



Innovative Educators Cohort

Program Description:

The Innovative Educators Cohort is a year-round program designed to support educators and raise awareness and build student leadership to end social isolation. Beyond Differences™ evidence-based approach empowers students to become activists to create cultures of belonging in their schools.

The Innovative Educators Cohort builds on Beyond Differences three Positive Prevention Initiatives: **Know Your Classmates™**, **No One Eats Alone®**, **Be Kind Online™**. In collaboration with mental health practitioners, Asian-based Community partners, and diversity and inclusion experts, Beyond Differences will provide educators with real-time practical tips, strategies, tools, and resources to lift student voice and inspire students to create cultures of inclusion in their community during these unprecedented times.

Intended Audience:

This Cohort consists of nine sessions (including orientation) and is intended for classroom teachers, ancillary staff, and administrators.

Overview

The cohorts will meet monthly, using an online platform, beginning in August 2020 for an estimated 2.25 hours each month. In addition:

- Pre-session communication via email to support educators with session prep, get base-line knowledge data, and gather initial educator questions on the topic.
- Post-session communication via email, which will include post-survey; link to the video recording of the session; a list of tools, strategies, and recommendations identified in the session; relevant resources and readings; and Beyond Differences lesson & activity links for cohort participants to share with their colleagues.
- Throughout the year, the cohort participants will maintain an online portfolio and have access to various platforms to share learnings/best practices and engage with educators nationwide.
- Beyond Differences will also provide ongoing support for Beyond Differences lessons, activities, and student-led National Awareness Days.

**Note: As we collect educator feedback, we may expand/modify session topics.

Session By Session Summary

Orientation (August)

- Introductions, program overview, assessing educator needs (educator feedback), procedures, expectations, questions

Part I: Creating Cultures of Inclusivity & Belonging, Healing & Support (Fall 2020)

Session 1 (September)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences & Mental Health Professional (TBD)
- **Topics:**
 - **Foundations of Social Isolation & Creating Cultures of Inclusion**
 - Tools and strategies for online & in-person learning
 - Evidence-based strategies to create cultures of inclusion
 - Neuroscience and brain research
 - **The Impact of Social Isolation on Student Mental Health & Supporting Student Needs Returning this Fall**
 - Q& A with a mental health expert
 - Practical tools & strategies
 - **Introduction to Know Your Classmates Curriculum & National Awareness Day**
 - Tools and strategies to implement lessons
 - Call to Action – Ideas to motivate & inspire youth
 - Know Your Classmates National Awareness Day - Ideas to engage youth leaders online and in-person learning.
 - Information on how to access follow-up materials and support for lesson implementation & student-led National Awareness Day

Session 2 (October)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences & Diversity & Inclusion Expert (TBD)
- **Topics:**
 - **Exploring Culture and Identity & Multiple Perspectives**
 - Know Your Classmates activities and guide to exploring and discussing identity
 - Transformative Social and Emotional Learning Strategies (SEL as a lever for equity)
 - **Race & Equity- Navigating Difficult Conversations in the Classroom**
 - Q&A with Diversity & Inclusion Expert
 - Practical tools & strategies for educators & students
 - **Know Your Classmates National Awareness Day**

- Check-ins and support for hosting a virtual student-led National Awareness Day.

Session 3 (November)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences, Community Youth Center (San Francisco), Asian American Teen Leaders, & Diversity & Inclusion Expert (TBD)
- **Topics:**
 - **Examining Bias**
 - Know Your ClassMates activities and guide to examine and challenge bias in the classroom, virtually and in-person.
 - Understanding how bias leads to exclusion and social isolation
 - Neuroscience and brain research
 - **Addressing Educator & Student Bias**
 - Evidence-based practices to challenge bias & create communities of inclusion and belonging
 - Q&A with Diversity and Inclusion Expert
 - **Stand Up for AAPI Youth**
 - Overview of National Stand Up for AAPI Campaign
 - Tools & strategies to address Asian American, APPI bias
 - Q&A with Asian American Youth Leaders from the Community Youth Center

Part II: Elevating Student Voice to Take Action- Student Leadership & Activism

(Winter/Spring 2021)

Session 4 (January)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences
- **Topics:**
 - **No One Eats Alone**
 - Tools and strategies to implement lessons
 - Call to Action- Ideas to motivate & inspire youth leaders
 - No One Eats Alone National Awareness Day ideas to engage youth leaders.
 - Information on how to access follow-up materials and support for Lesson Implementation and student-led National Awareness Day.
 - **Changing the Way We Work With Youth**
 - Examining evidence-based youth development and asset-based approaches
 - Exploring Generativity (young activists are motivated by concern for future generations)
 - Practical strategies to implement in the classroom, virtually and online
 - Q&A

Session 5 (February)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences & Beyond Differences Teen Board Members
- **Topics:**
 - **Student-Led Social and Emotional Learning – What Teens Want and Need!**
 - Tools and Strategies by Teens for Teens and Educators
 - Q&A with Beyond Differences Teen Board Members
 - **Inspiring and Motivating Student Leaders**
 - No One Eats Alone activities and guide to engage, inspire and motivate students
 - Transformative Social and Emotional Learning Strategies to promote student leadership (SEL as a lever for equity)
 - **No One Eats Alone National Awareness Day**
 - Check-ins and support for hosting a student-led National Awareness Day

Session 6 (March)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences & Beyond Differences Teen Board Members
- **Topics:**
 - **Be Kind Online**
 - Tools and Strategies to implement lessons
 - Call to Action- Ideas to motivate & inspire youth leaders
 - Be Kind Online National Awareness Day ideas to engage youth leaders.
 - Information on how to access follow-up materials and support for Lesson implementation and student-led National Awareness Day.
 - **Empowering Youth Voice in Online Spaces**
 - Evidence-based tools and strategies
 - Teen tips for navigating online spaces and the thoughts and feelings we have when communicating behind a screen
 - Neuroscience and brain research
 - Q&A with teens

Session 7 (April)

- **Presenters:** Beyond Differences & TBD
- **Topics:**
 - **The New Age of Student Activism**
 - Be Kind Online activities and guide to engage, inspire and motivate students
 - Check-ins and support for hosting a virtual student-led National Awareness Day
 - TBD

Session 8 (May) Program Wrap Up & Reflection/ Portfolios/ Summative Assessment /Next Steps