

**Dr. Rachael Mahmood**  
2024 ILLINOIS TEACHER OF THE YEAR



**“We have the collective agency and wisdom to create educational spaces that embrace belonging for all”**

**KEYNOTE (30- 60 MINS)**

**S.H.A.P.E. ing a Culture of Belonging in Education**

In this keynote, Dr. Mahmood shares her journey —from a struggling student searching for belonging to an educator who embraces her identity as a teaching superpower.

Discover her 5 transformative strategies that not only keep her passionate about being a teacher, but also can help S.H.A.P.E. a school culture of belonging.

Through personal stories, vulnerability, and humor, Dr. Mahmood will equip you to celebrate diversity, implement practical instructional strategies, and foster positive, inclusive learning environments.

This keynote can be delivered in 15, 30, or 45-minute segments. It can also be paired with the PD session Cultivating Belonging: Engaging Our School Community Through Dialogue and/or a meet and greet.

**MEET AND GREETINGS & VISITS**

Dr. Mahmood offers personalized meet-and-greet sessions for your school, district, or organization. These informal gatherings can begin with a brief inspirational message, followed by an open discussion where Dr. Mahmood listens to feedback from educators and answers questions (1-3 hours).

As part of her visit, Dr. Mahmood enjoys spending time in classrooms, interacting with educators/students, fostering relationships, and promoting messages of belonging.

**INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE SESSION**

**Cultivating Belonging: Engaging Our School Community Through Dialogue and Action**

*How do we ensure that our students, our educators, and our families all feel a sense of belonging in our schools?* The answer to this question already exists in your school community. Let’s elevate your community’s voice and wisdom to bring those ideas to action.

Dr. Mahmood will help you plan and facilitate a 2-3 hour World Café for your school community exploring the central question above.

The World Café is a dialogue model where educators, students, and/or community members gather in small groups to discuss a central question. Participants record their feedback and findings in small groups. After a set time, individuals rotate to different groups, carrying forward key insights and ideas from each round of their discussions. Through multiple rounds of conversation, diverse perspectives are shared, and all stakeholders are given a space to provide actionable steps to address the question above.

At the end of the session, the collective wisdom of your group emerges and your participants will have generated relevant, tailored, and innovative solutions to increasing feelings of belonging in your school community. This event can accommodate 30 to 300+ participants in one session.

**PODCAST INTERVIEW**

Elevate the educators making a difference in your school, district, or organization. Have Dr. Mahmood interview them for her upcoming podcast sharing insights, projects, and/or success stories of passionate educators across Illinois (30-60 Minutes).

Click this [Link](#) to Request a Session with the Teacher of the Year