

**NAfME Music Program Leaders Forum**  
**Hilton Anaheim**  
**Anaheim, CA**  
**January 24-25, 2024**

*Wednesday, January 24*  
*1:00 – 5:00 PM PST*

*Thursday, January 25*  
*9:00 AM – 5:00 PM PST*

**Wednesday, January 24**

1:00 Welcome, Meet and Greet, Roundtable Session ideas

1:30 **SESSION #1**

*Leading with Care: Prioritizing the Health and Wellness of Music Educators*  
*Dr. Danni Gilbert, Assistant Professor of Instrumental Music Education,*  
*University of Minnesota*

This session aims to improve effective leadership in school music settings by focusing on the health and wellness of music educators. Efforts to promote the human wholeness of music educators while removing barriers to wellbeing can increase teachers' perceptions of efficacy, job satisfaction, and retention, while reducing negative impacts of stress, burnout, and attrition. Music educators may experience greater symptoms of anxiety and depression than educators in other disciplines, placing them at risk for pursuing harmful or ineffective coping mechanisms, experiencing burnout or exhaustion, or leaving the profession altogether. Music program leaders are positioned to help music educators develop coping strategies, foster an awareness of anxiety and depression as common and treatable conditions, and promote the acceptability and access for seeking treatment if needed.

2:15 Break

2:25 **SESSION # 2**

*Courageous Spaces for Equity - Music Education for all*  
*Edwina Lucero, Music Instructional Curriculum Specialist, Denver Public*  
*Schools*

The last 5 years have catapulted equity work to the front and center of many of our lives. Whether or not we ourselves, or those we serve as leaders, are ready to accept it - the **WAYS** and not simply the **WHAT'S** that we teach music must

evolve and reach the students who are in front of us. This session will offer the perspective of Edwina Lucero, Music Instructional Curriculum Specialist for Denver Public Schools in Denver, Colorado, and her experiences reckoning with her own growth areas for equity, and what it is going to take to lead her district of 120 music educators who are responsible for the instruction of 90,000 students in Denver, to a place where they have a common vision for equity, commitment to dismantling systems of oppression, and navigating through hard conversations and realizations as we journey together.

3:10 Break

3:20 Presentations Debrief

3:50 **SESSION #3**

*Advocacy with Amanda & the Scoop with Scott: NAfME Resources .  
and Initiatives*

*Amanda Karhuse, Assistant Executive Director of Advocacy & Policy, National Association for Music Education (NAfME)*

*Scott Sheehan, President, National Association for Music Education (NAfME)*

NAfME is here to support music program leaders in their effort to build robust school programs that ensure every child has equitable access to music education. President Scott Sheehan will share information about the new NAfME strategic plan and initiatives to support small schools, strengthen the music teacher profession, and address AI in the music classroom. He will be joined by Assistant Executive Director for Advocacy and Public Policy Amanda Karhuse who will share the latest news from Washington, DC, and the association's funding and legislative priorities to support music and arts education.

4:45 Wrap up/Announcements

5:00 Day 1 END  
[Evening Reception \(included with registration\)](#)

## **Thursday, January 25**

8:00 Breakfast on your own

9:00 **SESSION #4**  
Keynote Speaker - Mickey Smith, Jr.

9:45 Break

10:00 **SESSION #5**  
*Endless Possibilities: Connecting Composition & Performance Through Music Technology*  
Dr. Latasha Casterlow-Lalla, Supervisor of Visual & Performing Arts.  
Passaic Public Schools

This session will explore strategies for creating a high school music technology CTE program that speaks to students and prepares them for careers in the creative industries and beyond. We will discuss the importance of being on the cutting edge of music education opportunities regardless of students' previous experience with music or technology as well as partnerships with industry professionals in order to align the curriculum to the current labor market.

10:45 Break

11:00 Presentations Debrief

11:30 **SESSION #6**  
*Jammin' with James: NFHS Resources for Music Leaders*  
Dr. James Weaver, Director of Performing Arts & Sports, National Federation of High Schools (NFHS)

The NFHS has a variety of FREE resources available to music educators and administrators that focus on training and growth in many key areas such as: marching band safety, heat illness prevention, and music adjudication. The wildly popular NFHS Copyright and Compliance Course and the vast copyright resources help music educators to better understand how to effectively comply with copyright laws and requirements. New initiatives to be shared include Composer Diversity, Careers in Music, and Music Teacher Satisfaction.

12:15 Lunch *included with registration*

1:15 **SESSION #7**  
*Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Music Education*  
Dr. Rick Dammers, Dean of the College of Performing Arts and Professor of Music Education, Rowan University

The advent of generative AI poses questions for many sectors of our society, including music education. This session will explore the impact of past technological innovations on music education, envision potential impacts of AI in education and music, and make practical recommendations on how to engage with AI in order to maximize the opportunities, limit the negative impacts for music learning.

2:00 Break

2:15 **SESSION #8** *Roundtable Topics*

3:45 Break

4:00 **SESSION #9**

*Personalized Learning in Music Education to Hear and See All Students*  
Anne Fennell, California Music Educators Association, President and K-12 Music Program Manager, San Diego Unified School District

This interactive workshop will explore learner-centered music classrooms and learn the 4 attributes of personalized learning within the Habits of Mind. This workshop aligns with Bena Kallick's and Allison Zmuda's work and includes Arthur Costa's *Habits of Mind* framework for critical and creative thinking, and learner-centered education. In this session we'll discover key attributes and brainstorm pedagogical shifts for both ensemble and classroom music educators that will empower UTK-university students to become lifelong, reflective, and independent learners. Join us in this ideal opportunity for music educators to engage in a national community of practice for personalized learning!

4:45 **Wrap up/Evaluation**

5:00 Forum END

*Friday morning TBD tour of the NAMM Show floor*