



Arizona's 2022 IDEA Conference

Join us from September 7–9, 2022 at the JW Marriott Desert Ridge in Phoenix. Check out this highlight of the keynote speakers for this year's conference. [Visit the IDEA Conference website](#) to learn more.

Dr. Christopher Emdin

Christopher Emdin is the Robert A. Naslund Endowed Chair in Curriculum Theory and Professor of Education at the University of Southern California, where he also serves as Director of Youth Engagement and Community Partnerships at the USC Race and Equity Center.

He previously served as Director of the Science Education program at Teachers College, Columbia University and alumni fellow at the Hip-hop Archive and Hutchins Center at Harvard University. He has served as STEAM Ambassador for the U.S. Department of State and Minorities in Energy Ambassador for the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Emdin holds a PhD in Urban Education with a concentration in Mathematics, Science, and Technology; master degrees in both Natural Sciences and Education, and bachelor degrees in Physical Anthropology, Biology, and Chemistry.

He is the creator of the [#HipHopEd social media movement](#) and [Science Genius BATTLES](#). He was recently named one of the 27 people bridging divides in the United States by *Time* magazine.

He is the author of numerous award winning works, including the award-winning book *Urban Science Education for the Hip-hop Generation* and the New York Times bestseller, *For White Folks Who Teach In the Hood and the Rest of Ya'll Too*. His latest books, *Ratchetdemic: Reimagining Academic Success* and *STEM, STEAM, Make Dream*, are currently available wherever books are sold.



Art Cernosia

Art Cernosia is an attorney and an education consultant from Williston, Vermont. Art previously worked as a teacher, an Assistant Attorney General assigned to the Vermont Department of Education, a practicing attorney, and a consultant with a national special education technical assistance center.

He was associated with the University of Vermont's Education Law Institute for over 30 years, where he taught and provided legal workshops.

He also volunteered as a surrogate parent for students with disabilities who were placed in juvenile detention facilities.

He provides training, consultation, and other technical assistance services to state and local education agencies and advocacy organizations throughout the nation pertaining to special education legal issues.



David Edward Garcia

David is the only five-language-speaking, motivational-comedian on the planet! David empathizes with diverse students who face challenges because he was once considered an “at-risk student” himself before defying the odds and graduating with a bachelor degree and then earning his master degree.

He has motivated children and mature adults in some of the greatest metropolitan cities of the world: Los Angeles, New York, Sao Paulo, Paris, and London.

His upbringing facilitated his multiculturalism/multilingualism, which make it easy to relate to diverse audiences. While his native languages are English and Spanish, David has also presented in French and Portuguese in his international tours. (He also speaks Italian, bringing his language total to five—for now.)



This year's conference will feature over 75 professional learning opportunities, including IDEA legal issues, instructional practices, national trends and hot topics, special education compliance, secondary transition, social/emotional learning, and, **new this year, a strand for Early Childhood Special Education.**

[Stay up-to-date on the IDEA Conference website](#) for announcements about additional national speakers and exciting topics.