

BIO

Michelle Lustig, Ed. D, MSW, is the Director of the Technical Assistance Program for the Los Angeles County Office of Education, Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program. Funded via a grant thru the California Department of Education, her efforts support 57 County Office of Education in their efforts to ensure students in foster care in California receive access to all educational supports and services they need to be successful academically and educationally. Previously, Dr. Lustig served as the Director of Foster Youth Services Coordinating Program and Homeless Education with the San Diego County Office of Education for 15 years. She has over 30 years of experience in public and private child welfare, research and education. She created and leads Foster Horizons, Inc. A consulting firm focused on changing the educational outcomes of children experiencing foster care and homelessness while striving to create trauma informed and responsive systems. Dr. Lustig has served as a part time professor at the USC School of Social Work and the Cal State University, San Marcos School of Education. She has worked for The Child and Adolescent Services Research Center, San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency, Child Welfare Services and Casey Family Programs. She has created several nationally recognized programs that support and increase school stability, and academic outcomes for students in foster care. Under her leadership, a model interagency database was developed that allows secure access to health and education data for children under the jurisdiction of juvenile court in San Diego County. In addition, she spearheaded the creation of a countywide cost sharing transportation agreement that ensures students in foster care are able to remain in their school of origin. Dr. Lustig believes that educational attainment is the gateway to a successful life and works to ensure that every student she serves has the opportunity to fulfill his or her academic potential.