NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION | HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS

2018 Conference on Racial and Social Justice

From Presence to Power

June 28-29, 2018
Minneapolis Convention Center
Minneapolis, MN
Welcome to the Conference on Racial and Social Justice!

Across the country, educators like you are rising to meet the systemic challenges we face in public education.

Together you are constellations of hope in a dark sky.

You are using your voice to speak truth to power, your feet to march from the school board to the capitol, and your hands to register voters.

But it is your hearts and minds that fuel this movement for education justice and it is your commitment that readies us for this moment.

As we come together to ignite our power to make change for racial and social justice for our students, our schools and our communities, we do so in the context of great challenges and great opportunities.

My hope is that you will use the space and the time with us here to envision transformative change and deepen your knowledge and organizing skills and relationships so we can win that vision together.

Adelante!

Lily Eskelsen Garcia

Goals for the Conference on Racial and Social Justice

**Build Local Power:**
Spark dialogue about our successes and challenges to inform our own strategies and tactics to grow the movement for education justice.

**Be Forward Thinking:**
Make space for new ideas and map the road to the long term change we seek for students, schools and our communities.

**Center Intersectionality:**
Uplift the intersections of social justice, identity, and democracy in the movement for education justice.

**Build Community:**
Be an engaging, fun, and inviting space for new and long standing attendees to come together in community.
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM  COFFEE & SNACKS  Exhibit Hall A
7:45 AM  DOORS OPEN
8:00 AM - 8:45 AM  OPENING SESSION KEYNOTE ADDRESS  Exhibit Hall A
9:00 AM – 10:30 AM  WORKSHOPS
10:45 AM – 12:15 PM  WORKSHOPS REPEATED

GET IN FORMATION: LIFTING UP THE NEW AMERICAN MAJORITY AT THE LOCAL LEVEL  Room L100A
Marcelia Nicholson, Milwaukee County Board Vice Chairwoman, WEAC
Trish Ruiz, New Mexico Public Education Commissioner, President, Hobbs NEA, NEA-NM
Sequanna Taylor, Milwaukee County Board: District 2, WEAC
Across the country a growing wave of diverse candidates are running for office and building local power. Hear from recently elected local officials about their journey to elected office, the importance of diverse representation, and learn how you can best engage candidates and elected officials back home to achieve social, racial and education justice in our public schools and our communities.

#ME TOO12: TOOLS TO END SEXUAL HARASSMENT AT SCHOOL  Room L100B
Gabrielle Battle, Girl Leader and Alliance for Girls Summer Intern
Livier Gutierrez, Alliance for Girls
Zarianna Reeves, Alliance for Girls Peer Researcher
Aamiyah Shabazz, Alliance for Girls Peer Researcher
The #MeToo movement has been raising awareness about the impact of sexual harassment and its disproportionate impact on women and girls of color for over a decade. Learn about the impact of the current national dialogue and why students, educators and advocates are organizing to ensure that this movement includes efforts to end sexual harassment in school.

PLOT, PAINT, POWER: BUILDING CREATIVE COMMUNITY  Room M100A
Joe Brusky, Milwaukee Teachers’ Education Association, WEAC
Nicholas Lampert, Artist, Milwaukee, WI
Unions and community groups have been joining together to organize for justice and build community in new and creative ways. Learn how to shake off your old ideas of resistance, action, and organizing and how to tap into the joy of movement building through art and action.

HEALING OURSELVES: TOOLS FOR LIBERATION AND REST  Room M101A
Serita Colette, Serita Yoga, Minneapolis, MN
We must challenge the notion that any movement can exist fully without creating space, tools, and education for health and well-being. Join this yoga and guided relaxation session to honor and nourish the resilience of our nation’s educators and communities to explore how the healing powers of yoga can ease some of the symptoms of racial trauma. This is a welcoming and affirming space open to participants of all abilities.

WE ARE ONE: MOBILIZING TO PROTECT OUR IMMIGRANT STUDENTS, EDUCATORS & COMMUNITIES  Room L100C
Montserrat Garibay, TX AFL-CIO
Agustin Herrera, Asian Americans Advancing Justice -Los Angeles
Arlene Inouye, United Teachers of Los Angeles, CTA
Gladys Marquez, NEA Hispanic Caucus Chair, Illinois Education Association
Christine Neumann-Ortiz, Voces de la Frontera
From the rescission of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, to the reversal of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation, to immigration raids, educators are on the frontlines seeing and responding to federal, state, and local actions against immigrants that live, work, and contribute to our nation. Join with partners from across the country to learn how you can support immigrant youth.
REPRESENTATION MATTERS: ETHNIC STUDIES AND THE POWER OF STORY
Room L100D
Tracy Gill, Seattle Education Association, WEA
Jon Greenberg, Seattle Education Association, WEA
Jesse Hagopian, Seattle Education Association, WEA
The stories told in our public schools most often reflect a narrow white and male dominant version of history. Students and educators around the country are winning on campaigns to expand the context to include the stories of POC, indigenous people, LGBTQIA, immigrants and women. Learn about how the expansion of ethnic studies impacts students and educators. Take away tactics to make change in local policy and practice and deepen cultural literacy.

YOUTH POWER: CONFRONTING COMMUNITY VIOLENCE & THE SCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE
Room L100E
James Ford, Lewiston Education Association, MEA
Dakota Hall, Leaders Igniting Transformation, Milwaukee, WI
Alyssa Molinski, UW-Milwaukee, Education Major
Cendi Trujillo Tena, Leaders Igniting Transformation (LIT)
The criminalization of black and brown youth and youth with disabilities in schools is one of the most egregious examples of systemic racism in this country. Understand how students and educators are using data and organizing to build a youth power agenda to end the school-to-prison pipeline and to ensure that schools and communities are free of violence.

THE GET DOWN: TOOLS FOR THE MOVEMENT AND THE MOMENT
Room L100F
Keron Blair, Alliance to Reclaim Our Schools (AROS)
Bryan Proffitt, Durham Association of Educators, NCAE
Educators are natural organizers and our voices are necessary in the struggle for education justice. If you are an activist who is ready to connect with others like you, and build on the skills you need to move a campaign at home come and join this session to dig into theories of change and how to win for our students and communities.

SCHOOLHOUSE ROCK: YOUR POWER TO PROTECT STUDENTS’ CIVIL RIGHTS
Room L100G
Eric Harrington, NEA
Ajmel Quereshi, NAACP Legal Defense Fund
Yolanda Rondon, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
Educators are reporting increased incidents of discrimination and harassment in schools based on race, sexual identity and orientation, religion and national origin. As educators, our role in combating hate, intolerance, and discrimination is as important as ever. Learn what you can do to protect and strengthen the rights of students in your school and community.

GET UP, STAND UP: ANTI-RACIST ALLYSHIP FOR WHITE EDUCATORS
Room M100B
Terry Jess, Bellevue Education Association, WEA
Luke Michener, Bellevue Education Association, WEA
The movement for racial justice and equity is not a new phenomenon, but it is becoming a larger part of the national conversation in education. Many white educators are seeking to be involved in racial justice work and to be more racially conscious, but are hesitant and unsure of where to begin or how to do the work. This interactive session will cover how to do the work, and what to be aware of as you engage in the work that has been, and is, led by educators of color.

COMMUNITY SCHOOLS: OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE
Room L100H
Anna Grant, Durham Association of Educators, NCAE
Kyle Serrette, NEA
Billionaires continue to fund campaigns to silence community voice in our public schools with charter and voucher schemes. Meanwhile, Community Schools have developed a strong track record in the school improvement space by utilizing a strategy that responds to the unique local needs of students, educators, families, and communities. Find out what’s working and how to replicate these innovations back home.

WATER IS LIFE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE FOR ALL
Room M100D
Margaret Landin, NDU
Jessyca Mathews, Carman-Ainsworth Education Association, MEA
The environment is where we live, work, play, and learn. Communities of color are disproportionately impacted by environmental racism. Hear from educator activists from Flint and Standing Rock about the impact of these threats on
our health, our safety, our economy, and our schools. Learn what communities of color are doing to grow the movement and what you can do to join them in demanding environmental justice.

PEOPLE GET READY: THE GLOBAL MAJORITY AND THE POWER OF IDENTITY
Nagla Bedir, Teaching While Muslim
Arlene Castro, Perth Amboy High School, NJ
Jamile Munoz, Bergen County Technical High School, NJ
Dalyyn Nicholson, Bergen County Technical High School, NJ
Jordy Nunez, Bergen County Technical High School, NJ
Isabella Rojas, Bergen County Technical High School, NJ
Gabriel Tanglao, Bergen County Vocational Technical Schools Education Association, NJEA

Join a group of dynamic young activists to identify strategies to elevate student voice in your school community. Learn how to practice critical self-reflection in ways that center authentic student identities for a stronger and more inclusive school climate. Leave with the tools to cultivate and amplify the role identity plays in education justice.

RECLAIMING OUR TIME: WOMEN, LABOR, LOVE AND POWER
Sheri Davis-Faulkner, WILL Empower (Women Innovating Labor Leadership), Rutgers University
Marisol Garcia, Arizona Education Association

Recent educator walk outs across the country have made it abundantly clear that women have a unique role in organizing a new and powerful labor movement. Come and explore issues of women in labor -including the impact on public educators. Discuss lessons learned from the walk outs and what's needed next to grow intersectional movement building.

FUNDING THE MOVEMENT: SHOW ME THE MONEY
Barbara Hopkins, NEA
Lisa Kodama, Washington Education Association
Shafeza Moonab, Broward Teachers Union, FEA

Ever wonder if there were grants to support your racial and social justice work? Identify your key mission then develop a map of resources for partnerships and funding. Bring your own device to get hands on experience searching for grants and other resources to help you grow the education justice movement.

LIGHTS, CAMERA…. ACTION LAB!
Design Studio for Social Intervention (DS4SI)

Join us to get a hands-on opportunity to learn about and generate cultural tactics that support our education justice organizing strategies. Get inspired by organizing efforts from around the world; learn to talk across differences on the issues you care about; envision a public education system that values all students and educators; and strategize for the transformative policies, allies and strategies that will get us there.

12:30PM – 1:30PM LUNCH KEYNOTE ADDRESS
Exhibit Hall A

1:30PM – 5:30PM ORGANIZING LOUNGE
Exhibit Hall A

ABOUT THE ORGANIZING LOUNGE
The Organizing Lounge is a space for participants to strategize and develop plans for change. It is an “unconference” space where participants drive the dialogue. Don’t see a topic on the agenda that you want to discuss? You can initiate a discussion on a topic and claim a time and place – just post it on the schedule in the Organizing Lounge.

4:15 PM – 5:15 PM WOMEN’S ISSUES COMMITTEE HEARING
Auditorium 1

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM ETHNIC MINORITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE HEARING
Auditorium 1

8:30PM – 11:30PM UPTOWN: A SOCIAL JUSTICE BLOCK PARTY
Exhibit Hall A
Rich Medina has built himself a platform on his own terms, in his own way, achieving success with every step he takes and enriching countless souls with incredible music and passion has continued to grow. Rich is one of those rare people who has built himself a platform on his own terms, in his own way, achieving success with every step he takes and enriching countless souls with incredible music and unique wisdom.

Rinku Sen
Rinku Sen is a Senior Strategist at Race Forward: The Center for Racial Justice Innovation and a contributing writer with Colorlines. Her 20+ years in the racial justice movement include practical experience on the ground, with expertise in race, feminism, immigration, economic justice, philanthropy and community organizing. Over the course of her career, Rinku has woven together journalism and organizing to further social change. She was the architect of Drop the I-Word, a campaign for media outlets to stop referring to immigrants as “illegal,” resulting in many news outlets dropping the i-word, affecting millions of readers every day. She is the author of The Accidental American: Immigration and Citizenship in the Age of Globalization and Stir it Up: Lessons in Community Organizing. Her journalism, social commentary, and thought provoking perspective on social justice brings an innovative approach to complex race issues and helps people take effective action toward racial equity through research, media, and practice.

Shaun King
Today, there are crucial conversations rippling across North America—conversations happening on social media, on campuses, in the streets and around dinner tables. In greater numbers, people are talking about real empowerment and liberation for historically disadvantaged groups. Leaders like Shaun King help us see how racism is not dead and forgotten, but merely a mutating virus, and one that manifests in different forms in every age. Racism, mass incarceration, policies that criminalize blackness in every age. Racism, mass incarceration, policies that criminalize blackness in the twenty-first century—these problems won’t solve themselves. And that’s why King’s voice, perspective, and work are so important. He uses his platform as a journalist to advocate humanely and passionately for justice, families, and victims of brutality and discrimination. He’s adopted social media to rally and unite people of disparate backgrounds and has now become one of the most followed activists in the world.

Rashad Robinson
Rashad Robinson is the Executive Director of Color Of Change, the nation’s largest online racial justice organization. Driven by over one million members, Color Of Change builds power for Black people and Black communities, moving decision makers in corporations and government to create a more human and less hostile world for Black people and all people. Under Rashad’s leadership, Color Of Change has developed winning strategies to change both the written and unwritten rules of key sectors that affect Black people’s lives: Silicon Valley, Hollywood, Wall Street, Washington and capitol hills around the country. Recently, Color Of Change developed successful strategies to hold local district attorneys accountable, and target corporate enablers of the destructive right wing agenda and policies of the current White House. Rashad also helped Color Of Change lead winning campaigns forcing over 100 corporations to stop funding ALEC, frame and win net neutrality as a major civil rights issue, and force Pat Buchanan and Bill O’Reilly off the air.
OUR STORIES, OUR POWER: DOCUMENTARY FILM SCREENINGS AND DISCUSSIONS
JUNE 29 | 10:15AM–11:45AM

A key theme of the conference is art and culture for movement building. Documentary film provides a powerful tool for the telling of our stories and for raising critical questions and dialogue. These select films, being shown as a part of the program on Friday, June 29 from 10:15-11:45am, bring to light critical issues of social and racial justice. Join us for excerpts from these films that inspire and provide a unifying force for building change. Expert panelists will answer questions and share how advocates are growing the movement.

Baltimore Rising  Auditorium 1
Chauntiyl Allen, Educator and Social Activist, Black Lives Matter, Twin Cities
Kwame Rose, Black EXCELLeNce, Baltimore
Gabriel Tanglao, Bergen County Vocational Technical Schools Education Association, NJEA

_Baltimore Rising_ chronicles the determined efforts of people on all sides who fight for justice and work to make their city better, sometimes coming together in unexpected ways, discovering a common humanity where before they often saw each other only as adversaries. Follow activists, police officers, community leaders and gang affiliates, who struggle to hold Baltimore together, even as the homicide rate hits record levels, and explore how to make change when change is hard.

East of Salinas  Room L100A
Melody Gonzalez, NEA
Oscar Ramos, Salinas Elementary Teachers’ Council, CTA

More than one million undocumented children under the age of 18 live in America and more than five million children live in “mixed-status” households where at least one parent is undocumented. On a daily basis undocumented children are confronted with the fear of deportation and the trauma associated with separation from loved ones, all the while trying to pursue an education. Examine one story of a teacher and an undocumented student of migrant farm workers and the challenges they face in the public school system.

Gender Revolution  Auditorium 2
Bo Frank, Hawaii State Teachers Association
Sakoda Frank, Student, Makalapa Elementary School, (Honolulu, HI)
Debi Jackson, Gender Inc.
Imara Jones, The Last Sip, Host
Emilly Osterling, NEA Sexual Orientation Gender Identity Committee-Chair

With an increasing number of youth identifying as transgender, it is important that families and educators learn more about issues related to gender identity and sexual orientation. Explore these issues in depth and discuss how educators can work to affirm transgender students and recognize that every child deserves an opportunity to thrive in school.

More than a Word  Room M100G
Tracy Hartman-Bradley, NEA Director, NEA EMAC
Kenn Little, _More Than a Word_, Director, Member, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe

_Rather than honoring indigenous communities, research has shown racist sports mascots and other stereotypical caricatures have resulted in serious psychological, social and cultural consequences, particularly for Native American youth. More than A Word_, a film by John and Kenn Little explores Native American-based mascots and the history of the slanderous term r*dskin. Ultimately, the film argues for representations that honor and celebrate the humanity of indigenous people.

Notes from the Field  Auditorium Room 3
Dakota Hall, Leaders Igniting Transformation
Alyssa Molinski, _UW-Milwaukee student_
Adaku Onyeka-Crawford, National Women’s Law Center
Cendi Trujillo Tena, Leaders Igniting Transformation

School disciplinary policies and practices such as “zero tolerance” have contributed to an environment where students of color are disproportionately impacted resulting in increased incarceration rates. With current events as a backdrop, this film shares compelling first-person accounts of students, parents, teachers and administrators caught in America’s “school-to-prison pipeline.” The discussion will tackle questions of race, class and gender and how activists can make change.

The Muslim Next Door  Room M101C
Nagla Bedir, _Teaching While Muslim_
Jaylani Hussein, Executive Director, Minnesota Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-MN)
Fahkra Shah, United Teachers of San Francisco, CTA

With an increasing number of hate crimes against Muslims, education and understanding are crucial to ensuring Muslim students are safe in and out of our schools. This discussion will take an in-depth look at what it means to be Muslim in America and how we can elevate the importance of being culturally responsive educators.
SAVE THE DATE!

2018 National Education Association
MLT/WLT Training Conference

WEST: December 7-9, 2018
EAST: January 25-27, 2019