

## **Workshop D Speaker Bios:**

### **Career Pathways in Mental Health & Primary Health**

**Maureen Buckley, Interim Dean, School of Social Sciences, Sonoma State University and Maria Aviña (Latinx graduate);  
Melissa Gory, RN, MSN/Ed., Psychiatric & Community Health  
Nursing Educator, Santa Rosa Junior College & Safety in  
Practice, LLC**

#### **Maria Aviña**

Maria Aviña works as a school counselor for Roseland Elementary. Born in Mexico, Aviña immigrated to the United States at ten years old. Education, mental health and immigrant rights have become paramount themes of her life's work. Aviña holds credentials in Bilingual Teaching and School Counseling/Pupil Personnel Services (SC/PPSC) and an MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling (CMHC) and is on her way to licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) and as a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC).

Previous to counseling, Maria Avina was working with teens as a Social worker for Public Health. Maria has also worked at Santa Rosa Junior College as a Program Coordinator for The Healthcare Development Program & GED Coordinator to facilitate student success and retention for underrepresented Sonoma County youth and families. Maria devotes a lot of her time to addressing the mental health needs of families and youth in our community as well as the rights for immigrant families.

#### **Maureen Buckley**

Dr. Maureen Buckley is currently the Interim Dean for the School of Social Sciences at Sonoma State University. She is also a Professor in the Counseling Department, where she trains future school counselors and mental health counselors. She earned her BA in Psychology/Anthropology at Bates College and her MA/Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from Boston College. Dr. Buckley's counseling experience includes work in school counseling, community mental health, pediatric behavioral medicine, child trauma and psychological assessment. Her scholarship focuses on

mentoring, emotional competence, and contextual interventions for promoting positive developmental outcomes for youth.

**Melissa Gory**

Melissa is a psychiatric nurse with 20-something years of experience working with differently abled children and adults diagnosed with learning challenges and mental illnesses, both as a nurse and in case management/social services. Currently, Melissa is living her passion in educating others at Santa Rosa Junior College and local hospitals/health care facilities on a wide spectrum of mental health needs.

