

# DR. LEENA BAKSHI MCLEAN

## *SPEAKING KIT*



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## ABOUT

# DR. LEENA BAKSHI MCLEAN

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Dr. Leena Bakshi McLean is the founder of STEM4Real, a nonprofit professional learning organization committed to combining STEM and NGSS standards-based content learning and leadership with principles of equity and social justice. Dr. Bakshi McLean currently works with pre-service teachers at Claremont Graduate University teaching STEM methods and Universal Design for Learning. She also serves as the Board Secretary for the California Association of Science Educators and Hawaii Science Teaching Association.



Dr. Bakshi McLean is a former county and state level administrator and mathematics, science and health teacher. Her research interests include Science/STEM education and figuring out how to create access and opportunities for each and every student regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or socioeconomic status.

## AS SEEN ON / IN

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# WHY

## DR. LEENA BAKSHI MCLEAN

Dr. Bakshi McLean has been behind both the teacher and the administrator desk. She knows the unique challenges and opportunities of both, and what it's like to want to make a difference but not know where to start. She is not just inspirational — she's relatable. Using her years of experience combined with her passion for change-making, Dr. Bakshi McLean invites administrators and teachers alike to reimagine the impact they can have on every single one of their students by investing in their own development and learning.



## SPEAKING REEL



# WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING...

"Dr. Bakshi was amazing in the session: *Inspiring Learner Voice Through Racial and Social Justice in UDL*. She was able to ignite thinking about big ideas and engage participants in discussion; while also providing concrete examples of UDL in practice. An inspiring, thought-provoking, and actionable session. Thank you!"

— **Niel Albero**  
CAST's Implementation Specialist

"The presenters were awesome and provided great detail with the content. They emphasized the importance of inclusion by breaking down the UDL Guidelines within instructional methods. This was a great presentation for teachers new to the field as well as traditional or veteran teachers needing to redesign instruction to include social justice related to historical and current events! Very cool!"

— **Marcus Jackson**  
County or District Level Administrator, South County Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA)

"Thank you so much to Dr. Bakshi McLean for her hard work! I learned a lot from her and I have much more confidence about STEM education that I did not have before."

— **Jeong Kinser,**  
CCCOE Spring teacher participant

"Dr. Bakshi McLean is a wonderful person to work with, she has an upbeat attitude, personable nature, and holds high expectations for both students and teachers. Her expertise, knowledge and passion for STEM has infused our professional development and helped change the learning culture in our school. My experience with Dr. Bakshi McLean has been completely invaluable and I will use what I have learned from her this year for many more years to come."

— **Donna Soriano,**  
K-6 STEM Specialist, Waianae Elementary School,  
Hawaii Department of Education

"Thank you so much to Dr. Bakshi McLean for sharing her time and knowledge. This was the most impactful session I have done so far this weekend."

— **Abbey Cooke,**  
Engage Fall 20 conference attendee

"Dr. Bakshi McLean's energy is awesome - I absolutely loved it!"

— **Natalie Kinnear,**  
Spring 2021 Society for Science teacher participant

# SPEAKING TOPICS

## EQUITABLE EDUCATION FOR ALL:

### Why Standards-Based Instruction and Social Justice Must Go Hand in Hand

Most administrators and teachers think they have to choose one or the other: focus on standards-based teaching or social-justice-based teaching. STEM4Real is here to say that equitable education requires both simultaneously. In fact, it's easier than most think to teach with both in mind. As a past teacher and administrator herself, STEM4Real founder, Dr. Leena Bakshi McLean, outlines why one is incomplete without the other and how both administrators and teachers can adopt a both/and attitude to create equitable education for all.

#### **Audiences Will Learn:**

- Standards aren't enough—why social justice matters in education and how to embrace it
- The long-term impact that equitable education has for students of all backgrounds
- The #1 step any school, administrator or teacher can take to work toward equitable education in their schools and classrooms

## RACISM IN THE CLASSROOM IS INHERENT:

### How to Spot It and Change It

As much as some teachers don't want to admit it or can't even fathom it: racism is inherent in classrooms. The good news? That doesn't have to be the end of the story. In this keynote, teachers will learn how the simple steps of their day, like something as seemingly harmless as a lesson plan, can perpetuate racism and the practical steps they can take today to do something about it.

#### **Audiences Will Learn:**

- The role teachers play in perpetuating racism in the classroom (and how to uncover your implicit bias)
- 3 ways teachers can start actively working against racism in their teaching practice today
- How to inspire students of all backgrounds to embrace anti-racism in and beyond the classroom

# SPEAKING TOPICS

## TEACHERS HOLD THE KEY:

### Why You Can't Avoid Social-Justice-Oriented Professional Development

We know teachers are busy — busy in the work of developing students. But without a strong grasp on what equitable classrooms and education looks like, students are inevitably being left behind. In this keynote, you'll learn what social-justice-oriented professional development looks like, how it can improve your teaching and the benefits it offers to your students. You'll also be equipped to advocate for funding from your administrator to participate in it so you never have to pay out of pocket.

#### **Audiences Will Learn:**

- Professional development doesn't just benefit teachers — it also benefits students
- How to advocate for school- or district-wide development to your administrator
- How to find healthy teacher community and embrace collaboration for mutual benefit and growth

## STOP JUST CHECKING THE SOCIAL JUSTICE BOX:

### How to Move From Learning to Action

Schools suffering from inequitable education aren't hard to spot. Is yours one of them? In this keynote, you'll learn from experts who were once in teaching and administration positions just like you on how to spot inequities in your school and classroom and the implications they hold for your students' success. The days of just checking the box on social justice training are over; it's time to take real action for yourself and your students.

#### **Audiences Will Learn:**

- Key signs that your students might not be getting an equitable education
- Why just attending the event, listening to the presentation or reading the book isn't enough anymore for educators
- How to use the RDR framework to create actual lasting impact and change in education

# SPEAKING TOPICS

## TOKENIZING OR CULTIVATING DIVERSITY?

### How to Increase and Foster the School to STEM Career Pipeline

You've hired your director of diversity, equity and inclusion and can now report that you are a diverse organization. However, have you truly fostered and cultivated a diverse STEM workforce, or have you completed the minimum public relations requirement? In this keynote, learn how to build community that encourages inclusion and a true sense of belonging.

#### **Audiences Will Learn:**

- How to recognize issues of tokenism, micro aggressions and the implicit and explicit biases that exist for BIPOC individuals.
- Raise awareness of toxic workplace practices that increase resentment and continue to cement systems of white supremacy.
- Create a culture that encourages diversity in teams, storytelling and a place of belonging that allows for every identity to fully embrace their lived experiences.

## DISMANTLE OR BUST:

### How to Lead 4 Justice in STEM Education

Are you stuck in a system where the status quo is maintained and the same issues of systemic racism and social injustice in education are continuing to persist? Are you willing to give up your title to make a change? In this keynote, learn how to go from sitting down in compliance to standing up for justice.

#### **Audiences Will Learn:**

- How to recognize issues of systemic racism, exacerbated student inequities, and societal problems that contribute to an inequitable education
- Dismantle educational systems that are not serving every single student, from tracking to teacher recommendations for gifted and special education.
- Rebuild a system whereby your team feels seen, heard and that they fully belong. Create an educational system for students to feel included and celebrated in STEM.