



Sumant Bhat, Kelsey Smith, Marcia Brennan, Kendall Early and Ana Dodson recently attended the NAIS People of Color Conference (PoCC) in Anaheim, California under this year's theme: *Voices for Equity and Justice Now and in Every Generation: Lead, Learn, Rededicate, and Deliver*. The mission of the conference was to offer a safe space for leadership and professional development and networking for people of color and allies of all backgrounds in independent schools. The PoCC equipped educators at every level, from teachers to trustees, with knowledge, skills, and experiences to improve and enhance the interracial, interethnic, and intercultural climate in their schools.

Among nearly 6,000 other students and educators, our St. Anne's group attended valuable workshops on fostering anti-bias in and out of the classroom and responding to microaggressions. The PoCC affinity groups provided opportunities to connect with other independent school educators who shared common aspects of our identities. Kelsey Smith, St. Anne's Director of Multiculturalism and Diversity, said, "I was inspired and invigorated throughout the PoCC conference! Imagine walking into a space filled with love, acceptance, and celebration of everyone. The experience and the colleagues with whom I shared it will motivate and inspire me to do more for equity and inclusion in my professional and personal life." Kendall Early, 7th and 8th grade math teacher, said, "My PoCC experience provided me with fantastic information that I can use in both my classroom and within our larger St. Anne's community. It also gave me a chance to connect with educators who share my love for diversity work." As the St. Anne's PoCC team, we are thrilled with the many ideas, tools, and strategies that we acquired and look forward to incorporating them into our work at St. Anne's.