

The LARAEC EXPERIENCE

Keynote and Guest Speakers



George Couros

Educator, Author, Speaker

You can learn more about George at his website georgecouros.com

George Couros is a worldwide leader in the area of innovative teaching, learning, and leading, and he has a focus on innovation as a human endeavor. Most importantly, he is a proud father and husband. His belief that meaningful change happens when you first connect to people's hearts is modeled in his writing and speaking. In his 20-plus years in the field of education, he has worked at all levels of school, from K-12 as a teacher, technology facilitator, and school and district administrator, and is currently an Adjunct Instructor with the Graduate School of Education at the University of Pennsylvania. George is also the author of the books *The Innovator's Mindset*; *Empower Learning*, *Unleash Talent*, and *Lead a Culture of Creativity*, *Innovate Inside the Box*, the "Because of a Teacher" series as well as his latest book "What Makes a Great Principal." George is also host of the popular education podcast "The Innovator's Mindset."

He has keynoted hundreds of conferences, including national conferences on five different continents. His work has been translated into multiple languages due to its worldwide impact.

Today's Session: **Embracing Innovation to Help Every Learner Find Success in Their Own Way**

Carol Dweck's work has honed in on the concepts of "fixed" and "growth" mindset, but as educators, we must venture further with these ideas to foster the learning opportunities our students and schools merit. It's not only about what we know but also how we utilize that knowledge. Change is ever-present, and with the advent of new avenues for learning and evolution through technology, such as AI and emerging technologies, it's crucial that we are proactive not just in response to changes but also in creating change.

In this talk, George will explore the principles and characteristics of "The Innovator's Mindset"—a concept detailed in his book of the same name—and present compelling reasons why this mindset is essential for educators to cultivate outstanding learning opportunities, not only for their students but also for themselves.

Known for their emotional depth and humor, George's presentations engage audiences on a level that resonates both intellectually and emotionally. This message is not just for the moment; it's crafted to stay with you, affecting genuine change that extends far beyond the talk itself.

Dr. Carolyn Zachry serves as the State Director and Education Administrator for the Adult Education Office within the Career and College Transition Division (CCTD) at the California Department of Education (CDE). In this role, she oversees the administration and management of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Title II grant and co-administers California's state-funded Adult Education Program.

Dr. Zachry is also a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Directors of Adult Education, where she helps shape policies and initiatives for adult education on a national scale. Prior to her current position at CDE, she was a county office program coordinator, where she successfully launched a County Administered Adult Education Program.

With 38 years of experience in education, Dr. Zachry has held various leadership roles, including site principal and teacher, demonstrating her deep commitment to educational growth and student success. Outside of her professional work in education, she recently served as president of the California State Chapter of P.E.O., a philanthropic organization dedicated to educational opportunities for women.



Dr. Carolyn Zachry

State Director and
Education Administrator
Adult Education Division
California Department of
Education



Steve Zimmer

Los Angeles COE

Fmr. Deputy Superintendent
of Public Instruction

Always Advocate for Adult
Education

Steve Zimmer has always been a dedicated advocate for adult education with over 30 years of experience championing the rights and needs of adult learners. Believing firmly that **"there is no public education without adult education,"** Steve has worked tirelessly to promote accessible educational opportunities for all. Steve has led initiatives that empower adult students and adult educators, recognizing that **"we work at the intersection of hope and possibility."** Steve's commitment to transforming lives through education inspires communities and shapes policies that uplift the voices of adult learners everywhere.

We are excited to have Steve back in Los Angeles supporting a LARAEC event. Please join us for his lunch address.