

Summit Speakers

CVI GRANTEE SUMMIT 2024



Erica Briggs

Nonprofit Education Specialist, NAO

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Erica Briggs is a facilitator of learning, DEI consultant, community caretaker, creative artist and author. In each capacity she is a storyteller, sharing stories related to developing a more transparent and fluid identity, embracing culture, and aligning with nature to better heal, grow and sustain mental health and well-being.

A native Oregonian, Briggs has lived and worked across the country and overseas. Currently, she serves as a Nonprofit Education Specialist at NAO; Facilitator of Learning for the Anti-Defamation League; and is the founder and CEO of a small arts and nature nonprofit based in Troutdale.

As a single mother, she earned a BA in Communications at Mills College in Oakland, CA and a Master's in Africana Studies at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY where she studied the social construction of race in America.

For over 25 years, she has served various roles in asset-based community nonprofits, and both traditional and alternative learning environments from elementary through college. When she is at play you will likely find her wandering in her garden, making a mess in her art studio, or hiking with her children to the nearest body of water.



Kathleen Carlson, PhD

Professor of Epidemiology and Core Investigator
Oregon Health and Science University and VA Portland
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Dr. Kathleen Carlson is an injury epidemiologist and professor of epidemiology at the Oregon Health and Science University-Portland State University School of Public Health and a Core Investigator with the VA Portland Health Care System. She serves as PI of multiple regional and national initiatives focused on firearm injury prevention.

Dr. Carlson teaches and mentors MPH and PhD students in epidemiology and directs the OHSU Gun Violence Prevention Research Center. She also holds leadership roles with the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research and the Injury Control and Emergency Health Services section of the American Public Health Association.



Sterling Cunio

Lead Facilitator, Regroup

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Sterling Cunio, is an award winning author, playwright and poet. An Oregon Literary Arts Fellow, Pen America Arts for Social justice Fellow, and a World Yes Jammer whose work has been published in The Marshall Project, L.A. Book review and performed by various artist including Grammy award winning musician Antino Sanchez. Sterling sits on the board of Directors of Oregon's Transformative Justice Community and acts as lead facilitator for Regroup, a support and empowerment network of Returning Citizens that played an instrumental role in abolishing the authorization of slavery from Oregon's constitution. Along with currently working for Church at The Park in Salem serving it's houseless community, Sterling also works as a lead consultant on the Ubuntu Climate Initiative, a global climate resilience movement focusing on Reuniting people and planet through joy, art and sustainability.



Nike Greene

Founder, Triple Threat Mentoring

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Nike Greene is the Founder and CEO of Triple Threat Mentoring, a program which serves young girls of color in the inner city. She is the Head Girls basketball Coach at the local High School and a community leader. She recently published her first book, a memoir, "NIKE, More than a Name it's My Life: From Trauma to Triumph." She is a Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist and has over 30 years of urban youth program experience. Her life mission is to exemplify living out loud for all to see and experience our internal power to transform us individually. In addition, Nike speaks and trains locally and around the world with a focus on healing from trauma and personal growth, gun violence prevention and DV prevention. She is happily married to Herman for 28+ years and going strong! They have four children and three grandchildren. Nike can be contacted at nikegreene@gmail.com



Christine Heyen

Compliance Specialist, ODOJ CVSSD

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Christine Heyen (pronouns she/her) has served in various roles at the Crime Victim and Survivors Division, Oregon Department of Justice since 2005. Currently, Christine is the lead coordinator for Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services funding and previously served as the Violence Against Women Act lead. Christine also designed and managed an innovative project to foster collaboration between domestic and sexual violence advocacy organizations and health care systems. Her early background in crisis counseling and victim services laid the foundation for her work today as a grant fund coordinator and compliance specialist. Christine is active in the lives of her children and her community and serves in clubs and foundations that support public schools. Christine is an exercise fanatic and delights in meeting new people.



Mike McLively

Policy Director

Giffords Center for Violence Intervention

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Mike McLively is a senior staff attorney at Giffords Law Center and the policy director of the organization's Center for Violence Intervention, which offers policy expertise, advocacy, organizing, and technical assistance to support and promote evidence-based violence intervention strategies in America's most impacted communities.

The author of many major reports on the topic of community violence, including [America at a Crossroads: Reimagining Federal Funding to End Community Violence](#), Mike has spoken in many public forums—and to many national, state, and local leaders across the country—about the need to address the day-to-day shootings that fuel America's gun violence epidemic and the promising community-based solutions that have gone unrecognized and underfunded for too long.



Troy Ramsey

Executive Director, FreeNow21

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Troy grew up in North and Northeast Portland in a family that was big on church. He was introduced to the gang lifestyle at the age of 12. Troy quickly fell into the gang life which put him on a trajectory that would not only impact himself but his family and his community in horrific ways. Before long, he became one himself, carrying and using a gun, selling drugs, and at the age of 20, he shot and killed a man. In 1997 Troy was sentenced to life without the possibility of parole for aggravated murder. Troy spent the next 24 years incarcerated fighting for his freedom, yet believing that he would never be outside of prison gates ever again.

In 2021 by the grace of Allah he received the gift of a miracle. A clemency, something that would free him from those bars and reintroduce him to his community that he once wreaked havoc on. In those 24 years he had time to grow from a 20 year old boy into a MAN with a changed thought process and differing views on how he wanted to live his life and pour into his community to right his wrongs. Knowing that his past could never be erased he uses his mistakes in life through violence interruption to encourage and teach the young BIPOC community how his choices created a negative domino effect and that there are other routes to take in life.

In prison, he reinvented himself and turned his life around. He found mentors who helped him heal and showed him that he could be the person he wanted to be. He learned to read, gained job skills and financial literacy, and trained as a peer support specialist and recovery mentor. Troy has successfully supported the clemency of several individuals in getting their sentences commuted from life without the possibility of parole to now having the possibility of parole. Which then allowed them to petition the parole board for release.

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In 2008, Troy started working with Uhuru SaSa, which is a culture organization at the Oregon State penitentiary on helping young men like him reimagine their lives and youth from the community. Troy has had several accomplishments since his release. To name a few, Troy's participation in politics led to the success of removing slavery and involuntary servitude out of the Oregon constitution. Troy fills the role of a Violence Interrupter, is a reoccurring public speaker in the prison systems and the local colleges, and is a community Outreach Coordinator in the role of getting criminal records expunged for those who have made mistakes through criminal offenses. Troy's newest accomplishment is founding a 501c3 Nonprofit called FreeNow21. FreeNow21 offers free Financial Literacy courses, which run 6 weeks at a time in person. He does this for youth ages 8-21. (Parents are free to stay and learn as well.)

Troy has received several awards for his community involvement and has spearheaded numerous programs in the prisons to lower the recidivism rates and create an environment of productivity and growth.

Although Troy lives his days in physical suffering being that he is in stage 5 renal failure due to his lupus, which puts him at dialysis 3 days a week, so that the machines can do the job that his kidneys no longer can do. His desire is to find a kidney and receive a transplant so that he may continue his mission of helping intergenerational people affected by gangs and violence feel safe and supported, work through trauma and learn the skills they need to contribute positively to their communities. Troy does this through being a Violence Interrupter and teaching mediation skills to the youth so that they can help their peers, Through this work Troy feels he has a 2nd lease on life. The impact this work has had on his mental health has been incredibly positive and that helps him push back against his physical pains and constant feelings of drain.

Troy Ramsey is a man that has dedicated himself to uplifting the youth in his community and fighting hard to keep them off the streets before the gang life can snatch them up.



Ellen F. Rosenblum

Attorney General

A former federal prosecutor and state trial and appellate judge, Ellen Rosenblum was first elected to a four-year term as Oregon's 17th Attorney General in November, 2012. She was re-elected to a second term in 2016 and to a third term in 2020. She is the first woman to serve as Oregon Attorney General. Her priorities include consumer protection and civil rights – advocating for and protecting Oregon's children, seniors, immigrants and crime victims and those saddled with education-related debt. She is committed to assisting district attorneys and local law enforcement in prosecuting elder abuse and complex crimes and has made crimes against children as well as consumer internet privacy high priorities.

Attorney General Rosenblum has been active in local and national organizations of lawyers, judges and attorneys general. She is the President-elect of the National Association of Attorneys General and a past Chair of the Conference of Western Attorneys General. She has served as Secretary of the American Bar Association and as Chair of the ABA Section of State & Local Government Law. co-founded the section's Attorneys General and Department of Justice Issues Committee (AGDJ).



Tim Rusk

Nonprofit Education Specialist, NAO

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Tim Rusk brings over 30 years of nonprofit experience to his position as Nonprofit Education Specialist at NAO. He served as executive director of an early childhood program in Central Oregon for almost 20 years, and during that time, Tim successfully led the organization from start-up to a well-respected, well-established, tri-county program. Tim also led the organization through a successful leadership transition when he exited. He loves learning, helping people succeed, applying best-practices, and being a part of a strong team.

Tim has a Masters in Organization Development from Sonoma State University and believes in the transformative power of working together for the common good.



Michael-Sean Spence, Esq.

Managing Director, Community Safety Initiatives
Everytown for Gun Safety
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Michael-Sean Spence brings 17 years of experience in public safety to the role of Managing Director of Community Safety Initiatives at Everytown for Gun Safety, where he oversees Everytown's efforts to reduce gun violence and improve community safety through direct investment, public awareness, technical assistance, and capacity-building of community-based violence intervention organizations, community leaders, survivors and governmental stakeholders implementing promising gun violence prevention strategies.

Since joining Everytown, Mr. Spence has founded the Everytown Community Safety Fund which has distributed \$11.33MM dollars in support of 119 community-based organizations operating in 68 American cities; created the Everytown Community Training Institute, a strategic partnership with national subject matter experts, to fuel implementation of gun violence prevention strategies in cities nationwide; and, launched [CityGRIP.org](https://www.citygrip.org), an online, responsive, clearinghouse of gun violence prevention strategies to fuel issue awareness and advocacy among Americans.

Mr. Spence was formerly a Special Assistant at the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, where he consulted NYS' Gun Involved Violence Elimination (G.I.V.E.) initiative – which achieved a 15% decline in gun related homicides from 2014-2018; led the development of law enforcement policies, rules and regulations related to custodial interviews of juveniles, the operation of unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) and police officer firearms training requirements on behalf of the New York State Municipal Police Training Council; delivered technical assistance to law enforcement agencies across 17 counties on crime prevention through environmental design strategies; and, implemented strategic initiatives related to opioid abuse, intimate partner violence, sexual assault and police misconduct.

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Prior to joining state government, Mr. Spence served as an Assistant District Attorney in New York City's Queens District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted intimate partner violence and organized white-collar crimes. During his tenure, Mr. Spence served as a valued member of the 24/7 response team, counsel to New York City Police Department's 113th Precinct and recovered more than \$5MM in restitution to New York State, leading to a Unit Citation at the New York City Detective Investigators' Awards.

Mr. Spence has been featured in the New York Times, USA Today, AP News, CBS News, ABC News, Black Enterprise, Newsweek, and several other national and local outlets. Mr. Spence earned his law degree at Howard University School of Law, his B.S. in Marketing at the R.H. Smith Business School at the University of Maryland-College Park and an Executive Certificate in Public Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.