



2ND ANNUAL VIRTUAL

Equity Conference

THE WHOLE CHILD



**EDUCATIONAL
EQUITY**



**FEBRUARY 7, 2022
8:30 AM - 4:00 PM**



ASPIRA

Registration

This conference is open to educators and partners interested in promoting an education system where every student thrives. We believe equity work cannot be done in isolation. We encourage innovative, courageous, and necessary partnerships to help us all go through this journey together.

At ASPIRA, we commit to:

- Identify and dismantle systemic inequities within education that contribute to opportunity gaps for our students.
- Create a culture of caring that embraces all the identities of our school community members and provides a sense of belonging for all.

Please use the following link to register for the conference and your preferred workshops. Prior to the conference date, you will receive a follow-up email with instructions and links to join the conference on February 7th.

[Click Here To Register](#)

We look forward to growing with you!

Conference Schedule

Welcome

8:30am - 8:50am

Morning Sessions

9:00am - 10:30am

Whole Child Equity: Centering our Work Around Social and Emotional Well-Being and Academic Learning

Winsome Waite & Guy Johnson

10:45am - 12:00pm

Educational Equity Leadership Panel

Dorrell Green, Maria Matos, Bebe Coker, Paul Herdman & Margie López Waite

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

1:15pm - 2:45pm

**Dr. Ericka
Goodwin**

**Shayla Adams
-Stafford**

**Dr. Charles
Cole III**

**Virginia
Forcucci**

**Germaine
Smith-Solomon**

**Dr. Hazel
Bradshaw-
Beaumont**

Closing Session

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Kaya Henderson

Conference Focus

The Whole Child Path To Educational Equity

Morning Session One

9:00am -10:30am

Whole Child Equity: Centering our Work Around Social and Emotional Well-Being and Academic Learning

Winsome Waite & Guy Johnson

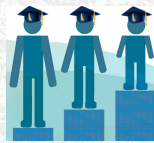
The work of the Opportunity Institute's (OI's) Whole Child Equity initiative is to assist school communities to match supports and resources more effectively to each child in ways that are developmentally appropriate, impactful, and sustainable. Our basic approach is to apply understandings of policy and science in practice and use our knowledge of practice to inform policy development and research.

These efforts are rooted in developments in neuroscience reflected in the five principles of the Science of Learning and Development (SoLD). These are: 1) positive developmental relationships; 2) environments filled with safety and belonging; 3) rich learning experiences and knowledge development; 4) development of skills, habits, and mindsets; and 5) integrated support systems.

This shared base of knowledge is particularly important now, given the national attention to trauma, mental health, and the social and emotional well-being of students, youth, and the adults who care for them. Furthermore, centering racial equity in our education system can help to ensure that students' identities, their sense of belonging, and their cultural backgrounds are supported and viewed as assets to teaching and learning. School and classroom practices, in concert with families and communities, must support the conditions that are necessary to support student success along their developmental continuum.

OI's presentation will help participants:

- Identify key principles of the science of learning and development and their relationship to whole child equity
- Reflect on current practices, individually and schoolwide, and determine where practices are well-aligned and misaligned with the principles;
- Begin to determine how this information can be used to enhance and scale already successful practices and inform changes to what has not worked well.



**COMMITTED
TO GETTING
EVERY
STUDENT
WHAT THEY
NEED TO
SUCCEED!**

Morning Session Two

A Whole Child Path To Educational Equity

10:45am - 12:00pm

EDUCATIONAL EQUITY LEADERSHIP PANEL

Inequities in education have plagued us for generations. There is a ubiquitous lack of awareness regarding the vast disparities in opportunities and outcomes for students of color, low-income, English learners, and students with disabilities. How do we become the types of change agents and agencies that foster settings for every student to thrive? Join us to receive answers to this question and ground yourself in the importance of stakeholder support in equity work. Hear the powerful lived experiences and testimonies of these educational and community leaders.

Panel Moderator



Marige López Waite
CEO, ASPIRA of Delaware
Charter Operations Inc.

Dorrell Green



Superintendent,
Red Clay Consolidated School District

Dorrell's career in education began 20 years ago in the City of Wilmington when he served as a teacher at Bancroft Elementary School and Stubbs Elementary School. After honing his skills in the classroom, he embarked on a path to leadership, serving as an Assistant Principal at Bayard Elementary School, and then as the Principal of Harlan Elementary School. Green made a natural transition to district leadership in 2011 when he was named the Director of Elementary Education and Title I Services for the Brandywine School District. From 2012 to 2017, he served as the Assistant Superintendent of the Brandywine School District, overseeing district operations in transportation, discipline, nutrition, facilities, finance, and human resources. Green joined the Delaware Department of Education (DOE) in 2017 as the Director of Innovation and Improvement. While at the DOE, Dorrell was instrumental in leading many of the trauma-informed practices in many of our Delaware schools. He currently serves as Superintendent of the Red Clay Consolidated School district. Green earned his degree in elementary teaching education from the University of Delaware in 1998 and his master's degree in educational leadership and administration from UD in 2004. He is currently pursuing his Doctor of Education degree in Organizational Leadership from Wilmington University.

Maria Matos



President,
Latin American Community Center

Maria has been the President and CEO of the Latin American Community Center, Wilmington, Delaware, for the past twenty-seven years. She was previously employed by the Red Clay Consolidated School District and the Chesapeake Bay Girl Scout Council. Ms. Matos studied elementary education at Delaware State College and human services and family counseling at Delaware Technical and Community College and the Institute of Family Counseling in Philadelphia. She earned a nonprofit management certificate from the University of Delaware and serves on numerous boards and committees, including Academia Antonia Alonso Charter School Board of Directors, JPMorgan Chase Community Partner Advisory Board, ChristianaCare Board of Advisors, and United Way of Delaware Partner Agency Council. She was appointed a member of the Delaware Hispanic Commission by former Governor Jack Markell. UnidosUS elected her to serve as their Northeast Representative to the National Affiliate Council. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Maria has worked on many advocacy committees, including the City of Wilmington COVID-19 Working Group, Equitable Wilmington Advisory, Hispanic Ministers COVID-19 Working Group, and the State of Delaware Pandemic Resurgence Advisory Committee (PRAC). Matos is listed in Who's Who Among Hispanic Americans and Who's Who Among Professional Americans and has received numerous awards for her dedication and commitment to the community she serves. In 2019, she was inducted into the Delaware Women's Hall of Fame.

Bebe Coker



Education & Racial Justice Advocate

Bebe is a longtime advocate for quality public education for all children. A graduate of Morgan State University, she has worked in the fields of social services, public and community relations, and diversity training. She is a playwright, poet, and lyricist. Her plays have appeared locally and off-broadway. Now retired from full-time employment, she co-directs the Delaware Black Heritage Educational Theater Group and volunteers with Christina Cultural Arts Center in Wilmington. She facilitated A Course, Legalized Racism, at the University of Delaware for the Life Long Learning Center (LLC). In addition, she serves on the Board of The Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League and the Advisory Council for the Mitchell Center/ Delaware Historical Society. Bebe also enjoys facilitating Read Alouds for children in underserved areas. She is the proud mother of Laurie, a retired Military professional who worked for the Center for Disease Control, and Julie, who serves as President of the San Diego Hotel and Tourism Authority.

Paul Herdman



President & CEO, Rodel Foundation

Paul has been president and CEO of Rodel of Delaware since 2004. He is a founding member of the Vision Coalition, which works to transform Delaware's public schools to world-class status. He also serves on a range of local boards, including the Metropolitan Wilmington Urban League and Delaware's State Chamber of Commerce. Paul is a frequent speaker on the national stage. He is an Aspen Institute-NewSchools Fellow in entrepreneurial leadership and a recipient of numerous national awards from Harvard's Strategic Data Project, NewSchools Venture Fund (Change Agent of the Year), and the Policy Innovators in Education (PIE) Network. He is on the board of Grantmakers for Education and co-chairs the Education Funder Strategy Group's International Working Group. Prior to his current role, he served as a senior manager at New American Schools, consulted with Brookings Institution, RAND, the U.S. Department of Education, and The World Bank. Paul has taught K-12 in the U.S., South Africa, and Australia. He also co-founded an Outward Bound-based school-within-a-school in New York City, which informed the creation of Expeditionary Learning (a national model). He assisted the secretary of education for two governors in Massachusetts during the wholesale redesign of the state's policies on standards, choice, and finance. Paul holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Delaware and master's and doctoral degrees in education administration and planning from Harvard University.

Afternoon Breakout Sessions

1:15pm - 2:45pm

Anti-Racism and SEL

Shayla Adams-Stafford
CEO/Founder of AdaptiveX

This session will explore the roots of SEL and key considerations for connecting to anti-racist ideologies. Participants will leave with a better understanding of the intersection of race, equity, and social-emotional learning.

Protecting Your Mental Health in the Midst of Racial Injustice

Dr. Ericka Goodwin
Child, Adolescent, and Adult
Psychiatrist

As educators, your human experience does not stop when you step into a classroom. The mental health of educators is essential when it comes to protecting and supporting students' mental health because you need the emotional and mental capacity to be present for your students. Racial Injustice has been spotlighted over the past year and a half with the deaths of George Floyd and many others due to race-related police brutality, a rise in hate and violence against Asians, and racially motivated voter suppression. Racism impacts the mental health of its victims and the mental health of those who seek to be allies or simply better humans. The impact of racial injustice can be felt in educators and students. This session will focus on strategies you can utilize to proactively protect and improve your mental health in a society with racism built into its fundamental structures. It also presents practical tips to help support the mental health of your students. In addition, you will learn about the emotional impact of having new awareness of racism around you or your own actions of bias as you journey to become an ally.

Unlocking Agency in Students

Dr. Charles Cole III
CEO/ Founder Energy Converters

In this workshop, participants will look at the process of building agency in students without sacrificing high expectations or cultural responsibility. This workshop aims to help educators better understand how they can utilize student voice as a powerful tool in the academic process for minoritized students.



Breakout Sessions (cont.)

A Whole Child Path To Educational Equity

1:15pm - 2:45pm

School Climates Benefiting All Students We all win!

**Germaine Smith-Solomon
CEO/Founder of Critical Thinkers**

Participants will learn how to support a school climate where all benefit. How do you build positive relationships with students, your colleagues, gain the support of families, all while educating the future leaders of tomorrow? This workshop will allow attendees to think about what strengths they bring to the table and how to capitalize on them to maintain an environment where teaching and learning are taking place, everyone is vested in the common goals of the school, and the continued growth and development of students.

Journeying Toward Allyship and Advocacy

**Virginia Forcucci
Education Associate, Delaware
Department of Education**

In this session, participants will learn how listening, self-reflecting, and connecting lead to classroom community. When student voices and identity celebration are foundational in building school culture, individual growth and collective empowerment ensue. Jinni, in partnership with student leaders from two DE school districts, will discuss how truth-telling and criticality inspire unity and action.

Identity-Safe/ Culturally "Woke" Classrooms

**Dr. Hazel Bradshaw-Beaumont
Associate Professor, DSU**

Today's political co-opting of the word "woke" is symbolic of many problems we encounter in the field of education. Instead of allowing educators to help students navigate complex issues through research and discussion, special interest groups and politicians insert themselves into the classroom. This distracts from the educational goal of building critical thinking skills and developing students' ability to discuss complex topics and information. Instead, the focus becomes on who is right and who is wrong. In today's world, there is a growing need for administrators of all kinds to build a diverse and inclusive culture. It's both an institutional and individual issue. Most importantly, it is a leadership skill. You cannot be a leader unless you understand the roots of systemic oppression and why it will benefit everyone to dismantle the current systems. Therefore, creating cultural change is a long game. Diversity and inclusion are not a "box-checking" exercise. It requires focus, intentionality, and engagement across a complex set of issues. The issues run through every aspect of our educational institutions and our individual lives.

Closing Session

The Whole Child Path To Educational Equity

Our conference concludes with a reflective and inspirational conversation with Kaya Henderson.

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Kaya Henderson is the CEO of Reconstruction, a technology company delivering a K-12 supplemental curriculum that situates Black people, culture, and contributions in an authentic, identity-affirming way so that students of all backgrounds benefit from a more complete understanding of our shared history and society. She is also the co-host of Pod Save the People and leads Kaya Henderson Consulting. She is perhaps best known for serving as Chancellor of DC Public Schools from 2010-2016. Her tenure was marked by consecutive years of enrollment growth, an increase in graduation rates, in student satisfaction and teacher retention, increases in AP participation and pass rates, and the greatest growth of any urban district on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) over multiple years.



Kaya's career began as a middle school Spanish teacher in the South Bronx, through Teach For America. She went on to work as a recruiter, national admissions director, and DC Executive Director for Teach for America. Henderson then served as the Vice President of Strategic Partnerships at The New Teacher Project (TNTP) until she began her tenure at DCPS as Deputy Chancellor. She most recently led the Global Learning Lab for Community Impact at Teach For All, supporting educators in more than 50 countries.

A native of Mt. Vernon, NY, Kaya graduated from Mt. Vernon Public Schools. She received her Bachelor's degree in International Relations and her Master of Arts in Leadership from Georgetown University, as well as honorary doctoral degrees from Georgetown and Trinity University. Her board memberships include The Aspen Institute, Curriculum Associates, Robin Hood NYC, and Teach For America, and she is the co-founder of Education Leaders of Color (EdLoC).



Reconstruction

Presenter BIOS



winsome@
theopportunityinstitute.org

Winsome is a senior educational leader and program manager with a broad range of expertise in K12 education. She is a former early childhood, elementary, and secondary teacher and graduate school instructor. She has led program development and research-to-practice initiatives in education leadership development, the science of adolescent learning, deeper learning, school improvement, professional learning, and multitiered systems of support. Her work centers around diversity, equity, inclusion, and culturally responsive practices. Winsome has served as a technical coach to education leaders at the state, district, and school levels, helping build programs and the capacity to lead them. She has managed large-scale federal and state-funded projects partnering with commissioners, district superintendents, local school boards, and principals to design strategic plans that align policy and research to practice. She holds bachelors' degrees in elementary and early childhood education, a master's degree in K-12 curriculum and instruction, and a doctorate in education leadership.



guy@
theopportunityinstitute.org

Guy is a Senior Program Director of Federal & National Networks for the Opportunity Institute who identifies opportunities for strategic bipartisan collaboration among national and federal partners and leads efforts around policy analysis, resource development, and implementation. This work includes: analyzing federal policy; working with national groups representing state, district, school, and community leaders to identify emerging trends and opportunities in education policy; building and maintaining partnerships to share resources in support of equity & excellence; and designing and supporting regional and national convenings. Guy came to the Opportunity Institute from the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and previously served as the Staff Director for the Equity & Excellence Commission. He was a Senior Policy Advisor on education and workforce issues in the Domestic Policy Council of the White House and served as an attorney for low-income tenants and undocumented immigrants at Casa de Maryland. He completed his undergraduate education at Amherst College and his law degree at Berkeley Law.



info@doctorericka.com

Ericka is a Harvard-trained, double board-certified psychiatrist, best-selling author, top-rated speaker, integrative lifestyle coach, and creator of the hit podcast "Better with Dr. Ericka." She is a graduate of Spelman College and Emory University School of Medicine and completed her General Psychiatry Residency at Morehouse School of Medicine. She works with high-performing individuals and organizations who are stuck and want to get better results and live a better life. She takes Ivy League strategies and simplifies them into easy-to-use steps to which everyone can relate. She makes everyone feel seen, heard, and look within to access more significant levels of personal and professional breakthroughs. Her evidence-based methods go against the grain of common myths about success. She will show you and your organization secrets used by some of the world's greatest achievers and translate them into practical steps that can change your life forever. Dr. Ericka's story is proof that "When you know better, you can do better!"



shayla@adaptivex.io

Shayla is a National Board Certified Teacher recognized by the White House for her achievements in Project-Based Learning. She is the CEO and founder of RemixEducation, an education training organization that has provided more than 200 students in Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, and Washington, D.C., with positive youth development programming. Shayla graduated from Wellesley College in Massachusetts and received a master's degree in teaching from Duke University. Her SaaS company Adaptivex, aims to put the power of adaptive testing in the hands of K-12 teachers. She won the ATT Hackathon, DC Venture Pitch Competition, and was a finalist in the international Penn Milken Business plan competition. Her company was featured on Nasdaq and currently serves over 50 schools nationwide. In addition, she travels the country, training educators and school leaders in authentic learning practices as a National Faculty Member of PBL Works. You can also find her on her "PBL in Practice" podcast dedicated to project-based learning.

Presenter BIOS



Charles is an educator focused on advancing all youth of color. His passion comes from his own experiences growing up without proper support. Experienced in Community and Education Advocacy, he has many years of experience serving in the role of education management. His specialties include Grassroots Organizing, Community Organizing, Community Engagement, Policy Analysis, and Training. He is a national speaker and writer whose life goal is to better the communities he grew up in through his work. He is the CEO and Founder of Energy Convertors, an organization dedicated to empowering the voices of the end-users of education - THE STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND THEIR COMMUNITY. Before founding Energy Convertors, Dr. Cole served as a Director for Teach for America, the Vice-Chair of the California Young Democrats, Black Caucus, and as the Community Engagement Specialist for Oakland Unified School District. He received his Doctorate of Education from San Francisco State University.



Germaine is the Instructional Coordinator at Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC). She supports students, placing them in classrooms across the state to gain practical experiences relating to their degree focus. Solomon also instructs classes in the Education, Math, and Social Science departments. She maintains and establishes partnerships that continue to grow and support the education program at DTCC and is part of a committee building a Bachelor's Degree program in Elementary Education. In addition, she has a business called Critical Thinkers LLC that tutors and supports students in grades K-12 in all content areas. She also started a non-profit organization that aims to provide impoverished students with experiences that enrich their lives, such as traveling to nearby cities and dining in fine restaurants. She believes in "talking the talk, and walking the walk," and lives this mantra daily. She holds a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Wilmington University.



Jinni Forcucci has been a teacher of English, creative writing, and social justice for over two decades and resides in Rehoboth Beach, DE, with her husband and two sons. Delaware's 2018 Teacher of the Year, she currently leads as an Education Associate on Delaware Department of Education's CTE workgroup. Centering student's voice and celebrating learner identity, Jinni calls for anti-racist and culturally responsive programs of study to inspire academically rigorous curriculum, strong partnerships with Delaware stakeholders, and authentic relationships with students, families/caregivers, and community-based organizations. Her TED-Ed Talk, How Students of Color Sharing Their Truths Impacted One Educator, and her co-authored chapter in Flip the System US: How Teachers Can Transform Education and Save Democracy highlight the influence learners have had on Jinni's commitment to advocating for educational equity.



Hazel is an Associate Professor at Delaware State University (DSU). A native of Jamaica, she served for twenty-two years as faculty at The University of the West Indies, Shortwood Teachers' College, Edna Manley College of the Visual and Performing Arts, and Wolmer's Girls High School. She has served in many administrative positions; department chair, a consultant with the Joint Board of Teacher Education at the University of the West Indies and the Ministry of Education in the areas of Special Education and Educational Research, the Caribbean Examinations Council, and the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She has written several research proposals, journal articles, and book chapters and presented numerous research articles both nationally and internationally. She was recognized with a DSU 2009 Excellence award in Teaching and a National Art Education Association (NAEA) Eastern Regional Higher Education Art Educator for the year 2009. Dr. Beaumont holds a Ph.D. in Art Education from The Ohio State University and an M.S. in Art Education with a concentration in Art Therapy from Buffalo State University. She has served as the Committee on Multiethnic Concern (COMC) chair. Outside of academia, she works with underserved community groups and practices as a Crisis Counselor, Art Therapist, Freelance Weaver, and Textile Designer.



Special Thanks

The ASPIRA Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging (DEIB) Leaders

Kimberly Domínguez
Stephanie Saggione
Nancy Labanda
Nayelly Sanchez-West
Keaira Fana-Ruiz
Sade Montano
Candace Henderson
De'Yanna Yancey-Harris

Conference Volunteers

Amber Metz
Ionel Alvarez

Special Contributors

Margie López Waite
José Avilés
Kathleen Chappel-Corea
Debbie Panchisin
Lyn Henshaw
Stephanie Mortimer
The ASPIRA DEI Roundtable

Last, but not least, we thank all of you for your commitment to ensure education is equitable for ALL students. Together, we are tearing down systemic stumbling blocks and increasing the amount and quality of opportunities for our students. Our students need us to fight the good fight!

If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go with others.

- African Proverb