA. El Paso, TX.

#### Interpreter/Translator at INTO LANGUAGES GLOBAL.

Fall 2010 - Present. Charlotte, NC.

#### Interpreter/Translator at CAULEY LAW FIRM: Immigration Law

Fall 2012 - Spring 2017. Charlotte, NC.

#### Interpreter/Translator at GHUSA and IntoSpanish.

Fall 2006-Fall 2010 - Present. Charlotte, NC.