

7th ANNUAL



TEACHER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

**Education Excellence for African Americans:
Black Lives Matter in Classrooms, in Districts, in Schools.**

**Wednesday, June 16th
Thursday, June 17th**

SCHEDULE

Wednesday,
June 16th

8:30 AM

Waiting Room Opens

8:45 AM

Welcome: Lloyd Hopkins

8:50 AM

Invocation: Minister Dana Bond

9:00 - 9:45 AM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ramona Bishop

9:50 - 10:20 AM

Keynote Speaker: Shawn Hurt

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Breakout Sessions

Room #1 - Latonja Stephens

Room #2 - Shawn Hurt

11:30 - 12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

12:05 - 1:05 PM

Breakout Sessions

Room #1 - Dr. Mina Bhagdev

Room #2 - Clottee Hammons

1:10 - 2:10 PM

Breakout Sessions

Room #1 - Shehara Wooten

Room #2 - LaKenya Logan

2:15 - 3:00 PM

Keynote Speaker: Michael Atkins

Closing Remarks

SCHEDULE

Thursday,
June 17th

8:30 - 8:45 AM

Live Performance by Keith Johnson

8:45 AM

Welcome: Devin Del Palacio

8:50 AM

Black National Anthem: Destiny Autumn

9:00 - 9:30 AM

Keynote Speaker: Kathy Hoffman

9:35 - 10:20 AM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Geneva Stark

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Breakout Sessions

Room #1 - Dr. Mechele Newell

Room #2 - Dr. Geneva Stark

11:30 - 12:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

Live Performance by Keith Johnson

12:05 - 1:05 PM

Breakout Sessions

Room #1 - Sidney Gaskin

Room #2 - Colin Seale

1:10 - 2:10 PM

Breakout Sessions

Room #1 - Lindsay Love

Room #2 - Dr. Tamika Sanders

2:15 - 3:00 PM

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Donna Ford

Closing Remarks

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DR. RAMONA BISHOP

President/CEO
ELITE Public Schools

Dr. Bishop graduated from John F. Kennedy High School in Richmond and received her Bachelor of Arts, in English, from the University of California, Berkeley. She earned her teaching credential from the University of San Francisco where she was Student of the Year. She earned her Administrative Credential and Master of Science in Organizational Leadership from California State University, Hayward. Finally, she earned a Doctorate in Educational Administration from the University of Pacific. Dr. Bishop has served as a Superintendent, Associate Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Director, Principal and Teacher in several urban school districts. She is known as a strategic turnaround administrator due to her ability to go into failing organizations and work with staff, community and students to improve their status and put them on a trajectory toward success...[READ MORE](#)

www.elitepublicschools.org/co-founders



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

SHAWN HURT

**School Turnaround Principal
Inkster Preparatory Academy**

Shawn Hurt is an educational consultant and School Turnaround Principal. He has been a Turnaround Specialist since 2011, and have impacted the education of over 5,200 students during his career. Shawn currently serves as principal of Inkster Preparatory Academy, which was selected as a Model School for 2017 by the International Center for Leadership in Education. The Model School Conference is the nation's premier event for rapidly improving K-12 schools and districts. The schools at which he has served as principal, over the past seven years, have had an average of 1.5 years growth in reading and 1.6 years growth in math. He is currently working on a Data Analysis Model that will help schools increase the average growth in math and reading by 1.5 years, based one MAP (NWEA) test which is currently used by many school districts. [...READ MORE](#)

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

MICHAEL ATKINS

Principal Stedman Elementary

The Foundation of Change: Why I choose this Journey
People see me today, and they probably wonder to themselves, “Ah, there’s the picture of black success, the exception to the rule. There is someone not defined by his circumstance; someone who hasn’t made excuses.”

As much as all of those statements might be true, I am sometimes also the reason why people are tone-deaf to the plight of my brothers and sisters of color and their outcries for systemic change. These people might be thinking, “Why play the victim card? Just be like Mike!” Well, I am here to flip the script on that tone-deaf narrative. I, too, would have been a product of my environment.

During the early fall of my 6th-grade year. I settled into my new routine, getting acquainted with new friends, transitioning from being an elementary school student to a middle school youngster....[READ](#)

[MORE](#)

www.stedman.dpsk12.org



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

KATHY HOFFMAN MS, CCC-SLP

Superintendent of Public Instruction State of Arizona

Superintendent Kathy Hoffman has spent her entire career working in public education, first as a pre-school teacher and then as a speech therapist in Arizona's public schools. She began her career in the Vail School District in Southern Arizona before joining the Peoria Unified School District. As State Superintendent, she oversees all of Arizona's public schools and manages a department of approximately 600 education professionals that work across the state. [...READ MORE](#)

www.azed.gov/adeinfo/about-state-superintendent



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

GENEVA A. STARK, PH.D., CDP

**University of Louisville
College of Education & Human Development**

Dr. Geneva A. Stark, servant leader, visionary, educator, achiever, collaborator, and a problem-solver. She is a native of New Orleans, La. that resides in Metro Louisville. She received her BS Degree from Xavier University of New Orleans, Master's in Education from the University of New Orleans. She received her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Louisville. Dr. Stark also has a National Professional Certification in Diversity and Inclusion.

Dr. Geneva A. Stark retired from Jefferson County Public Schools after 25+ years of administrative service. Dr. Stark served as a teacher, assistant principal, and then principal at Western High School. Dr. Stark became the first and only African American to serve as President of Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals (KASSP)...[...READ MORE](#)

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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

DONNA Y. FORD, PHD

**Ohio State University
College of Education & Human Ecology**

Donna Y. Ford, PhD, is a Distinguished Professor in the College of Education and Human Ecology the Ohio State University. She is also a Faculty Affiliate with the Kirwan Institute and the Center for Latin American Studies. Professor Ford is in the Department of Educational Studies, the Special Education Program. She was at Vanderbilt University for 15 years and held two Endowed Chairs there. Dr. Ford was a Professor of Special Education at the Ohio State University, an Associate Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Virginia, and an Assistant Professor at the University of Kentucky. Professor Ford earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in Urban Education (educational psychology) (1991), Masters of Education degree (counseling) (1988), and Bachelor of Arts degree in communications and Spanish (1984) from Cleveland State University [...READ MORE](#)

www.drdonnayford.com





Lloyd Hopkins is an organizational leader with extensive experience in community and nonprofit work. He has worked in and around education for 18 years. He graduated from Arizona State University with his degree in Nonprofit Management and Leadership and took his passion for ensuring quality education for all to launch the teacher recruitment and retention program, Million Dollar Teacher Project. In addition to being a Founder and Executive Director he is also an entrepreneur and philanthropist. As a philanthropist he has been a member of Real Engagement through Active Philanthropy (R.E.A.P), which is a fund under the Arizona Community Foundation that supports programs making positive impacts on African-American Youth, for 5 years and the Chairman for 2. He has also led or participated in taskforce with Achieve6OAZ and the Department of Education on improving attainment for the African American community in Arizona. For his efforts he was recently a finalist for the Phoenix Center of the Arts Mayor's Arts Awards for his Million Dollar Teacher Tree program and was honored by the East Valley NAACP with the Malala Yousafzai Equity in Education Award. He is also an alum of Valley Leadership's Class 40. For more info about the Million Dollar Teacher Project, visit www.mdtproject.org.



Devin Jones Del Palacio is the Vice President of the Governing Board of the Tolleson Union High School District, covering the cities of Tolleson, Avondale, and Phoenix, Arizona. Tolleson Union High School District's first African American board member, Del Palacio has dedicated his board tenure to advancing equity. Del Palacio helped draft and pass a non-discrimination policy that includes protection for gender identity and gender expression; assisted the district in passing the Indigenous Peoples Day Resolution; and collaborated with board members to produce an anti-hate speech resolution, among other important board actions. He began working as a community organizer in 2012 and is currently the director of community outreach for Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona. In 2019, Devin was recognized as the National School Board Member of the Year by the National Alliance of Black School Educators. Currently, Devin serves as the Chairman of the National Black Council of School Board Members. For more info about Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Arizona, visit www.bbbsaz.org.

MASTERS OF CERAMONIES



Dana Bond was born and raised in Milwaukee, WI where she resided with her mom, dad and older brother. At the age of nine, she accepted Christ and developed a desire to live her life serving and helping others. Ms. Bond attended the University of Minnesota where she obtained her B.S. in Marketing from the Carlson School of Management. Years later, after working in the for-profit space for two Fortune 500 companies, she went on to receive her MBA from Arizona State University. It was at this point, that she made a pivot to focus on utilizing her business degree in the nonprofit industry, and for the past 10 years has held sales and marketing positions for a global children's charity. Lastly, as a resident of Phoenix, AZ for the past 15 years, Dana has been a committed member of the community by volunteering for various organizations, schools, and charities. She joined Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church in 2008 under the pastoral leadership of the late Bishop Alexis Thomas and now continues to serve now under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Terry E. Mackey. She has served in the Music Ministry, Youth & Young Adult Ministry, Women's Ministry and recently became a licensed minister serving on the ministerial staff. Dana's faith is the cornerstone of all she does, and truly believes that keeping God first and pursuing His plan (Matthew 6:33) will help her continue to bring her joy by fulfilling her purpose in life... to serve and help others!



Destiny Autumn is a professional musician, songwriter, and performer based in the New York metropolitan area, writing and singing from the heart to the hearts and souls of the people. She began her musical journey studying classical piano and voice, and then expanded her palette to various other genres. One of these included jazz, which she obtained her undergraduate degree in vocal jazz performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music. Throughout her career, Destiny has had the opportunity to perform alongside world-renowned artists such as Darmon Meader, Roseanne Vitro, Nadine Herman, Tierney Sutton, Bobby McFerrin, John Raymond, Jeremy Fox, and many more. Destiny strongly believes that music is a remarkably powerful force that brings people together. "Music has such a fascinating ability to heal even the darkest wounds that lie in our inner psyche. It transcends past language, color, and background and unites us in ways that seem unimaginable. Humans and our life experiences are full of so much color. I hope, like a fine artist, I bring out the beauty in the shadows and light of our journey. I want my music and performances to tell a story, that in the end, brings out everlasting joy." For more info, visit www.destinyautumnmusic.com.



Keith Johnson is a percussionist who plays rhythms from Africa and the African diaspora. A craftsman of traditional instruments such as blekete drums, shekeres, gourd rattles from Togo, and the 21-string Kora harp as well as traditional dress such as hats and headdresses He has performed in Arizona schools for three decades, using music and storytelling to share traditional African Folklore. Growing up in Washington, DC, he was introduced to music and culture from his parents and from attending events like the Smithsonian Folklife Festival, which exposed him to various African cultures. He has studied with master drummers and musicians such as Yacub T Addy, C.K. Ganyo, Kendra Sissoko, Arouna Diarra, and Babatunde Olatunji. Johnson will work with apprentice, Rohan Williams, to teach the artform of making and playing drums and other instruments. For more info, visit www.islandmagicmusic.com.

SPECIAL PRESENTERS

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Wednesday,
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You Know You Are Good but Are You Excellent? - Latonja Stephens, M.A. - Curriculum Advisor & Trainer

Teachers have to do so much these days and wear so many hats. Knowing that we are always busy and working hard usually leaves us with the impression that we are good at what we do but how do we know if we are excellent? Furthermore, are we really striving for excellence? If being an excellent educator is what we really choose to be, for the sake of our students who are depending on us to help them get ready for the world, then there are a few measures that we can use to help us determine if we are already excellent at what we do or if we need to tweak some things to reach the excellence that we strive for. Please join me in a discussion that highlights key questions a teacher can ask themselves when wondering whether or not they are excellent educators.

How to use data at your school to increase student achievement and close the achievement gap. - Shawn Hurt

School leaders are charged with the difficult task to meet state and local mandates, increase scores on state assessments, engage families and community partners all while successfully operating the school. The reality of most inner city schools include, a high-poverty population of students entering school two or three years behind grade level. The added weight of teachers struggling to deliver culturally relevant teachers makes the role of school leader seem impossible. In this session the presenter will share strategies and best practices that school leadership teams are currently using in their schools to close the achievement gap and experience high test scores. Participants will gain an understanding of the leadership actions and instructional strategies that will turn a failing school into a high achieving school. Participants will be able to -assess Leadership Team on readiness of data dialogues. -create a data dialogue calendar and plan to continuously progress monitor. - understand steps to form partnerships with the focus of impact. - assess professional development needed to build capacity in their Leadership Team.

The Impact of Broken Promises - Dr. Mina Bhagdev

It is well recognized that there is a discrepancy in opportunities for academic success for students of color. One of the factors identified for this lack of opportunity is that students of color do not see representations of themselves or their lives in the classroom. A possible solution for this lack of representation is to increase the diversity of teachers that our students come into contact with while at school. Thus, it is important to understand why Teachers of Color leave the profession 25% faster than White teachers. The purpose of my study was to investigate whether the emotional response to perceived broken promises influence the relationship between the diversity climate and turnover intention for Black and White K-12 teachers in the United States. In this session we will discuss the results of my study and how the findings can inform the recruitment and retention of teachers in the United States.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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The Great Migration – Indiscernibles in Arizona: Acknowledging Blacks in the Historical Narrative of Arizona - Clottee A. Hammons

The impact of The Great Migration in Arizona has had little acknowledgement; with African American residents locked into an indiscernible status. This has resulted in a gaping void in the historical narrative of the state. As a result, systemic racism is frequently rationalized by the dismissive tone that emphasizes the small demographic percentage of Blacks that live (or stay) in the state, as compared to whites and Hispanics which further serves to relegate Blacks to the fringes. This Indiscernible-fringe existence has been strongly experienced in all areas of economic, social, civic and educational engagements. This faceted project examines the impact of Black Indiscernibility in Arizona through an array of multidisciplinary, multigeneration ongoing engagements. One of the outcomes of this project has been a traveling exhibition, that addresses the major questions of How Black People Came to Arizona and Why We Stay. From this exhibition a Companion Guide for Teachers, Home School Educators and others, interested in a more comprehensive telling Arizona history has been created, which I will share in my presentation.

From Singles to Stacks: Crafting Your Financial Success Story - Shehara L. Wooten, CFP®

Teachers are focused on making a difference in the world. They are heart centered and compassionate. Oftentimes, teachers devote themselves to others all the while neglecting the things they desire so that they can live their personal definition of financial freedom and success. In this session, you will explore your first memory about money, understand how to create financial goals connected to your why, understand the importance of net worth, and the power of accountability and community when it comes to financial freedom. The prediction is that Black wealth will fall to zero by 2053, which is astounding. Black spending power is about \$1.4 Trillion. If we collectively focus on transferring some of our spending power to investing power we can help to ensure this prediction never comes true. "From Singles to Stacks" will expose you to some of the tools needed to own your financial narrative and determine financial success for yourself.

The "Unsung" Heroes of My Favorite Five - LaKenya Logan

When I was a new teacher, I wished somebody would have parted wisdom on navigating as a black special education educator on a school campus. All education isn't found in a book or a curriculum. Over the years, when I begin a new job on a new campus, I learned that I needed to search for these 5 favorite departments/individuals to help make my school year go as smooth as possible. I always refer to the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." As a black educator, I know I cannot do it alone. I need all the help I can receive to assist my students with accessing the general curriculum and building a positive learning environment in the classroom. These five individuals/departments are housekeeper/maintenance, the cafeteria workers, administrative assistants, the technology department, and the librarian. When my students observe the positive interaction with the school staff, my goal is for students to be proactive in accepting and welcoming people and ideas different from their own. Participants will understand that when students see the relationships their teacher has built with the five unsung heroes; the teacher creates a positive climate in which students feel connected to their school community.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS SPEAKERS

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Ms. Stephens has been an educator for over 15 years. She has a strong focus on curriculum development and student achievement. Ms. Stephens was an instrumental part of a turnaround team that made marked improvements in math and reading on the Michigan Education Assessment Program (MEAP), during her first year as a curriculum specialist. The average proficiency scores in math and reading increased from 39% to 57% under her direction. Under Ms. Stephens leadership, Discovery Arts and Technology Academy was given the STEM Award for the highest math score in the district with a growth of 1.7 years based on Scantron results. In more recent years, Ms. Stephens has helped schools to continuously achieve growth of at a least 1.5 years' growth in reading and math for the past 5 years., as well as, helped her school receive the designation of a, Reward School, by the state. Currently, Ms. Stephens designs curriculum resources and assessments that are aligned to Common Core State Standards, that are used by different schools across the country. In addition, she takes pride in coaching teachers and administrators on how to use best practices within schools and classroom environments. She also enjoys creating culturally relevant literature.



Shawn Hurt is an educational consultant and School Turnaround Principal. He has been a Turnaround Specialist since 2011, and have impacted the education of over 5,200 students during his career. Shawn currently serves as principal of Inkster Preparatory Academy, which was selected as a Model School for 2017 by the International Center for Leadership in Education. The Model School Conference is the nation's premier event for rapidly improving K-12 schools and districts. The schools at which he has served as principal, over the past seven years, have had an average of 1.5 years growth in reading and 1.6 years growth in math. He is currently working on a Data Analysis Model that will help schools increase the average growth in math and reading by 1.5 years, based one MAP (NWEA) test which is currently used by many school districts....[READ MORE](#)



Dr. Mina Bhagdev currently teaches high school chemistry and psychology at Hamilton High School. She just completed her 27th year of teaching, 21 of which have been at CUSD. Mina has a Bachelor's in Chemistry, two MEds. in Curriculum Instruction as well as Educational Leadership. and a Ph.D. in Industrial-Organizational Psychology. She is passionate about finding ways to close the academic opportunity gaps experienced by minority students. She is focused on equity work at the school, district, and local community levels. When she is not teaching high school, Mina's work involves facilitating and leading workshops.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS SPEAKERS

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Clottee Hammons is an Artist, Writer, Poet, Activist, Educator and Prevention Specialist. She views her special call as a “community builder” and works in grateful collaboration with numerous artists, organizations and individuals while being conscientious and mindful of honoring her ancestors. Ms. Hammons is the Creative Director and Founder of Emancipation Arts LLC. The Mission of Emancipation Arts is to honor our African and enslaved ancestors through measurably influencing, constructively impacting, and fortifying underserved, at-risk or neglected populations; with particular focus on African American, African and Caribbean immigrant and African refugee communities in Maricopa County, through Arts practices and egalitarian collaborations. Ms. Hammons is the 2021 recipient of the Governor’s Arts Award for small business. She taught Art Theory and Techniques to students [K – 8], differently abled students as well as seniors. She also provided a focused arts program to women in a domestic violence shelter environment. In addition to teaching Art, Ms. Hammons provides educations and information to groups and individuals about cultural competency, prevention and harm reduction approaches to HIV/AIDS, STIs, substance dependence, poverty and homelessness.



Shehara L. Wooten, CFP® – With over 16 years experience in the financial services industry, Shehara L. Wooten, CFP® is the founder of Your Story Financial, LLC and Your Story Financial Academy, LLC. She is committed to helping women and #STEM professionals. She graduated with a B.S. in Electrical and Computer Engineering. In 2004, she changed careers to pursue her purpose of helping clients achieve financial success. With her first financial services role, she worked with a global financial services company and never looked back! Five years later, she became a financial advisor so that she could help individuals and families improve their financial position in a bigger way. With some time in the profession, she recognized there was a limit to who she could help. If you didn’t already have assets, you were mostly on your own until you accumulated assets. If you were younger and didn’t have an inheritance or something like that, you would likely get passed over by a well-meaning financial advisor. This didn’t sit well with her and she wanted to help people craft their amazing financial success story regardless of their age or amount of assets. She realized there was another way. By becoming a fee-only CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional, she helps gainfully employed women and STEM professionals gain access to solid financial planning and financial education so that they can move from being unsure about their money to confident about their financial decisions. Thus allowing them to create their own definition of financial freedom. Shehara’s book publishes on 8/30/2021, for preorders, visit <https://www.yourstoryfinancial.com/links.html>



LaKenya Logan, is an Eastern Shore of Virginia native. Currently, she is a special education educator who teaches in the West Valley of the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. In May 2005, she received a Bachelor of Arts (BA) from Virginia Wesleyan University in Norfolk, VA. After graduation, she became a special education in Virginia. LaKenya took a hiatus from teaching to become a mental health provider. After four years of working as a mental health provider, she relocated to Arizona. In 2014, she returned to the teaching field as a special education teacher. In 2016, at Rio Salado College in Tempe, Arizona, LaKenya earned a Cross-Categorical Special Education license and Elementary Education license. In 2018, she graduated from Northcentral University, located in San Diego, California earning a Master of Education (M.Ed.). Outside of the classroom, LaKenya likes to write books. Four years ago, she was asked to write a book on bullying, and in March 2021 she published, Writing a Bully’s Wrong. For the last four years, Lakenya has researched information on teacher retention in Arizona and has focused her efforts on assisting new special education educators to make their first year a successful one in the classroom. To learn more, visit her website: <https://www.ll1consultingservices.com>

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Thursday,
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Black Educator Matters - Dr. Mechele Newell

There are approximately 8 billion black children in the American school system today. These 8 billion account for 80% of the children receiving free/public education in America. While black children make up 80% of the public school student body, 80% of their teachers are middle-aged white women. As we consider the current state of education in this country, we recognize the battle we face for our children. This battle remains, at its core, the same as it has always been. Our children deserve a good education. Our children deserve the same level of access to education as their non-black counterparts, such as access to quality teachers, curriculum, school campuses with state of the art resources, healthy food choices, safe buildings and classrooms where their character and physical makeup are not constantly in question, quality after-school programs, and quality early childhood education programs. As black educators, we have a unique set of responsibilities to these 8 billion black children. This presentation will allow for a discussion of BLACK EDUCATOR MATTERS. There will be a brief look at our current situation, a stroll down memory lane to see what we can glean from our past, and a commitment to the future of black education.

COVID-19 Call to ACTION: Why Educational Institutions Need A Racial Equity Policy? Unapologetically! - Geneva A. Stark, Ph.D, CDP

Educational Institutions across the country are focusing on the glaring racial disparities that continue to challenge students of color in K-12 and higher education. Jefferson County Public School District's Department of Diversity, Equity, and Poverty (DEP) has utilized data from faculty and staff, student performance and placement, and employment data to highlight and address a continuing pattern of racial inequities. The Jefferson County Board of Education took bold steps in 2018 to embrace and approve a Racial Equity policy to ensure that race is a guiding factor in all decision making. The session will provide the why and what that led to the creation of the JCPS's Racial Equity Policy. The session will focus on the components of the policy, implementation guidelines, accountability measures, strategies for gathering support from the community, and strategies for addressing the challenges from those who resist using race to highlight inequities. This session will share the Racial Equity Policy. This session will also discuss the need for a policy and accountability measures in higher education.

Leadership in the Teacher's Lounge: The Importance of Diversity Climate and Culture - Sidney Gaskins, LPC

Organizations discuss diversity, inclusion, and equity and should pay attention to diversity climate and culture to support DEI efforts. Climate and culture in organizations are associated with job satisfaction and organizational commitment. In schools, developing a positive diversity climate and culture for educators is a component of creating a safe environment that has multiple results for employees as well as students. In this session, you will define diversity climate and culture, identify characteristics of stable diversity climate and culture, explore results of diversity climate and culture, and learn steps to support a diversity climate and culture.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS

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From Closing Achieving Gaps to Shattering Achievement Ceilings: Black Excellence as An Equity Strategy -

Colin Seale

Is it unacceptable that the brilliance of overlooked and underestimated Black and Brown children is still left on the table? Are you done with hashtags like #BlackGirlMagic since it should not require magic for brilliant Black women to fulfill their inherent potential for excellence? Or are you a Black educator tired of facing glass ceilings of disciplinary or social-emotional leadership because your instructional expertise is not identified, developed and valued? Join Colin Seale, Founder and CEO of thinkLaw, and author of Thinking Like a Lawyer: A Practical Framework for Teaching Critical Thinking to All Students, for this powerful, yet practical session on revolutionizing and normalizing academic excellence for Black students, families, and educators.

Breakout Session -

Lindsay Love

My presentation will focus on healing the black body from racialized trauma experienced in the classroom setting. The presentation will focus on grounding techniques and where to find additional resources when the pressure gets to be too much.

Social Movements: Engaging Students -

Dr. Tamika Sanders

Our country has a long history of youth-led movements that brought about significant social change. Young people have advocated for child labor laws, voting rights, civil rights, school desegregation, immigration reform and LGBTQ rights are just a few examples. Through their actions, the world has changed. Because young people often have the desire, energy and idealism to do something about the injustice they see in the world, they are powerful agents for change. Dr. Tamika Sanders will lead an interactive discussion on how students' feelings of anger, sadness and hopelessness can be transformed into concrete actions that can make the world more equitable.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS SPEAKERS

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Dr. Mechele Newell is an upper elementary school teacher in the Bay Area, California. Before embarking on her second career, Mechele dedicated the last 20 years of her life to serving in the US Air Force (USAF), both as an active duty member and a civilian employee, in the clinical lab setting. Mechele's experiences as an educator to clinical lab science students in the USAF led her to pursue a MAEd in Adult Ed & Training. Her work within the local community with youth through coaching sports, supporting youth in foster care, and leading small community youth groups, prompted her to earn a doctorate in Educational Leadership/K-12 Administration through Drexel University. Mechele is excited to serve in her community at a new charter school where the equitable education of ALL children is the main focus. Mechele has shared her passion for equitable education with others as a guest on several podcasts such as the Leading Equity Podcast, Math Before Breakfast, Out of the Trenches, and Speaking Educationally.



Dr. Geneva A. Stark, servant leader, visionary, educator, achiever, collaborator, and a problem-solver. She is a native of New Orleans, La. that resides in Metro Louisville. She received her BS Degree from Xavier University of New Orleans, Master's in Education from the University of New Orleans. She received her Doctor of Philosophy from the University of Louisville. Dr. Stark also has a National Professional Certification in Diversity and Inclusion.

Dr. Geneva A. Stark retired from Jefferson County Public Schools after 25+ years of administrative service. Dr. Stark served as a teacher, assistant principal, and then principal at Western High School. Dr. Stark became the first and only African American to serve as President of Kentucky Association of Secondary School Principals (KASSP). Dr. Stark later moved to JCPS Human Resource department and served in a variety of roles. Dr. Stark also served as a District Administrator in Diversity, Equity and Poverty department...[READ MORE](#)

Dr. Stark is an educational consultant that focuses on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Workshops, Leadership, Courageous Conversations and Equity Auditing. Please visit her website at: www.gaspconsultant.com



Sidney Gaskins, LPC Licensed Professional Counselor and Organizational Psychologist – Sidney Gaskins mixes mental health and organizational psychology to support having workplaces that people want to be a part of with healthy coworkers. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor (TX, MO) and an industrial and organizational psychologist who focuses on organizational climate and culture, and leadership development and coaching while using insights from training in trauma, grief, loss, anxiety and depression. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Kent State University; and two Masters of Science from Walden University, one in Mental Health Counseling the other in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. She is currently in the dissertation phase of a doctoral degree in Industrial and Organizational Psychology at Walden University focused on the workplace climate and culture experiences of Black LGBTQ educators

BREAKOUT SESSIONS SPEAKERS

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Colin Seale was born and raised in Brooklyn, NY, where struggles in his upbringing gave birth to his passion for educational equity. Tracked early into gifted and talented programs, Colin was afforded opportunities his neighborhood peers were not. Using lessons from his experience as a math teacher, later as an attorney, and now as a keynote speaker, contributor to Forbes, The 74, and Education Post and author of *Thinking Like a Lawyer: A Framework for Teaching Critical Thinking to All Students* (Prufrock Press, 2020), Colin founded thinkLaw, a multi-award-winning organization to help educators leverage inquiry-based instructional strategies to close the critical thinking gap and ensure they teach and REACH all students, regardless of race, zip code or what side of the poverty line they are born into. When he's not serving as the world's most fervent critical thinking advocate, Colin proudly serves as the world's greatest entertainer to his two young children. www.thinklaw.us



Lindsay Love is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with a Masters in Social Work from the University of Southern California. Dedicated to social justice issues, she works closely with teens and adults experiencing trauma, and endeavors to create safe spaces for marginalized voices. Lindsay values the diverse stories from within her community as she recognizes the strengths of individuals and groups. Using her positions on the Chandler Unified School District Governing Board and as the ASBA Black Alliance President, Lindsay has prioritized mental health, equity with an anti-racism lens, and LGBTQIA+ protections. Lindsay has lead racialized trauma trainings for the Black Alliance, community mental health agencies, VENERA Leadership Academy for Young Girls and the Health is Queer Resistance Series with Equality Arizona. Lindsay graduated from Emerge Arizona in 2018 and went on to become the president of their board in 2019 to support Democratic women running for office. Lindsay believes in the importance of having a seat at the table. As a true social worker, Lindsay is dedicated to dismantling systems of oppression that maintain power over oppressed groups. Disrupt!



Dr. Tamika Sanders is an entrepreneur who decided to become an educator to address the lack of minority faculty in higher education and serve as a role model for minority students who rarely see people of color in academia. She has over 10 years of experience working with schools and businesses in the areas of teaching, training, curriculum design, public programming, strategic planning, and professional development. Dr. Sanders has a PhD in Higher Education, a Masters in Business Administration, and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication. The focus of her research is based on developing curriculum that incorporates learning styles, diversity, and humanistic principles that will incite a hunger for learning and produce lifelong learners. Her passion is arts education and creating strategic partnerships between students, learning institutions, and the communities in which they reside in. To further her goal of integrating arts education into schools and communities, Dr. Sanders started her company Savvy Pen in 2009. The primary goal of Savvy Pen is to create interactive programs that incorporate arts learning and training to bridge cultural and socioeconomic divides between educators and students. Dr. Sander's work in the community earned her an invitation to speak at the TEDx Phoenix Salon about community sustainability in 2012, a Community Luminary Award in 2014, and a recent nomination for the 2015 Humanities Rising Star Award for individuals using creative approaches to engage the public in humanities topics. Her goal is to continue using the arts to break barriers, empower youth, and create social change.

Join the Arizona Alliance of Black School Educators Teacher Commission,

a community of like-minded educators in collaboration for student empowerment, advancement, and success

**Attend the 1st meeting on Sep 4, 2021 at 10:00 am (MST),
[register here](#)**

- Access to a statewide collegiality amongst Black educators and colleagues for fellowship, networking, collaboration, and support.
- Gain support knowledge, resources, and current information to develop leadership, advance career opportunities, and enrich culturally relevant educational practices.
- Connect with Arizona universities and colleges in order to build a mentoring support system for Black and Brown students in educational programs.
- Engage in community events and conversations to ensure children of African descent are receiving the best educational experience to fulfill their academic, social, and future needs.

Arizona Alliance of Black School Educators, Established 1987, Reestablished 2010



AzABSE is Arizona's premier educational union for parents, teachers, administrators, counselors, community stakeholders and legislators to develop and support cultural responsive education in our state. We share a common goal to meet the education and social needs of all of Arizona's children with a focus on children of African Descent.

[Click here](#) to join AzABSE.

Our Commissions:

Cultural, Health & Wellness

Composed of nurses, psychologists, pathologists, social workers, special ed. educators, etc.

Faith Based & Community Support

Composed of clergy, parents, business persons, lay persons, retired educators, etc.

Governance in Education

Composed of school board members, legislators, education advocates, etc.

District Leadership and School Administrators

Composed of principals, behaviour specialists, district directors, superintendents, etc.

Teachers and Teacher Support

Composed of teachers, educational coaches, paraprofessionals, etc.

Student Commission

Composed of students in teacher education programs

Higher Education Commission

Composed of professors, administrators, reseashers, doctoral students/graduates etc.

Guardians and Parents

Composed of guardians and parents of children of African Diaspora

If you are interested in joining a Commission, [click here](#).

AzABSE Executive Team:

- Jacqui Clay
- Greg Facey
- Zel Fowler
- Dr. Randall Hoggard
- Andre' Ponder
- Dr. Lisa McCray Cannon
- Amber Williams
- Charles Woods

Our Reginal/Local Affiliates:

East Valley Alliance of Black School Educators, est. 2020:

Executive Board Members

- Dr. Mina Bhagdev
- Dr. Lisa McCray Cannon
- Shawn Mitchell
- April Shulken

Tucson Alliance of Black School Educators, est. 2020:

Executive Board Members

- Sascha Quartey
- Taranika Sanders
- Andrea Steele
- Tonya Strozier

South Mountain Area Alliance of Black School Educators, est. 2021:

Executive Board Members

- Milinda Crawford
- Dr. Randall Hoggard
- Trine' Nelson
- Dr. Alicia Vink

[Click here](#) to join a Regional/Local Affiliate, or to start one in your area!

NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF BLACK SCHOOL EDUCATORS

49TH Annual CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 10-14, 2021

MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS!



THEME

REIMAGINING EDUCATION: **FOCUSING ON INNOVATION,
EQUITY, AND SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING**

TOPICS

DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION
INNOVATION-NEXT GENERATION LEARNING
EQUITY / SOCIAL EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Registration Starts April 1, 2021
Go to www.nabse.org



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**PEDRO
NOGUERA**

Distinguished Dean of the University of
Southern California's Rossler School of
Education.

NABSE



JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

PHOENIX EASTLAKE PARK JUNETEENTH VALLEY OF THE SUN CELEBRATION

[HTTPS://AZIFOUNDATION.WIXSITE.COM/PHXJUNETEENTH](https://azifoundation.wixsite.com/phxjunteenth)

STRATEGIES FOR TEACHING JUNETEENTH AND OTHER BLACK HISTORY

ARIZONA HISTORICAL SOCIETY VIRTUAL EVENT

2-3:30PM

[HTTPS://PROD5.AGILETICKETING.NET/WEBSALES/PAGES/INFO.ASPX?EVTINFO=145385~5AC2CCC1-54AF-4B64-AE9B-7B0DF253CFE3&](https://prod5.agileticketing.net/websales/pages/info.aspx?evtinfo=145385~5AC2CCC1-54AF-4B64-AE9B-7B0DF253CFE3&)

CHANDLER JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

[HTTPS://WWW.CHANDLERAZ.GOV/EVENTS/JUNETEENTH](https://www.chandleraz.gov/events/junteenth)

SCOTTSDALE JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

[HTTPS://WWW.EVENTBRITE.COM/E/JUNETEENTH-CELEBRATION-GENERATIONBLK-2ND-ANNUAL-TICKETS-153818516323](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/junteenth-celebration-generationblk-2nd-annual-tickets-153818516323)

TUCSON JUNETEENTH CELEBRATIONS

11AM TO 10PM

[HTTPS://BLOGFORARIZONA.NET/EVENT/TUCSON-JUNETEENTH-CELEBRATION-2021/](https://blogforarizona.net/event/tucson-junteenth-celebration-2021/)

FLAGSTAFF JUNETEENTH BLACK BUSINESS EXPO

[HTTPS://WWW.FLAGSTAFF365.COM/VENUE/MURDOCH-COMMUNITY-CENTER/](https://www.flagstaff365.com/venue/murdoch-community-center/)

HISTORIC MURDOCH COMMUNITY CENTER

10AM TO 3PM

203 E BRANNON AVE FLAGSTAFF, AZ TO REGISTER OR FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT [SOUTHSIDEFLAGSTAFF@GMAIL.COM](mailto:southsideflagstaff@gmail.com)

MESA HISTORICAL MUSEUM JUNETEENTH PROGRAM

10:30AM

[443 NORTH HORNE, MESA, Z](#)

THE MATRIARCHS OF WASHINGTON PARK: THE WOMEN WHO PERSEVERED THROUGH RACISM IN SEGREGATED MESA

STEAM IN THE GAME /NCBW JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION · STEAM IN THE GAME | [WWW.STRONGTIESAZ.ORG/SITG](http://www.strongtiesaz.org/sitg)