

BEST HUMANE EDUCATION PRESENTER: JUSTIN KURUP



Meet Justin, former Humane Education Manager at the East Bay SPCA in Oakland and APHE Board Member. Justin Kurup is the winner for APHE's Best Presenter category. Justin spends his days teaching in the Ethnic Studies, Language Arts, and Performing Arts departments at James Logan High School in California. As the Director of Speech & Debate, he has coached numerous national and state champions in several competitive performing arts categories since he started at the school in 2017. Justin grew up in the same city that he teaches in and felt it was important to give back to the community that helped raise him.

He is a proud alumni of University of California, Davis studying Animal Science where he further developed his love for companion animals. Justin later earned a masters from the University of San Francisco in his true calling; Urban Education & Social Justice. Though he has many passions, Justin enjoys writing poetry and traveling the world. He doesn't go anywhere without his ride-or-die, a playful pit bull mix named Meeko. With a commitment to social change rooted in humor and compassion, Justin sees his students as storytellers, truth seekers, and the ones we have been waiting for to set us all free.

2022 Presentation at APHE's National Humane Education Conference Courageous Conversations: The Duty of an Educator

The work we do is difficult. We are often asked to be counselors, nurses, social workers for our students, but also fundraisers, marketing strategists, and event planners at our organizations. Let's keep it real; most Humane Educators are unprepared for the challenges our urban communities face. This introspective discussion is not for the faint of heart – it's for the educators who strive to create brave spaces for the marginalized populations we serve by having courageous conversations every day. Through analysis of the three "I's" of oppression, we will discuss tangible tools and tactics to become culturally competent educators.

Missed the presentation? Past conference recordings are available for purchase in the [APHE store](#).