



Marcus Harden

**Creating Your Own
“Weather” in
Your Classroom
Using SEL**

**9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Tuesday, Sept. 14, 2021**

During this motivating presentation, school leader Marcus Harden will discuss the importance of developing educators' own social and emotional learning (SEL) skills in order to assist their students. He will discuss how to identify SEL issues in the classroom and provide a variety of strategies to enable educators to address those issues right away.

Harden has served in school-based and social services for 19 years and is co-founder and head of The Academy for Creating Excellence (ACE) in metro Atlanta, a charter school for fifth- and sixth-grade young men that will open in Fall 2021. The school's curriculum is founded on SEL principles and is designed to serve those who have historically been the furthest away from educational justice and opportunity. Harden, the father of six adopted children, holds a Master's degree in Education, Principal and Program Manager Certification from the University of Washington.

Dr. Patricia Hilliard and Alex Dreier

**SEL for Education:
From Competency to
Classroom**

**9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021**

In this seminar, Dr. Patricia Hilliard and Alex Dreier of the Friday Institute for Education Innovation (North Carolina State University) will help deepen your understanding of SEL through the lens of CASEL's five core competencies. During the presentation, you will learn practical strategies for a holistic approach to integrating these competencies in the classroom, both explicitly and implicitly.

Dr. Hilliard has led the Friday Institute's work in designing, delivering, and implementing professional learning to meet the needs of all students, and recently led the second annual North Carolina Conference for Educational Equity. Dreier leads the Friday Institute's online professional learning initiatives, and is the lead designer of SEL for Educators, a massive open online course for educators that has enrolled more than 15,000 participants since its launch in 2019. This same course will be available free of charge to all educators in Upstate Schools Consortium member schools and districts.

Baruti Kafele

**Student Individuality,
Student Cultural Identity,
and Student ‘Voice’
Matter!**

**A Conversation on
Classroom Equity and
Black Student Achievement**

**9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Thursday, Nov. 18, 2021**

In this empowering, highly engaging presentation, Principal Kafele will assist participants with developing an "equity mindset" toward ensuring the academic, social and emotional growth and development of their black students in equitable classroom learning environments where "culture-blindness" and "color-blindness" have been rendered obsolete. He will also provide attendees with strategies toward being culturally-responsive practitioners that they can take back to their classrooms.

One of the most sought-after school leadership experts and education speakers in America, Principal Kafele has delivered more than 2,000 conference and program keynotes, professional development workshops, and other events over his 34 years of public speaking. His new book, "The Equity and Social Justice Education 50," was released in May.