Dr. Darla Cooper
8:30am | Campus Conference Center

Dr. Darla M. Cooper, Director of Research and Evaluation for the Research and Planning Group for the California Community Colleges (RP Group), has worked in the California community college system for over 15 years. She previously held institutional research director positions at our own Oxnard College as well as Santa Barbara City College and Ohlone College.

She has extensive experience serving as an external evaluator for several federal and private foundation grants and leading Student Support (Re)defined, a research project that examined what supports student success. In addition, she has worked on projects including the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, Bridging Research Information and Culture (BRIC), Student Transfer in Professional Pathways Project, and the Accreditation Study.

She holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, San Diego, and an M.S.Ed. and Ed.D. from the University of Southern California.

Lunch with Dr. Jaiya John, Foster Youth keynote speaker Workshop to follow.

Dr. Jaiya John
12:00pm | Campus Conference Center

Dr. Jaiya John, born into foster care, is a nationally recognized speaker and author who expresses his compassion and understanding of youth born into the foster care system through life affirming messages that honor their spirit and potential for success.

Our foster youth students grapple with some tough issues and sometimes it’s hard to fully appreciate their severity or what to do about them. This address and workshop are designed to help us better understand the world of foster care, our students, and how we can create a giving, helpful, and supportive culture at our campus to help these students thrive and realize their potential.

A former professor at Harvard University, Dr. John has authored nine books on the human spirit and has addressed thousands worldwide. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Cruz, with a focus on intergroup relations.

Please RSVP for the opening breakfast and/or the lunch to Tami Cobb (tcobb@vcccd.edu).