



SPRING LITERACY FORUM

SPEAKER BIOS

April 21, 2021

NIKITA GIBBS-NOLEN

Nikita Gibbs-Nolen was born and raised in Oakland, CA. She attended Cal State East Bay and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She later attended Alliant University to obtain a teaching credential and Master's degree in Education. Her educational journey began in 2003 when she became a substitute teacher in Oakland Unified School District. From 2005-present, she has worked as an Oakland elementary school teacher. She was awarded the Teaching Excellence Award and recognition for her participation in the California Reading and Literature Project. In 2018, She was featured in the Teacher's of Oakland and The State of Black Education Oakland's Narrative Series. Nikita has been a mentor for new teachers and lead teacher since 2008.

PATTY MONTOYA

Patricia Montoya was born and raised in Oakland. She is currently a stay at home mom with three kids. Her son Francisco and daughter Danika attend 3rd and fourth grade at Korematsu Discovery Academy. Her youngest, Andrea is 20 months old.

ROXANNE ROSE

Originally from Los Angeles, Roxanne Rose has been an educator and school leader in public schools since 2007. She is committed to disrupting harmful school systems and redesigning learning spaces that cultivate equitable opportunities and life choices for Black and POC youth. Prior to her current role as a Vice Principal, Roxanne was a teacher for 10 years in both Los Angeles and Oakland. In 2016 Roxanne received her MA in Educational Leadership and Admin Credential from Mills College and in 2019 was accepted to the Surge Fellowship. She enjoys reading non-fiction, and prior to the pandemic loved to attend festivals, cultural events, concerts and anything related to elevating the lives and experiences of the BIPOC community.

CAROLINE COLSON

Caroline Colson is the mother of one son, Saeed Colson-Spikes, who attends Bret Harte Middle School in Oakland. She has been an analyst with the State of California within the Department of Social Services for 15 years. Caroline's goal is to ensure all children have equity in education.

Working together to ensure that every Oakland child learns and loves to read

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