



COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Supporting Whole-Child Success Across the Central Valley

February 2026



Coalinga-Huron USD welcomes UCLA and STAC for a Deep Dive visit.

From Community to Classroom: Culturally Relevant Practices in Kern County



The Culturally Relevant Practices professional learning series explored Kern County's history and cultural richness and offered ideas and activities to help schools elevate community assets. Anchored in the Community School Framework, the series reinforced a cornerstone commitment: delivering strong, culturally relevant instruction that connected learning to students' real-life experiences and extended beyond the classroom. The target audience included district and site administrators, teacher leaders, TOSAs, and new teachers, with a focus on practical strategies participants could take back and apply right away.

These strategies will strengthen relationships, increase student voice, and deepen classroom engagement through local context and shared identity—bringing powerful learning to life.

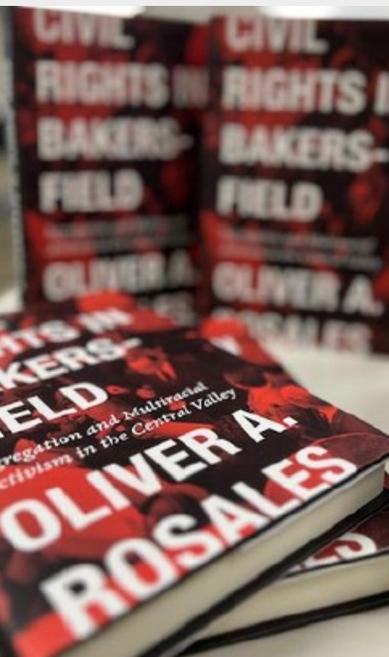


Session #2—**African-American Heritage**—took place on January 7, 2026 and featured **"From the Nation to the Valley: Kern County's Black History Legacy."** The session framed community-based learning as contextual and culturally responsive, drawing from the cultural wealth and funds of knowledge of students, families, and educators to cultivate responsive classrooms where belonging and student agency were explicit goals. Participants examined how national events unfolded locally, using Kern County as the lens.

The learning arc moved through Black townships, the Great Migration, and Civil Rights protests, and closed with examples of notable Black Americans connected to Kern County. By tracing history from "nation to valley," educators strengthened their ability to teach beyond textbook timelines and deepened students' understanding of how place, opportunity, and struggle shape communities over time.

Looking ahead, the final session of the Culturally Relevant Practices professional learning series that participants can attend, **Native Americans in Kern County**, will take place on **March 5, 2026, from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** This session supports a key commitment of the Community School Framework by strengthening culturally relevant instruction that connects learning to students' real life experiences and extends beyond the classroom.

For more information and registration, contact ocpatino@kern.org or cvrtac@fcoe.org.



INQUIRY DESIGN MODEL: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN EVERYDAY INSTRUCTION



On January 13, 2026 (8:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.), Central Valley R-TAC Community Schools, in partnership with Kern County Superintendent of Schools (KCSOS), hosted an engaging professional learning session on the **Inquiry Design Model (IDM)** in Bakersfield.

Designed for district and site instructional leaders, teachers, and coaches/TOSAs, this session introduced educators to IDM as a practical approach for embedding civic engagement into everyday instruction within community schools.

Participants learned how to create and adapt IDM inquiries that connect curriculum content to real community issues and provide students with meaningful opportunities for informed action. The session also showed how IDM based lessons can help students meet **State Seal of Civic Engagement (SSCE)** criteria. Educators left with ready to use strategies and resources to build their own capacity and the capacity of colleagues to strengthen civic learning at the classroom and school levels.



LAMONT ELEMENTARY DISTRICT HOSTS TELEHEALTH SCHOOL SITE VISIT



Earlier this year, **Lamont Elementary School District** opened its doors to visiting schools to see how the district has incorporated **TeleHealth** services for students and families. TeleHealth Executive Director and Founder Quon Louey presented to visitors how TeleHealth works for the school district during school hours. At the center of the work are on campus wellness centers that provide primary and urgent care services to students every day. Students can visit the wellness center and consult with a doctor virtually, helping them get timely support without leaving campus.

With services available at school, students who might otherwise miss the day can connect with a health professional, address concerns early, and return to learning with fewer disruptions. The partnership between TeleHealth and Lamont Elementary School District has **enhanced student health, improved attendance, and supported academic success**. This work was made possible through California Community Schools Partnership Program grant funding, which LESD used to open the wellness centers and expand services. .

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Keep Your Team Connected!

CCSPP grantees and community partners, help us keep everyone informed. If your team has new members, changes in staff, or updated emails, please share your current contact list so no one misses our weekly updates.

✉ Email updates to cvrtac@fcoe.org

