

# Black History Month



Happy 2021, Academy members and alumni.

We hope everyone had a restful holiday season and is keeping healthy and safe!

Here at the Academy for SEL in Schools, we have a lot to share in the new year. First, a reminder that yesterday we kicked off Black History month. This is an excellent opportunity to foster conversations about character, purpose, and social emotional skills during classroom discussions on race and civil rights.

## #SELday

Second, this is an official announcement for **International SEL Day on March 26th!** Sign up [here](#).

Don't worry, we will be sharing lots more information on how to participate and share your celebrations of SEL Day in the coming weeks.



Third, the Academy knows its members and alumni are doing great things in their schools, classrooms, and programs! That is why we want to create opportunities for you to share:

- Social Emotional and Character Developmental (SECD) lessons that work well;
- SECD group formats that work well; and
- SECD-related professional developments (PDs) you have done that you feel are valuable

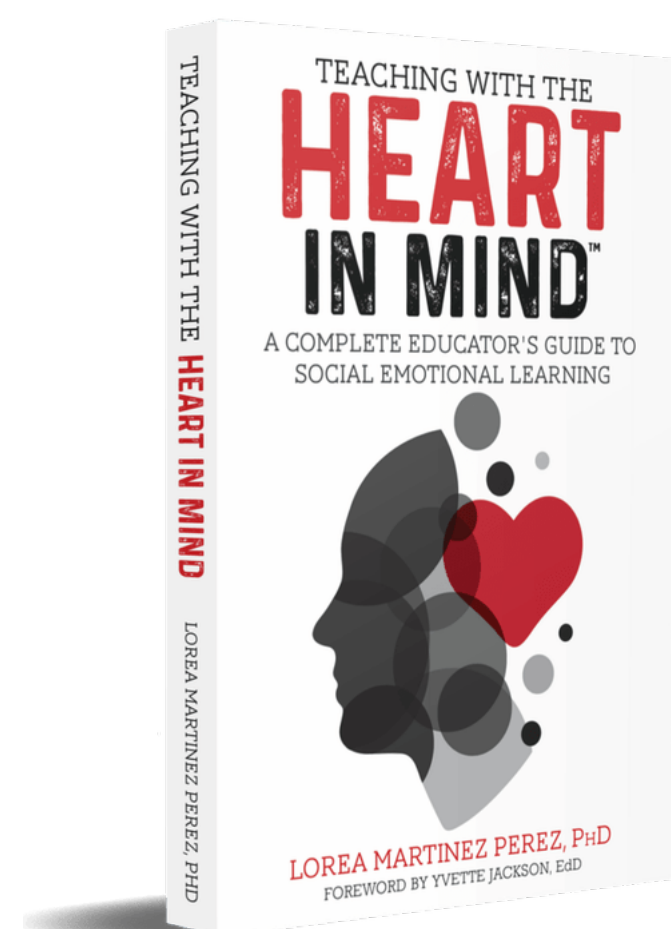
***If you have something you would like to share***, please send it to [secdlab@gmail.com](mailto:secdlab@gmail.com).

***Not sure what to send?*** [Here is an example](#) of student engagement exercises described by Nora Fleming in a recent Edutopia post. Let's say (again, for example) you have been using these exercises with your class and it has been going well. That is something we would encourage you to share and talk about with your Academy colleagues.

Our plan is to host periodic webinars, where 2-3 Academy members and alumni share with their colleagues lessons, group formats, and/or PDs that have worked well.

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### Teaching with the HEART in Mind



Veering away from our typical resource suggestions (and just in time for Valentine's Day!), we are sharing a chapter from friend of the Academy, Lorea Martinez's book, *Teaching with the HEART in Mind*. We have [attached the first chapter](#), but you can also download it here: <https://loreamartinez.com/book/>.

**In Martinez's book, you will learn:**

- How to create a safe, supportive school environment that encourages a positive educational mindset and better goal setting.
- A 3-step process to infuse HEART skills into lesson planning for every subject and grade level.
- A full scope and sequence by grade, along with indicators of mastery for each skill in the HEART in Mind program.
- Tools for teachers to develop their own social and emotional capacity for a more effective and resilient teaching focus.
- Over 90 activities to implement SEL into your classroom – even virtually!

**We hope you enjoy!**

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#### Upcoming Events

Join the upcoming webinar provided as part of the CASEL Cares series!

**Topic:** Building Partnerships Inside and Outside the Classroom

Join CASEL, the Wallace Foundation, and district and community leaders from Palm Beach County as they share findings about how school and out-of-school time partners can work together to align and implement SEL. Recommended for district leaders, school leaders, and community partners, attendees will gain insights about how to support the adults in the community, improve school climate, and create seamless experiences for students.

**Date and Time:** Fri, Feb 19, 2021 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM EST

**Link to Register:**

<https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4346175263282801680?source=web>

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#### Virtual Professional Learning Community

Our Virtual Professional Learning Community (VPLC) is always looking for new topics or areas of interest. If you could send us an issue, topic, or question for which you would most like consultation/support we would greatly appreciate it!

Emails can be sent to: [SELvplc@gmail.com](mailto:SELvplc@gmail.com)

OR

Complete this [Google Form](#)



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