

# PRELIMINARY LIST OF SPEAKERS



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INTERNATIONAL

## 2022 EARTH CHARTER CONFERENCE

# PUTTING PLANETARY WELL-BEING AT THE CORE: A CALL TO TURN OUR CONSCIENCE INTO ACTION

Earth Charter Center for Education for Sustainable  
Development at the University for Peace

San José, Costa Rica 1-2 December 2022



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University  
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UNITED NATIONS  
OUR HOPE FOR PEACE



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization



UNESCO Chair on Education  
for Sustainable Development  
and the Earth Charter



## **Michael J. Bracken**

Michael is the Chair of ECI Board and has served as the President of Medcom Benefit Solutions (Medcom in Florida, USA), a leading provider of employee benefit administration and consulting services for prominent employers throughout the U.S since 1996. Prior to joining Medcom in 1989, Michael worked at Prudential Insurance Company of America in Florida and in California, and he also worked with Corroon & Black, a leading national employee benefit consulting firm. Michael has a degree in Economics, cum laude, from Emory University (Atlanta, Georgia) and a Master's degree in Business Administration from

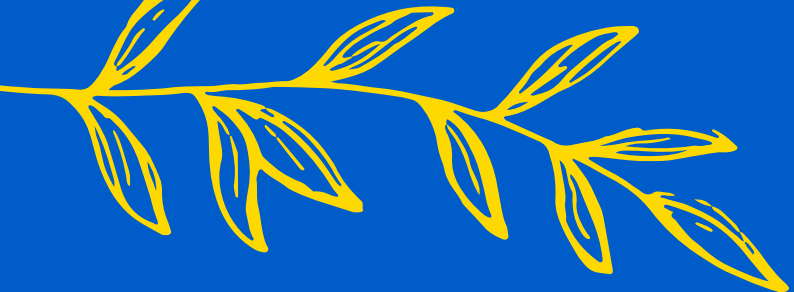
Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles, California). Michael has a long and dedicated history in contributing to the community and offering his professional services. He has served as Chairman of the Board at Samaritan Counseling Services and Specialty Hospital of Jacksonville. Michael was also a Board Member at Lutheran Social Services of Jacksonville and at the National Association of Professional Benefit Administrators.



## **Fritjof Capra**

[online] Fritjof is a physicist and systems theorist, is a founding director of the Center for Ecoliteracy in Berkeley, California, which is dedicated to promoting ecology and systems thinking in primary and secondary education. He serves on the faculty of Schumacher College, an international center for ecological studies in the UK. After receiving his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Vienna in 1966, Fritjof Capra did research in particle physics at the University of Paris [1966-68], the University of California at Santa Cruz [1968-70], the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center [1970], Imperial College, University

of London [1971-74], and the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory at the University of California [1975-88]. He also taught at UC Santa Cruz, UC Berkeley, and San Francisco State University. In addition to his research in physics and systems theory, Capra has been engaged in a systematic examination of the philosophical and social implications of contemporary science for the past 35 years. Capra is the author of several international bestsellers, and has also coauthored and coedited several other books. Capra holds an Honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Plymouth and is the recipient of many awards, including the Gold Medal of the UK Systems Society, the Neil Postman Award for Career Achievement in Public Intellectual Activity from the Media Ecology Association, the Medal of the President of the Italian Republic, the Leonardo da Vinci Medallion of Honor from the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Arizona, the Bioneers Award, the New Dimensions Broadcaster Award, and the American Book Award. Fritjof Capra is member of the ECI Council.



## Sam Crowell

Sam is Professor Emeritus at California State University and the author of *Emergent Teaching* and *The Re-Enchantment of Learning*. He has spent the bulk of his academic career interpreting the new sciences of wholeness and interconnectedness for their application in classrooms, schools and curriculum. This has included quantum mechanics, chaos and complexity science, holography, open systems, emergence, and neuroscience. These understandings have culminated in award-winning teaching strategies, a masters program in holistic and integrative education, a model program in transformative learning, and teaching for social justice, peace and sustainability through the Earth Charter.

In addition, Sam is on the advisory council for the Collaborative in Spirituality and Education developed at Columbia University. Sam is also a senior researcher and Council member for Earth Charter International and adjunct faculty of Antioch University, St. Michael's College, and the Institute for Educational Studies. He also honors his personal ancestry as Aniyunwiya.



## Grian Cutanda

Grian has a PhD in Social Education (University of Granada), a Master's in Innovation and Research in Education (UNED Spain) and a degree in Psychology (University of Valencia). Grian has taught courses for the University of Granada and the UNED and has been part of the research group "Emerging Values, Social Education and Educational Policies" at the University of Granada. Grian is a fiction and essay writer on issues of sustainability, peace, social justice, mysticism and spirituality of nature, with 16 published books (including the international bestseller *El jardinero*). He was a member and initiate of a Sufi order of Persian origin in the 14th century. Social communicator,

translator and social and environmental activist, co-founder of the social movement Extinction Rebellion (XR) in Spain and promoter of XR in Mexico and other Latin American countries, currently in various global campaigns against climate change from XR International. Grian is the founder of the educational and activist NGO The Avalon Project, and Executive Director of The Earth Stories Collection, a global bank of myths, legends, fables, and tales from around the globe capable of illustrating the principles and values of the Earth Charter. Earth and to transmit a systemic and ecocentric vision of the world.

## María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés

María Fernanda is an Ecuadorian academic, diplomat, politician and poet with postgraduate studies in Amazonian Studies and Environmental Geography. She has more than 30 years of experience in academic spaces, international organizations and in high government positions. She was President of the United Nations General Assembly between 2018 and 2019. In Ecuador, she was Minister of Foreign Affairs twice (2007-2008 and 2017-2018), Minister of National Defense (2012-2014), Minister of Culture and Heritage (2009-2012), and advisor to the 2008 constitutional process. Currently, she performs various advisory roles in the fields of global governance and multilateralism.



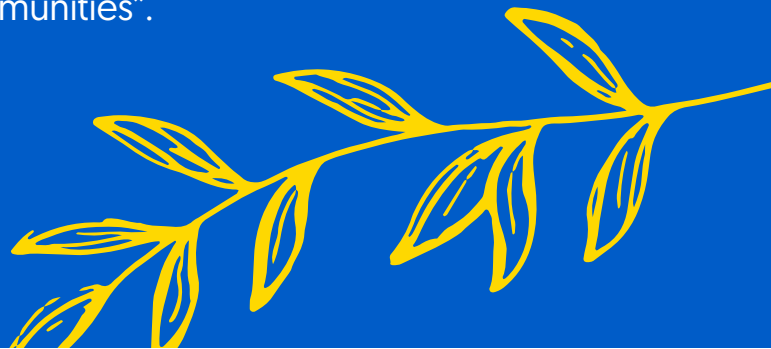
Among other responsibilities, she is a member and co-chair of The Lancet Commission on COVID-19; She is a councilor of the World Future Council, a member of the High-Level Advisory Council of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations. In addition, María Fernanda is a senior fellow at the Robert Bosch Academy, a German institution that hosts her work in these international initiatives. As a Fellow, she analyzes challenges and alternatives for inclusive and effective global governance and UN reform that addresses current challenges, including health, climate and inequality crises.



## Tiokasin Ghosthorse

Tiokasin is the Founder, Host and Executive Producer of “First Voices Radio” Syndicated National/International [formerly “First Voices Indigenous Radio”] for the last 29 years in New York City and Seattle/Olympia, Washington. Among other things Tiokasin is involved with the Akantu Institute which seeks to preserve and share knowledge from various wisdom traditions in accessible, relevant formats; and host physical gatherings and ceremonies to deepen the experience of knowledge. In 2016, he received a Nomination for the Nobel Peace Prize from the International Institute of Peace Studies and Global Philosophy. Other recent recognitions include: Native Arts and Cultures Foundation National Fellowship in

Music (2016), National Endowment for the Arts National Heritage Fellowship Nominee (2017), Indigenous Music Award Nominee for Best Instrumental Album (2019) and National Native American Hall of Fame Nominee (2018, 2019). He was awarded New York City’s Peacemaker of the Year in 2013. Recently, he was also nominated for “the 2020 Americans for the Arts Johnson Fellowship for Artists Transforming Communities”.



## Carol Anne Hilton

Carol Anne is the CEO and founder of the Indigenomics Institute and the Global Center of Indigenomics in Canada. Carol Anne is a dynamic national Indigenous business leader, author, speaker and senior adviser with an international Masters Degree in Business Management (MBA) from the University of Hertfordshire, England. Carol Anne is of Nuu chah nulth descent from the Hesquiaht Nation on Vancouver Island. Carol Anne is an international award winning, best selling author of 'Indigenomics-Taking A Seat at the Economic Table' and is also an adjunct professor at Royal Roads University's School of Business. Carol Anne was the only Indigenous

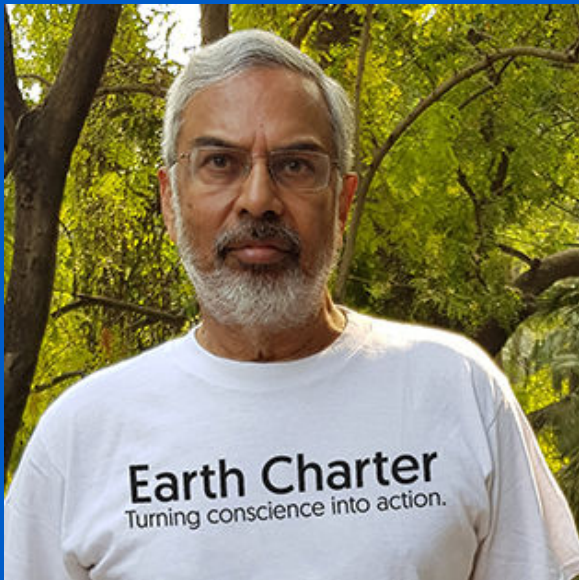
person appointed to the Canadian Economic Growth Council as a senior advisor to the federal Finance Minister in 2016. Carol Anne most recently served on the BC Emerging Economy Taskforce, and the BC Indigenous Business and Investment Council. Carol Anne currently serves as a Director on the McGill University Institute for the Study of Canada, MITACS Research and the BC Digital Supercluster. Her work has been most recently recognized with the inaugural Nation Builder Award from the National Angel Capital Organization in 2022, the BC Achievement Foundation's Award of Distinction in Indigenous Business as well as the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business's national Award of Excellence in Aboriginal Relations.



## Akpezi Ogbuigwe

Akpezi is the Director of Rivers State University of Science and Technology Advancement/Linkages Centre in Nigeria. She has over thirty years of professional experience as a Law teacher and an avid researcher in transformational change in higher education in Africa, environmental law and policy, and sustainable development; she is a facilitator of university partnerships and is involved in civil society engagement. She served as Head of Environmental Education and Training of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); UNEP's lead focal point for the UN Decade of Education for Sustainable Development; and Coordinator of the Ecosystem Management Programme of UNEP. Akpezi is recipient

of awards and honours such as the Environmental Creation Awareness Award by the Environment Outreach Magazine [2010]; The Outstanding Young Persons of Nigeria Award in recognition of her contribution to Moral and Environmental Leadership by the Nigeria Junior Chamber on the occasion of their 40th Anniversary Convention [1997]. She is also recognized as a Rachel Carson Distinguished Lecturer at the The Centre for Environmental & Sustainability Education of Florida Gulf Coast University, USA 2011. She has contributed to knowledge in the field of environmental law and education for sustainable development through several published articles in international journals and book chapters.



## **Kartikeya V. Sarabhai**

Kartikeya is the founder and director of the Centre for Environment Education (CEE/India), a national institution engaged in promoting environmental awareness and conservation as well as education for sustainable development. In 2005, CEE received the Global award for Outstanding Service to Environmental Education from the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). Mr. Sarabhai also set up VIKSAT, an NGO working towards people's participation in natural resource management, as well as Sundervan, a nature discovery centre. Mr. Sarabhai has served for several years as a member of the ECI Council and is its current chair. He has also served on several committees of the

Ministry of Environment and Forests and the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. These include greening India's formal education system and initiatives for biodiversity education. Mr. Sarabhai has long been associated with IUCN (World Conservation Union), and was the chair of South and South-East Asia, IUCN Commission on Education and Communication. Mr. Sarabhai was instrumental in initiating SASEANEE, the South and Southeast Asian Network for Environment Education. He was a member of the Indian delegation to UNCED at Rio and WSSD (World Summit on Sustainable Development) at Johannesburg and was co-author of India's report for UNCED. Mr. Sarabhai received the Tree of Learning Award from The World Conservation Union in 1998 in appreciation of his contributions to the field of environmental education and communication. In 2005, The Indian Institute of Human Rights presented Mr. Sarabhai with the World Human Rights Promotion Award.

## **Cassandra Vieten**

Cassandra is the Executive Director of the John W. Brick Foundation, Director of Research and Development and Associate Research Scientist at the Arthur C. Clarke Center for Human Imagination at the University of California, San Diego, and a Senior Fellow at the Institute of Noetic Sciences, where she served as President from 2013-2019. Her research has focused on spirituality and health, transformative experiences and practices, the development of mindfulness-based interventions for emotional well-being, and development of media technologies to inspire awe. She received her Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the California Institute of Integral Studies and completed her

research training in behavioral genetics at UC San Francisco. She has authored three books, published numerous articles in scientific journals, and is an internationally recognized keynote speaker and workshop leader.

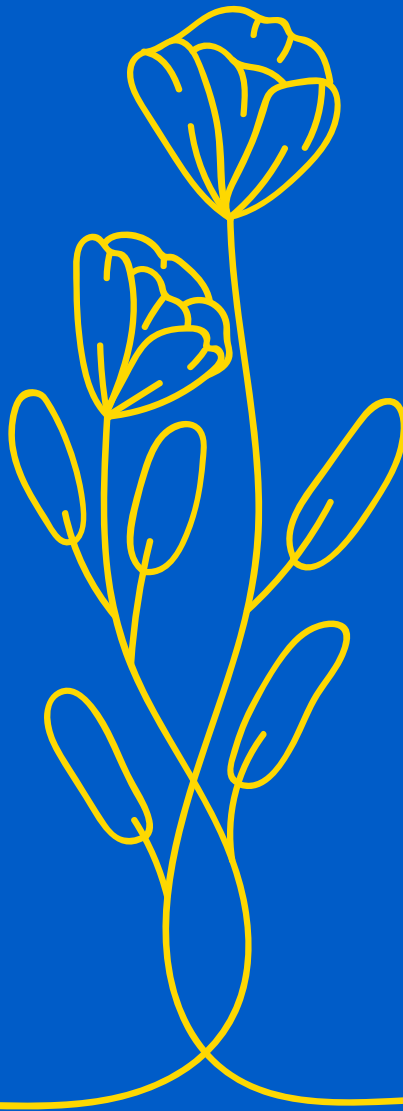




## Ricardo Young

Ricardo is a businessperson and entrepreneur. President of the Board, Ethos Institute for Business and Social Responsibility [a major association of companies in Brazil committed to sustainability] and former president of the Brazilian Association of Franchising. Co-Founder and Council Member of several organizations such as Sustainable São Paulo Movement; Sustainable Amazon Forum; World Business Academy in Brazil, Member, Sustainability Council, Real Bank and Santander Bank. Council Member, Global Reporting Initiative and Corporate Sustainability Index. He was also a member of congress of the city of Sao Paulo and a founding member of a new Brazilian political party

Sustainability Network. In the late 90s, when Ricardo was Chairman of Yazigi [a language school located all over Brazil through franchising], he incorporated the Earth Charter as an educational instrument in this school system. Since then, he has incorporated the Earth Charter in many of his activities and talks. Ricardo has a postgraduate degree in General Management, PDG-EXEC; fellow ELIAS programme, MIT. 2002-06.



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