



ANNUAL WATERSHED CONFERENCE

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

WEBINAR SESSION

Wednesday, October 11, 1-3:30 PM

Zoom Webinar

[Register here](#)

The virtual session of the Annual Watershed Conference will be held on Wednesday, October 11 from 1 to 3:30 PM via Zoom webinar. The webinar will feature presentations from a panel of speakers, followed by a discussion with questions and answers. It will provide key context on DEIJ issues, along with case studies and resources.

Registration for the virtual session is included with the in-person conference registration, and is also available to attend or view on its own. The webinar will be recorded and shared with all conference registrants. It will set a valuable foundation for the content of the in-person session on Tuesday, October 24, and we highly recommend that everyone who plans to attend in-person watches the webinar beforehand, either live or the recording.

For more information about the Annual Watershed Conference, visit:

<https://hudsonwatershed.org/2023-annual-watershed-conference/>

AGENDA

1:00-1:10 PM - Welcome & Introduction

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance (she/her)

1:10-1:30 PM - Rodney M. Fuller, LMSW, MBA, PhD-C, President, Pursue Your Excellence and Facilitator, The Support Center (he/him)

Mr. Fuller has been a President/CEO/Executive Director and Founder of nonprofit organizations and, as a “turn-around-artist,” has the distinction of leading successful turn-around efforts at nine non-profit organizations in the tri-state area. Rodney loves investing in the professional development and career advancement of people and, combined with active and strategic succession planning, he has developed and helped advance the careers of three current Executive Director/CEO’s by incorporating succession planning into his practices. In 2020, Rodney launched Pursue Your Excellence, a K-8 school transformation company, whose philosophy is, “To work with school leadership, its leadership teams, staff and community and build internal capacity for long-standing change.” and in short order was able

to secure clients in Phoenix, Minneapolis, Chicago, New York, Baltimore, St. Louis, and Washington, DC. Rodney has been featured in local and national media. He was selected as an outstanding African American role model and featured in a series of ads that aired on NBC television. He has appeared on Good Morning America, Good Day New York, and New York 1. He has been featured in articles published by the NY Times and Daily news newspapers. Rodney is a Union Square Award Recipient and a Robert Bowne Foundation Research Fellow. A natural teacher, Rodney has been an adjunct professor at Marymount Manhattan College, Lehman College, Hunter College School of Social Work, Ramapo College New Jersey, and the Wurzweiler School of Social Work at Yeshiva University. He is a Certified Psychotherapist through the Ackerman Individual and Family Institute; Board Certified Executive Coach through the College of Executive Coaching; DEI Certification through Cornell University; and Certified Board Consultant through Board Source. Rodney is also a restaurateur, who owns an event space (weddings and corporate events) and several restaurants in New York City. Rodney's hobbies include playing saxophone, outdoor hikes (a fan of waterfalls), entrepreneurship, and travel to the nearest tropical beach. Rodney is at the Annual Watershed Conference representing the Support Center.

1:30-1:55 PM - Shino Takinawa, Executive Director, NYC Soil & Water Conservation District (she/her)

Shino Tanikawa is the Executive Director of the New York City Soil & Water Conservation District (the District). She has a Master of Science degree in Marine Environmental Sciences from the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences (formerly Marine Sciences Research Center) at Stony Brook University. As the Executive Director, she oversees the District's stormwater & green infrastructure, environmental education, and urban soils programs. She currently serves on the Steering Committee of the Stormwater Infrastructure Matters (SWIM) Coalition, advises the leadership team of the NY/NJ Harbor & Estuary Program (HEP) Citizens Advisory Committee, and serves as the NY Co-Chair of the HEP Water Quality Working Group. She has also been involved with diversity, equity, inclusion and justice work through the HEP DEIJ Subcommittee as well as her own DEIJ programming for the District and its partner organizations.

1:55-2:20 PM - Alexa Rosales, Founder & Director, Body Liberation Hiking and Outdoor Club and Chapter Leader, Body Liberation Hiking Hudson Valley (she/her)

Alexa was born and raised in Newburgh, New York and is a full time teacher to High School English language learners in Highland Falls. As a child and through her teenage years, Alexa struggled with her identity and self worth—issues that stem from growing up living in a bigger body size. The misconceptions from the outside world about her abilities had always deterred her from trying new things or participating in sports and recreation. Now as an adult, she has refuge in the outdoors and seeks healing through leadership, stewardship and community. When she founded Body Liberation Outdoor Club (formerly Plus Sized Hikers of the Hudson Valley), she never expected how many folks were in need of a safe outdoor space. In just two and a half years BLOC has grown to twenty hiking chapters and one biking chapter spanning across the US, Canada and Mexico. When she's not managing hikes or onboarding new chapters, Alexa is enjoying a home cooked meal or playing trivia with her spouse Rafael and cat Winnipeg.

2:20-2:45 PM - Kelly Knutson, Director, Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed (he/him)

The Coalition for the Delaware River Watershed unites organizations working throughout the region to enhance their capacity to effectively advocate for protecting and restoring the Delaware River Basin. Kelly Knutson leads on federal policy, strategic vision, and diverse partnerships throughout the four basin states. Kelly joined the Coalition in April of 2019 as State Policy Manager and transitioned to the role of Director in September 2021. Trained as a biologist, Kelly has spent his professional career advancing science-based policies to stakeholders, communities, and lawmakers to ensure that evidence-driven solutions are at the foundation of constituent advocacy and legislative strategy. Kelly holds a Bachelor of Arts from Concordia College in Minnesota.

2:45-3:25 PM - Panel Discussion, Q&A

3:25-3:30 PM - Wrap Up

Emily Vail, Executive Director, Hudson River Watershed Alliance (she/her)

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