

July 21, 2021

10 am - 1 pm CDT

Amplifying the Voices of Unaccompanied Minors

ONLINE via Zoom Webinar

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF UNACCOMPANIED MINORS is an opportunity for teachers and school leaders to hear from those who have lived the experience of being unaccompanied minors in the American school system.

- Featured Speakers -



EMILY FRANCIS and STUDENT Emily Francis was born and raised in Guatemala. As the oldest sibling, she was often the caretaker for her younger sisters and brother. After a two month journey to the U.S. with just her siblings and a coyote she was reunited with her mother. At 15 she enrolled in a U.S. high school, where her love of learning and lack of English came to a head. Emily has continuously used

her struggles in the U.S. school system as opportunities to pivot and continue moving forward. After earning her Master's in Teaching ESL, Emily achieved her dream of becoming a teacher!

DR. JOSE LUIS ZELAYA grew up in San Pedro Sula in Honduras. Jose went to work at a young age to help support his family. After Hurricane Mitch in 1998, his mom and sister fled leaving Jose by himself. After living on the streets he decided to make the journey North. Arriving in the U.S. alone, Jose was reunited with his family and enrolled in 7th Grade. He was encouraged by his



science teacher, Mrs. Wright, to continue his schooling. Jose did so until he graduated with a PhD in Urban Education from Texas A&M University. He continues to support his community and students through his work with Dr. Zelaya Educational Consulting LLC.



ARI HONAVAR grew up in Shiraz, Iran where she was surrounded by Persian poetry and art. Growing up during the Iran-Iraq war, she came to the U.S at the age of 14. She has taken her love of poetry and music to work with refugee families and unaccompanied minors founding Rumi With A View to bridge art and healing. Ari is a journalist, author, and Iranian Musical Ambassador of Peace.

PARTICIPANTS WILL

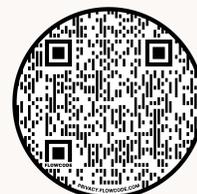
- Hear first person accounts from people who have lived through the experience of being an unaccompanied minor.
- Hear about the American school experience from the perspective of unaccompanied minors, especially what teachers did that was helpful - or unhelpful.
- Have the opportunity for a Q&A session with the featured speakers.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

- Teachers of ELs
- Administrators or Campus Leaders
- Instructional Specialists
- Instructional Coaches
- Elementary Self Contained Teachers
- Secondary Content Area Teachers

RESERVE YOUR SEAT TODAY

Although there is no cost for the session, please reserve your seat by signing up at: <https://bit.ly/3w4fHJW>



In lieu of charging a fee for the conference, we encourage all participants to **donate to KIND** (Kids in Need of Defense) who are providing legal services for unaccompanied minors. See second page for details.



KIND - Kids in Need of Defense



OUR MISSION



KIND will achieve our vision by:

- Ensuring that no child appears in immigration court without high quality legal representation
- Advancing laws, policies, and practices that ensure children's protection and uphold their right to due process and fundamental fairness
- Promoting in countries of origin, transit, and destination durable solutions to child migration that are grounded in the best interests of the child and ensure that no child is forced to involuntarily migrate.

Please donate by clicking the link or scanning the QR code:

<https://bit.ly/3hF2VxN>

