

Promoting Employment Opportunities for Survivors of Trafficking Project

2021 Economic Empowerment Peer Learning Series Faculty

[Project Trust](#)

Jane Buchholz recently joined the Project TRUST team. She has also been coordinating an enhanced case management program for foreign national survivors of torture for the past 9 months, before which she spent three years as a direct service provider working with survivors of trafficking, asylees, and refugees in the DC metro area.

Project TRUST (Trauma Response to Uplift Survivors of Trafficking) is a national training and technical assistance program funded by the Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) that works to enhance providers' trauma-informed practices, to strengthens organizations, and promote healing from trauma.

[Rising International](#)

Deborah Pembrook is passionate about survivor leadership. As Rising International's Rising Expert Program Manager, she guides a team of survivor entrepreneurs who use their lived experience to build communities that resist human trafficking. She is also Executive Director of the Coalition to End Human Trafficking in Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, one of the few but growing number of survivor-led coalitions using the shared platform to engage with human trafficking survivors as experts and thought leaders. In 2015 she left a successful executive position in a tech company to devote herself to ending the exploitation she experienced in her own childhood. Since then, her experience ranges from providing direct services to trafficking survivors, helping create a cross-sector community collaboration, and building community awareness, outreach campaigns and multi-sector response. An inspiring educator, she has partnered with and trained regional police and sheriff departments, probation officers, educators, and direct service providers to humanize exploited children and vulnerable people. Deborah has served two terms on the California CSEC Action Team Advisory Board and was the Consultant Chair for the National

Survivor Network. In 2016 she received the YWCA Silicon Valley Empowerment Award.

[National Fund for Workforce Solutions](#)

Melissa Kleder is program manager at the National Fund and oversees the implementation of the Healthcare Workforce Development Academy, a technical assistance initiative to help healthcare organizations implement and scale programs that develop their frontline workers. Prior to joining the National Fund, she provided technical assistance and operational support to a diverse network of safety-net sexual and reproductive health organizations at the National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association. In 2007, Melissa relocated to the DC metro area where she fine-tuned a range of skills including project management, community outreach and education, and legislative advocacy with NARAL Pro-Choice Maryland. After receiving a bachelor's degree from The Ohio State University, Melissa began her career providing counseling and case management support at two Cleveland-area abortion care providers and a domestic violence center. After several years in direct service, she traveled to the United Kingdom to earn a master's degree in gender, culture, and society from the University of Essex.

[Sanctuary for Families](#)

Angelo J. Rivera is the Director of Sanctuary for Families Economic Empowerment Program (EEP) and has 25 years of experience in academic career services and in the workforce development field. For the past 15 years, he has designed innovative, highly successful career development programs for hard-to-employ populations. Before joining Sanctuary in 2010, Angelo was Chief Operating Officer of STRIVE International; Director of a NYC WORKS Initiative at the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizens Council; and Director of Career and Educational Services at Circulo Career Services. He has a BA in Government & Politics from University of Maryland and MA in International Relations from Boston University.

[Leap to Success](#)

Dana Bristol-Smith is the founder of Leap to Success, a women's empowerment organization that provides professional growth and development programs at NO COST to women who are rebuilding their

lives from domestic violence, homelessness and other major life challenges.

With a background in corporate training, Dana has brought her experience helping business leaders and professionals build confidence and success to women who would not have access to professional development. By partnering with more than 40 social service agencies, shelters, recovery programs and therapists, Leap to Success is able to help women build the self-confidence necessary to transform their lives.

With a diverse team that includes professional instructors and program graduates, Leap to Success helps women who are recovering from trauma and abuse by encouraging, supporting and inspiring them to change long-held beliefs of lack of worth and value. This allows them to see themselves in new light with new hope and possibilities for a better future.

By connecting with many local San Diego employers, the women learn about employment opportunities and receive coaching on job search and other employment readiness activities. To learn more and get involved, please visit www.leptosuccess.org

[ACCESS Program](#)

Krista M. Chronister is a licensed psychologist in the state of Oregon and Professor of Counseling Psychology and Vice Provost for Graduate Studies at the University of Oregon. Krista is known for her research on partner violence and survivors' vocational and economic development. She has published extensively on the impact of partner violence on women's work and career development and partner violence in Filipino communities. She is the creator of the ACCESS intervention (Chronister, 2013), one of the few interventions designed to promote the rehabilitation and career development of partner-violence survivors. ACCESS is used nationally and available in English and Spanish.

The ACCESS program is a research-based career counseling, group intervention designed to facilitate the career and educational development of women survivors of partner and other forms of violence. ACCESS was developed based on current theory and research in the fields of vocational psychology and career counseling, domestic violence, empowerment, and individual and group therapy. The program is brief, 5 weeks, and may be used by educators, social service providers, and counselor trainers who work directly with women survivors of domestic violence in a variety of settings. The ACCESS curriculum seeks to contribute to women survivors'

career development, specifically, by (a) increasing women's awareness of supportive and abusive power dynamics in their lives, (b) increasing women's awareness and development of occupational and life skills, (c) facilitating women's ability to use their skills to make life decisions, and ultimately, (d) increasing women's ability to use their skills to contribute to their families and communities.

[First Tech Fund](#)

Josue De Paz is currently the CEO & Co-Founder of First Tech Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprofit dedicated to closing the digital divide by providing low income and underserved communities with access to technology that allows them to pursue educational, personal development, and career opportunities. Launched in May 2020 during the midst of a global pandemic, First Tech Fund is currently providing 50 high school students from all over NYC with a laptop, a hotspot for the family, mentorship, and digital skills curriculum for the entire school year. Josue knows firsthand the challenges of a lack of access and vividly remembers what it felt like to see his mom work 2-3 jobs for them to have access to technology and connectivity. This is what inspired him to fund students who needed a small seed investment in the form of technology as they pursue their dreams.

Josue also works as a Talent Agent at Free Agency, a NYC based startup that represents tech industry talent. Previously, he was a Community Partnerships & Outreach Manager at Girls Who Code, where he was responsible for all partnerships, expansion, and strategy across a portfolio of states in the South of the US. Josue has also held a number of positions in advertising and financial services. Josue is a graduate of Santa Clara University and Loyola High School of Los Angeles. Outside of work, he's worked on the Young Leader's Board for the Children's Scholarship Fund, on the Madison Council for Madison Square Boys and Girls Club, as a Mentor for Golden Door Scholars, and as a Rookie's T-Ball Coach for DREAM. He's also a 2020 VER Fellow through the Represented Foundation. Josue is originally born in Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico and moved to West Los Angeles with his mom at the age of 5 – he's been a proud DACA recipient since 2012. He's happily married to Hana Seligman and lives with her and their wonderful rescue dog, Maui, in Brooklyn.

[Annie Cannons](#)

Laura Hackney is the Cofounder and Chief Executive Officer at AnnieCannons. Laura is a full- stack software engineer and oversees our

coding training program and software product development teams. Prior to AnnieCannons, Laura managed the Program on Human Rights at Stanford University's Freeman Spogli Institute. She also worked as the Senior Research Associate for Stanford's Anti-Trafficking Project in the Mekong Sub-Region and was a Program Associate for the Freeman Spogli Institute's International Policy Implementation Lab. Laura is passionate about the intersections of human rights, technology, and education. She works with the Human Trafficking Task Force within the San Francisco Police Department's Special Victims Unit, serves on Alameda County's AC United Steering Committee, and supports the local Bay Area anti-trafficking groups.

[You Are More Than](#)

Ashante Taylorcox is a Queer, Licensed Counselor in the state of NJ and the Founder and Executive Director of You Are More Than Inc. YAMT is a survivor-led, survivor-run non-profit organization in the state of NJ aimed at supporting marginalized survivors of commercial sexual exploitation and domestic trafficking by empowering them within mental health, education and financial sectors of aftercare support. Ashante has an extensive history of serving the survivor community as not only an advocate in the field but also as a survivor leader both through lived and professional experience. Over the last seven years, Ashante has worked to create safer environments within the survivor community by improving support services for adult survivors, particularly within mental health settings. Through community collaboration, Ashante has invested in the survivor community through direct service work, fundraising initiatives, curricula development, and training providers that provide direct services and clinical-specific support. Outside of leading YAMT, Ashante works in Private Practice specializing in serving the LGBTQ+ community, BIPOC individuals, survivors of childhood trauma, adoption, and sexual violence.

[Kentucky Coalition Against Domestic Violence](#)

Olivia Spradlin

[March 4 Black Womxn](#)

Kelsey Daniels

[FreeFrom](#)

Sharon Lim is a queer Korean-American immigrant and survivor of GBV. She has been working towards creating a more equitable society since her

work with incarcerated youth in Richmond, VA. Upon graduation from the University of Richmond, she returned to her hometown, Los Angeles, where she has been working alongside marginalized communities to demand equity and reclaim agency. At FreeFrom, she implements the Survivor Wealth and Wellness Training, a survivor-centered financial capacity building training and technical assistance program. She holds her MA and BA in political science and has been part of the FreeFrom team since November 2019.