



**MESA USA National Conference  
Designing for Equity  
December 5, 2020**

**\*All Times Listed are in MST-Adjust Accordingly\***

TIME-MST	SESSION					
10:00 AM-10:30 AM	Welcome and Introductions: MESA USA Directors, NEDC Committee					
10:30 AM-11:30 AM	Keynote Address: Kamal Sinclair					
11:30 AM-11:45 AM	BREAK					
	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	Room 3	ROOM 4	ROOM 5	ROOM 6
11:45 AM-12:45 PM Session 1	Explore Equity in Design With a World Café Oregon MESA	Design Thinking in the Virtual Environment Maryland MESA	Microaggressions Utah MESA	Building Equity with Mentorship New Mexico	School Share Out- Networking Room and Help Desk	Introduction to Prototyping with the Micro:bit SparkFun Electronics
12:45 PM-1:15 PM	MEAL BREAK					
1:15 PM-2:15 PM Session 2	Explore Equity in Design With a World Café Oregon MESA	Design Heuristics for Novel Prototype Variation Washington MESA	Designing for Equity Arizona MESA	Designing for Equity in Industry-Panel California MESA	School Share Out- Networking Room and Help Desk	Introduction to the Arduino Tinker Kit SparkFun Electronics
2:15 PM-2:20 PM	BREAK-ZOOM SWITCH					
2:20 PM-2:45 PM	Closing Remarks: NEDC Committee					

**General Session Descriptions:**

**\*All Times Listed are in MST-Adjust Accordingly\***

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*Presented By:* Dwight Carr, MESA USA Chair; Thomas Ahn, MESA USA Vice-Chair; and MESA USA Executive Directors

*Time:* 10:00 AM-10:30 AM

Welcome to our inaugural MESA USA National Conference. Our MESA USA team is excited to share with you the vision of the MESA USA collaborative and how we are all working towards Designing for Equity in our respective states.

### **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

*Presented By:* Kamal Sinclair

*Time:* 10:30 AM-11:30 AM

Kamal is the Executive Director of the Guild of Future Architects and Senior Consultant to Sundance Institute's Future of Culture Initiative. She also serves as External Advisor to MacArthur Foundation's Journalism & Media Program, Creative Advisor to For Freedoms, MIT's Center for Advanced Virtuality, Starfish Incubator, and Eyebeam. Previously, she was the Director of Sundance Institute's New Frontier Labs Program, which supports artists working at the convergence of film, art, media and technology. She also consults for the Ford Foundation's JustFilms program on a research project aimed at furthering equality in emerging media, which resulted in "Making a New Reality."



### **CLOSING REMARKS**

*Presented By:* NEDC Committee

*Time:* 2:20 PM-2:45 PM

## **Session 1 Descriptions:**

**\*All Times Listed are in MST-Adjust Accordingly\***

### **EXPLORE EQUITY IN DESIGN WITH A WORLD CAFE**

*Presented By:* Oregon MESA, Tamara DePue

*Time:* 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

This activity uses the World Cafe Method to introduce the idea of equity in design to students. In this activity, students will explore examples of design and see how inequity can lead to bias in the products that are created.

### **DESIGN THINKING IN THE VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT**

*Presented By:* Maryland MESA, Jason Cartwright and Dennis Smith

*Time:* 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

Design Thinking is a human-centered approach to problem solving. This approach typically incorporates three core elements: empathy for the user, collaboration, and rapid prototyping. Design Thinking techniques can be applied to a wide range of problems. During this session, representatives from Maryland MESA will lead you through a series of activities that you can use to help your students develop solutions to the NEDC and other MESA projects.

### **MICROAGGRESSIONS**

*Presented By:* Utah MESA, Charlene Lui

*Time:* 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

The purpose of this breakout session is to explore the topics of unconscious bias and microaggressions as they relate to the educational experiences of our students and colleagues of color. As we strive to increase participation in STEM-related coursework and post-high opportunities in the field, it is critical that educators understand what microaggressions are, as well as effective ways to interrupt unconscious bias and microaggressions within their schools and community.

### **BUILDING EQUITY WITH MENTORSHIP**

*Presented By:* New Mexico MESA, Anita Gonzales

*Time:* 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

Mentoring is important when building equity in programming and your MESA time. There are many mentor situations which will help your students envision experiences and become engaged in learning. New Mexico MESA will lead you through some programs that have been impactful in their state involving cultural based mentorship, elementary and peer mentoring, professional mentoring, and University student mentorship. You will walk away with the framework to build a mentor program that will work for you.

### **SCHOOL SHARE OUT AND HELP DESK**

*Presented By:* NEDC Committee

*Time:* 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

This is an opportunity to network with your fellow MESA Advisors from across the nation. Come prepared to share out activities that are successful in your MESA program, activities that work towards building equity, and any items in your MESA time you would like assistance or feedback on.

### **INTRODUCTION TO PROTOTYPING WITH THE MICRO:BIT**

*Presented By:* SparkFunElectronics, Derek Runberg

*Time:* 11:45 AM-12:45 PM

The BBC Micro:Bit is a cheap, tiny computer designed for the classroom. It has made a huge splash in UK schools with its browser based programming environment. The Micro:Bit is a perfect platform for exploring programmable electronics in a simple and scaffolded way. Come and hang out with the experts from SparkFun Electronics and see what it's all about; what sensors work with it and see a hands on demo.

## **Session 2 Descriptions:**

**\*All Times Listed are in MST-Adjust Accordingly\***

### **EXPLORE EQUITY IN DESIGN WITH A WORLD CAFE**

*Presented By:* Oregon MESA, Tamara DePue

*Time:* 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

This activity uses the World Cafe Method to introduce the idea of equity in design to students. In this activity, students will explore examples of design and see how inequity can lead to bias in the products that are created.

### **DESIGN HEURISTICS FOR NOVEL PROTOTYPE VARIATION**

*Presented By:* Washington MESA; Monet Becenti, Debbie Blas, and Elizabeth Stephens

*Time:* 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

Take your design to the next level, don't just settle! Design heuristics is a tool used to either aid in generating ideas or to transform concepts into new solutions. In this session, learn how to apply design heuristics in prototyping and encourage iterations.

### **DESIGNING FOR EQUITY**

*Presented By:* Arizona MESA; Bill Pike and Manny Leon

*Time:* 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

This workshop will give teachers a tool to use in their MESA Clubs/Classes to teach students about Designing for Equity and a process they can use as they work on the NEDC. It adapts the Human Centered Design model to provide a focus on equity. It will lead students from identifying an inequity to developing a solution. Teachers will walk away with some tools and will be shared a copy of the presentation to use/adapt for their needs

### **DESIGNING FOR EQUITY IN INDUSTRY-PANEL DISCUSSION**

*Presented By:* California MESA, Beatrice Prieto

*Time:* 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

Join us for an open discussion with industry professionals as they speak about designing for equity in their company. Learn how professionals are promoting designing for equity in their company and get examples of what questions students should be asking when beginning their designs. Also, learn about what initiatives companies use to reach out to diverse populations.

### **SCHOOL SHARE OUT AND HELP DESK**

*Presented By:* NEDC Committee

*Time:* 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

This is an opportunity to network with your fellow MESA Advisors from across the nation. Come prepared to share out activities that are successful in your MESA program, activities that work towards building equity, and any items in your MESA time you would like assistance or feedback on.

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE ARDUINO TINKER KIT**

*Presented By:* SparkFunElectronics, Derek Runberg

*Time:* 1:15 PM-2:15 PM

Using the SparkFun Tinker Kit as an introduction to electronics, programming, and physical computing allows artists, makers, educators, and students to easily control LEDs, read sensors, and move motors. Come for a hands-on workshop that will both show the possibilities of physical computing in your school to create the next generation of innovators as well as an in depth look at how it is using Arduino to empower MESA students through the design process.

### **Any Questions, MESA USA NEDC Committee:**

- Arizona: Manny Leon, [leon@arizona.edu](mailto:leon@arizona.edu) and Bill Pike, [wpike@arizona.edu](mailto:wpike@arizona.edu)
- California: Beatrice Prieto, [bprieto@mail.fresnostate.edu](mailto:bprieto@mail.fresnostate.edu)
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- New Mexico: Anita Gonzales, [anita@nmmesa.org](mailto:anita@nmmesa.org)
- Oregon: Tamara DePue, [depue@pdx.edu](mailto:depue@pdx.edu)
- Utah: Dr. Paul Ross, [buffyross@msn.com](mailto:buffyross@msn.com)
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