

## **Listening In: Parent & Student Listening Circles**

The interactive workshop showcases how to involve students & parents in improvement of school climate through Listening Circles, a structured process that engages students, parents, school staff, and community stakeholders in a dialogue for improving school environment and fostering positive student-staff relationships, culminating in an action plan for collaborative follow-through. Participants will study positive youth development frameworks and be introduced to the SLC and PLC model, after which participants have the opportunity to practice facilitator training skills and/or create their own action plan for bringing this model back to their sites.

**Leora Wolf-Prusan**, EdD, is a School Climate & Student Support Specialist in WestED's Health & Human Development Program. She is the technical assistance liaison and provider for two projects: the Now is the Time Initiative, Project AWARE, and the Quality Improvement and Evaluation Project for the Child, Youth, and School Services division of the U.S. Army. Prior to WestED, she served as an educator coach and consultant in a variety of education settings, primarily focusing on positive youth development and college and career going culture in urban high school contexts. Her research examines how teachers cognitively appraise the gang/gun-related deaths of students, what factors contribute to teachers building resiliency, and what supports teachers need from the school system in the event of a student homicide or other traumas. More broadly, her work focuses on educator mental health, wellness and trauma-informed approaches to education, and operates through a framework in which public health, social work, and education intersect. She received a BA in International Relations and a BA in Spanish from the University of California, Davis; a teaching credential from Mills College; and an EdD in educational leadership from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Rebeca Cerna**, MPH, a Senior Research Associate in the Health & Human Development Program at WestEd, works on projects targeting health and well-being, school climate/culture, school safety, socialemotional learning, and career technical education. Cerna provides project management, training, and technical assistance to middle schools participating in the Regional Educational Laboratory West's School Climate Alliance. She also provides technical assistance to high schools for California's Safe and Supportive Schools grant and serves on the statewide evaluation team of California's Career Technical Education Pathways Initiative. Cerna has evaluated programs focused on substance use, systems change, mental health, emergency preparedness, and school climate, and she has developed and facilitated trainings on student listening circles, data use, SMART goal development, data collection, survey development, consent management, and survey administration. Prior to WestEd, Cerna worked for the University of California, Riverside on a longitudinal project focused on reducing risk factors associated with substance abuse and violence and increasing protective factors. Cerna received a BS in health science (specializing in school health education) and a certificate in health care administration from California State University, Long Beach and an MPH in community health from the University of California, Los Angeles.