



DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

SCHOOL SPEAKER PROGRAM





DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

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www.diversityslo.org

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**DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

About Us

Diversity Coalition was founded in 2011 as a response to a widely reported incident involving a cross burning in Arroyo Grande. Steve Adams, then City Manager of Arroyo Grande, assembled a cadre of influential citizens to discuss what the community's response should be. While many others felt it unnecessary, with the support of the City government plus the NAACP Santa Maria Valley chapter and other organizations, the Five Cities Diversity Coalition was born.

In 2019, the organization expanded its reach to serve the entire county of San Luis Obispo County, changing its name to Diversity Coalition San Luis Obispo County.

<https://www.diversityslo.org/our-history>



DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

About Us in Numbers

15

Years of
working
experience.

15+

School speaker
presentations per
school year.

3000+

Students
participating
every school
year

13+

Schools
participating
throughout SLO
County



DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

Our Values & Mission

Values

Welcoming
Empowering
Understanding
Educating

Mission

To build and sustain a coalition that seeks a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community through advocacy and education.



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Our Speakers



www.diversityslo.org



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Our Speakers

Chumash/Titavian Elder History Through Indigenous Perspectives

- A local tribal elder and historian shares stories, traditions, and perspectives that bring Indigenous history to life, including an age-appropriate discussion of the California missions.





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Our Speakers

Holocaust Survivor

- She hid from the Nazis in an attic for 2 years, a story similar to Anne Frank's. She and her daughter share her story of survival (Hybrid presentation, with the daughter in person and the mother on Zoom).





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Our Speakers



Afghan Couple From working with US Troops in Kabul to SLO

- After supporting U.S. troops in Kabul, they were forced to flee Afghanistan during the U.S. withdrawal. Today they are building a new life in SLO, balancing hope for the future with concern for families still in Afghanistan.



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Our Speakers

Japanese Internment survivor

Stories from:

- Was sent to an internment camp in Poston, Arizona with his family during WWII. He shares his story and also gives the history of AAPI prejudice. (Hybrid-style presentation, with survivor on Zoom and relative in person).





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Our Speakers



Ukrainian Refugee A life interrupted

- Forced to flee Ukraine with his family after Russia's invasion, this speaker shares his journey of resilience, displacement, and rebuilding a new life while remaining connected to his homeland.



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Our Speakers

Lost Boy of Sudan

Stories from:

- Survived the horrors of the civil war in Sudan in the nineties, and has written two books about his story. His story was also documented in "The Good Lie (2014)", a movie starring Reese Witherspoon





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Our Speakers Program

Cambodian Refugees

- A Cambodian family shares their journey of surviving the Khmer Rouge genocide, rebuilding their lives in California, and preserving their culture and heritage. The journalist who documented their story may join the presentation depending on availability.





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Our Speakers

More Speakers

Syrian Speaker - Perspectives from a Civil War

Speaker who grew up during the Syrian Civil War and recently escaped and resettled in SLO with her family.

Breaking Barriers: A Journey into Law

A local Hispanic attorney shares their path into the legal profession, exploring the cultural, educational, and economic barriers they overcame while pursuing a career in law.

Disability Advocate - "See us, Know Us"

Diagnosed with a disability at age six, this speaker shares her experience living with a disability, challenging assumptions and exploring what true accessibility and inclusion look like.

More at diversityslo.org/schoolspeakers





**DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

Stories connect us. They help us understand experiences beyond our own and see the world through someone else's perspective.

Diversity Coalition's School Speakers Program brings firsthand stories into the classroom through speakers with powerful lived experiences.

The program is free for schools and designed to complement classroom learning, helping students deepen understanding, empathy, and engagement.



Program Benefits



**DIVERSITY COALITION
SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY**

The Process



1. CONNECT

Identify the topic and speaker needs for your school/class, and email us at ed@diversityslo.org

2. SCHEDULING

Our team will work with you and the speaker to coordinate the speaking date.

3. VISIT

Our team will take care of travel accommodations for each speaker, and will bring them to your school.



**DIVERSITY COALITION
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Let's Connect!

We would love to share more about our School Speakers Program.

Let us know when you're available and we can schedule a meeting in person or remotely.



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