

Trauma-Informed Schools: Learning Circle

Echo Parenting & Education's Whole School Initiative has an ambitious goal: to create trauma-informed, nonviolent school communities, working with at the school district level, as well as with the staff, parents and students of individual schools.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about our work and to engage in discussion with Echo training staff and other participants about what it takes for a school district or individual schools to become trauma-informed. Those of us who have already started this journey will also share some of the important lessons learned.

Lizeth Toscano, ACSW, Lizeth joined Echo in 2011 as a parent educator specializing in working with families and children and is the lead trainer for the parent component of Echo's Whole school Initiative. She graduated with a MSW from USC in May 2015. Lizeth has worked with parents and domestic violence survivors since obtaining her BSW from San Diego State University in 2010, both as a case manager with parents for Home-SAFE, Early Head Start Services, and as an intern MSW therapist for Hillside and the National Council of Jewish Women, Women Helping Women. She is currently an In-Home-Outreach-Counselor for Family Preservation Services at Westside Children's Center.

Leora Wolf-Prusan, EdD, is a School Climate & Student Support Specialist in WestED's Health & Human Development Program. 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. Leora is an advisor and champion for Echo's Whole School Initiative.