CONFERENCE ON RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE 2019

PLUG IN. CONNECT. RECHARGE.

JULY 1-2, 2019
GEORGE R. BROWN CONVENTION CENTER
HOUSTON, TX
WELCOME TO THE 2019 CONFERENCE ON RACIAL AND SOCIAL JUSTICE:

PLUG IN. CONNECT. RECHARGE.

We gather this year at another crossroads in our nation’s history. So many familiar and fundamental issues of equity and racial justice are looming. What we have today is a very complex and enduring system of multiple oppressions designed to reinforce and interact with each other in a way that makes it impossible to address one without addressing another.

As we continue our march toward justice and liberation in public education, let’s build community and strength across our identities and perspectives, and develop forward thinking strategies that reflect and support the communities we represent.

The value and power of our collective voices and action can effect systemic change. We must reconnect to our core values, recharge, and rejuvenate to continue the fight for racial and social justice.

In solidarity,

Lily Eskelsen García

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.
TAÍNA ASILI

Taína Asili is a New York based Puerto Rican singer, filmmaker and activist carrying on the tradition of her ancestors, fusing past and present struggles into one soulful and defiant voice. Her music combines powerful vocals carrying themes of social justice with an energetic fusion of Afro-Latin, reggae and rock. For over 20 years she has brought the music of love and resistance to venues across the globe – from the Women’s March on Washington to the nationwide Rock Against the TPP Tour. Taína Asili’s music offers a sound that spans continents, exuding strength of spirit, and inspiring audiences to dance to the rhythm of rebellion.

JUDITH LEBLANC

Judith LeBlanc is a member of the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma and Director of the Native Organizers Alliance (NOA). NOA is a national Native training and organizing network that provides Native organizers, tribal governments and non-profits with trainings and support for strategic campaign planning and community engagement based on Indigenous values and practices. Under her leadership, NOA has built relationships with tribes, traditional societies and grassroots community groups in key Native communities and reservations. She is currently partnering with the Brave Heart Society, a traditional women’s society, and the Yankton Sioux Tribe on creating a model for regaining sovereign and inherent right to be caretakers of the Missouri River Basin.

ISA NOYOLA

Isa Noyola is a translatina activist, a national leader in the LGBT immigrant rights movement, and the deputy director at Mijente, a political, digital, and grassroots hub for Latinx and Chicanx organizing and movement building. Launched in 2015, Mijente seeks to strengthen and increase the participation of Latinx people in the broader movements for racial, economic, climate and gender justice. Isa works extensively for the release of transgender women from ICE detention and an end to all deportations. She believes that a stronger and more vibrant transgender community is possible when we abolish oppressive systems that criminalize all of our communities especially trans and queer communities of color.

BOOTS RILEY

Boots Riley is a provocative and prolific poet, rapper, songwriter, producer, screenwriter, director, community organizer, and public speaker. He wrote and directed Sorry to Bother You, a comedy fantasy sci-fi film, in his directorial debut that premiered at the 2018 Sundance Film Fest before opening nationwide. He is the lead vocalist of The Coup and Street Sweeper Social Club. Fervently dedicated to social change, Boots was deeply involved with the Occupy Oakland movement and was one of the leaders of the activist group The Young Comrades. More recently, he joined the Oakland Education Association to champion direct action in support of students, educators and the community. Boots Riley is also the author of the critically acclaimed Tell Homeland Security: We Are the Bomb.

Every day, we transgender people should wake up and look in the mirror and be proud, because we have survived another day. And when we have one another for support and community, we believe we can thrive.

Native peoples have a legal, moral, spiritual and inherent right to be caretakers of the planet. The sacred teachings of our cultures reflect the resilience that has brought us this far, by prioritizing kinship, reciprocity and community building. It’s about preserving relationships and living in balance, with all things – natural, human and animal.

Within my culture and my people, Puerto Ricans, we have always used music as a tool of resistance in our folkloric art. I see this music as a part of that legacy.

The things that really connected me more … were stories of organizers, stories of people who were trying to do things. It became clear to me that when you’re in struggle learning is much different.

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Using an anti-oppression lens rooted in feminist theories, examine the question, “What difference do I want to make with my presence?” Learn how widespread support from members, parents and the community countered privatization schemes, and grew the movement for education justice. Learn how we are all LA and Oakland.

**CURRICULUM OF THE OPPRESSED**

Leo Torres, Association of Raza Educators, Carolyn Torres, Association of Raza Educators, Guadalupe Cardona, Association of Raza Educators

Ethnic Studies curriculum benefits all students who not only succeed academically across all subjects, but also reclaim their humanity by acknowledging, learning and celebrating the beauty, achievements and cultural knowledge of our diverse communities. Learn different models and methods you can implement back home.

**KEEP ON PUSHING: LOCAL POWER, DEMOCRACY, AND OUR SCHOOLS**

Ronsha Dickerson, Camden Parents Union and Journey for Justice Organizer, Dr. Keith Eric Benson, Camden Education Association, NJEA

What do you do when your city is targeted by the corporate education reform complex? Learn how the Camden Education Association in coalition with parents and community, preserved one of New Jersey’s poorest urban public school districts from orchestrated collapse and organized to restore the right to a democratically elected school board.

**FLIP IT AND REVERSE IT: UN-CONFERENCE FOR JUSTICE**

Mel Katz, MapSO Freedom School, T.J. Whitaker, MapSO Freedom School

Un-conferences empower attendees to share their expertise and have an unfiltered exchange of innovative ideas. MapSO Freedom School organizers will share strategies to organize un-conferences in your community using racial and social justice analysis. Learn how to let go of traditional structures to deepen learning and make change.

**FUNDING THE MOVEMENT: SHOW ME THE MONEY!**

Lisa Kodama, Washington Education Association, Maddie Fennell, Nebraska State Education Association

Jenni Benson, Nebraska State Education Association, Barbara J Hopkins, NEA

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. Get hands on experience searching for grants and other resources to help you grow the education justice movement.

**COME TOGETHER: ANTI-RACIST ALLIENCY FOR WHITE EDUCATORS (DESIGNATED SPACE FOR WHITE LEARNING)**

Lucas Michener, Bellevue Education Association, WEA, Terry Jess, Bellevue Education Association, WEA

Many white educators are seeking to be involved in racial justice work and to be more racially conscious but are unsure of where to begin. Develop your awareness to be a true ally in work that has been, and is, led by educators of color.

**UNIONS AND A SOCIAL JUSTICE STATE OF MIND**

Selina Durio, North Babylon Teachers Association, NYSUT, Preya Krishna Kennedy, Bethlehem Teachers Association, NYSUT

Serena Kotch, Cleveland Hill Education Association, NYSUT, Eve Shippens, Buffalo Teachers Federation, NYSUT

Wayne White, Bellport Teachers Association, NYSUT, Paul Webster, NYSUT, Davida Twitty, NYSUT

Most of the change we seek to bring, and the strategies and tactics used to advance education justice were born from social movements. Deepen your understanding about how America’s labor unions were built on social justice and how the movement is winning for our students and communities today.

**THE FREEDOM SCHOOL REMIX**

Awo Okiakor Aryee-Price, MapSO Freedom School, Ikechukwu Onyema, MapSO Freedom School

The original freedom schools were started by the Southern Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the South as part of the Civil Rights Movement’s organizing for political, social and economic empowerment. Learn the steps to building the freedom schools of today by centering your community, honoring history and adhering to anti-racist and anti-oppression principles.

**STRONGER TOGETHER: UNIONS, DEMOCRACY AND THE PATH TO CITIZENSHIP**

Shafeza Moonab, Broward Teachers Union, FEA, James Herard, Broward Teachers Union, FEA

Citizenship leads to many doors being opened that would otherwise be closed to union and community members. Learn how the Broward Teachers Union built opportunities for members and the community to acquire citizenship. Gain tools, ideas and strategies to replicate this program at home.

**WHITENESS, EDUCATIONAL EQUITY & POWER**

M. Carmen Lane, ATNCS: Center for Healing & Creative Leadership

Using an anti-oppression lens rooted in feminist theories, examine the question, “What difference do I want to make with my presence?” Learn how to make choices that offer ways to honor the dignity and humanity of all who enter your classroom.
WE ARE NOT INVISIBLE: CREATING SAFE, HEALTHY SCHOOLS FOR GIRLS OF COLOR 350 D
Angela Calderón, Student & Mental Health Advocate, Houston, TX, Dr. Mari Morales-Williams, T.U.F.F. Girls, Noelia Rivera-Calderón, National Women’s Law Center, Adaku Onyeka-Crawford, National Women’s Law Center
Hear key findings from the new report, We Are Not Invisible | No Somos Invisibles: Latina Girls, Mental Health, and Philadelphia Schools. Learn about policies and practices that promote a safe, healthy and inclusive school for all students by centering the needs of Latina girls—who are doubly impacted by sex and race discrimination.

COUNTERING WHITE SUPREMACY: CONNECTING THE DOTS BETWEEN ANTI-BLACK RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM 350 E
Eric Ward, Western States Center, Amy Herfeld-Copple, Western States Center
As white supremacist and white nationalist movements become increasingly mainstream, understanding the connections between anti-Black racism, antisemitism, and white supremacy/nationalism is critical. Develop skills to examine common threats and learn how models of solidarity can strengthen our response.

GET CRITICALLY CONSCIOUS: ACTIVATE YOUTH LEADERSHIP 350 F
Derek Hall, RE-Center, Race & Equity in Education, Jason Fredlund, RE-Center, Race & Equity in Education
Critical consciousness is the ability to recognize and analyze systems of inequity to navigate and challenge these systems. Using this framework, get tools to engage and support youth in community learning and identity exploration. Learn how to activate their leadership potential by utilizing their lived experiences. Best for educators working with youth ages 12-21.

ADVANCING EDUCATOR DIVERSITY TO PROMOTE Racially JUST SCHOOLS 351 A
Dr. Ivory A. Toldson, QEM Network; Justin Johnson, Georgia Association of Educators; Dr. Phitsamay Uy, University of Massachusetts Lowell, Kurrinn Abrams, National Indian Education Association
Over half of our nation’s public school students are students of color. In contrast, educators of color make up just 20 percent of teachers. Learn how NEA, its state and local affiliates, and partners across the county are promoting strategies to boost the representation of diverse educators to benefit all students.

FOOD, COMMUNITY AND POWER 351 B
Jeremias Salinas, Woodbridge Township Education Association, NJEA
Racism continues to influence food production and availability to communities of color. Explore how racist policies result in “food deserts” and inequities in the current food system. Learn about efforts to reduce these disparities and the positive impacts change has on students, schools and communities.

A CRITICAL THEORY OF LOVE: EDUCATING FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE 351 C
Durryle Brooks, Ph.D, Love and Justice
Social Justice Education is a powerful tool for social transformation. However, without centering theories of healing and liberation, social justice educators may unconsciously reproduce oppression. Gain a framework for developing a practice based in a CriticalTheoryOfLove that is based in healing and wholeness and education justice.

BLACK LIVES MATTER AT SCHOOL: THE GROWING MOVEMENT 351 D
Denisha Jones, Trinity Washington University, Erika Strauss, Howard County Education Association, MSEA
What began in 2016 as a one-day event, became a week of action in 2017 and has now become a national movement to make Black Lives Matter at School. Learn how to make Black Lives Matter at your school in 2020 and beyond!

A COURSE OF ACTION: CREATING ANTI-BIAS, ANTI-RACIST CLASSROOMS 351 E
Britt Hawthorne, Embracing Equity, Antonio Adams, Kindergarten Teacher, Houston, TX
Gain practical strategies for creating an environment where the whole child is seen, heard and valued. Take away tools like equity audits, assessing teacher-created materials, adding hidden perspectives into the content, and implementing culturally responsive pedagogy.

RECLAIMING NATIVE TRUTH IN THE 21ST CENTURY 351 F
Crystal Echo Hawk, Echo Hawk Consulting
A new project from Reclaiming Native Truth deepens our understanding of dominant narratives and how to change the frame. Changing public perceptions and creating a new narrative is central to advancing policy change for racial justice and tribal sovereignty while building the case for a racial justice movement with strong ties to Native Nations and communities.

9:00 AM - 12:15 PM LEARNING & EXPERIENCE – SESSION II

FOR ‘COLORED FOLKS’ WHO CONSIDER OUR MUTUAL LIBERATION ENOUGH (DESIGNATED SPACE FOR POC ONLY) 320 B
Together we will explore and use historical and contemporary information, powerful questions and our Solidarity Framework to discover how to promote shared learning, intra- and inter-group connection, and community building.

10:45 AM - 12:15 PM LEARNING & EXPERIENCE – SESSION III

HEALING OURSELVES: TOOLS FOR LIBERATION AND REST 320 A
Melanie Holst-Collins, Yoga In Color
When we make space for health and wellbeing, our movements thrive. Join this yoga and guided relaxation session to honor and nourish the resilience of our nation’s educators, allies and communities. This is a welcoming and affirming space open to participants of all abilities.
MOVING PAST PERFORMATIVE WOKENESS

Lukas Michener, Bellevue Education Association, WEA, Terry Jess, Bellevue Education Association, WEA, Glenn Charlie, NEA Board Member, NEA-Alaska

We all know the social justice buzzwords - intersectionality, marginalized, stay woke, etc. But how do we deepen our practices to be true allies and accomplices? In this session, participants will unlearn and learn together how to not only be anti-racist, but how to avoid the traps of self-centering while doing this important work.

12:30 PM – 1:30 PM  LUNCH KEYNOTE SESSION

1:45 PM – 5:00 PM  ORGANIZING STUDIO

The Organizing Studio is your space to deepen your activism in pop-up studio “power hours” filled with cutting edge activist talks, teach-ins, art for action, and music for the movement. In addition, connect with each other in the Meet Up the Movement un-conference space to continue conversations and share strategies.

2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SCREENINGS

RAPE IN THE FIELDS (PBS)  322 A


There is a hidden price many migrant women working in America’s fields and packing plants pay to stay employed and provide for their families. This film reports on a yearlong investigation that uncovers the sexual abuse of women who work under dangerous circumstances and their bravery to get justice.

BIRTH OF A MOVEMENT (PBS)  322 A

Robert Bellinger, Suffolk University, Dolita Cathcart, Wheaton College, Susan Gray, Northern Light Productions, Dr. Atiya Martin, Chief Resilience Officer, City of Boston, Talaya Grimes, T Muse Media

In 1915, Boston-based African American newspaper editor and activist William M. Trotter waged a battle against D.W. Griffith's technically groundbreaking but notoriously Ku Klux Klan-friendly film, The Birth of a Nation, unleashing a fight that still rages today about race relations, media representation, and the power and influence of Hollywood. Birth of a Movement captures the backdrop to this prescient clash between human rights, freedom of speech, and a changing media landscape.

ROOM TO GROW  322 C

Bo Frank, Hawaii State Teachers Association, Sakoda Frank, Student, Makalapa Elementary School (Honolulu, HI), Imara Jones, The Last Sip Podcast & TransLash, Savannah Skylar, Student, Eagle Mountain UT, Harmony Rose, Hillsboro OR, Damian Pelliccione, Revry TV

Room To Grow shares the real-life stories of today’s LGBTQ+ teens, their families and their allies on their search for understanding. Follow teens from different parts of the country and different ethnic backgrounds, as they face racial as well as sexual or gender issues with resilience.

5:15 PM - 6:15 PM  JOINT EMAC – SOGI – WIC HEARING INTRODUCTION

8:00 PM – 11:00 PM  RISE UP FOR LOVE: 2019 NEA PRIDE BLOCK PARTY

JULY 2  DAY TWO

7:30 - 9:00 AM  CAFFEINE & THINGS

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  JOINT EMAC – SOGI – WIC HEARING

9:00 AM  DOORS OPEN

9:15 AM-10:15 AM  MORNING KEYNOTE SESSION

10:30 AM –12:30 PM  LEARNING & EXPERIENCE – SESSION IV

HEALING OURSELVES: TOOLS FOR LIBERATION AND REST

Melanie Holst-Collins, Yoga In Color

When we make space for health and wellbeing, our movements thrive. Join this yoga and guided relaxation session to honor and nourish the resilience of our nation’s educators, allies and communities. This is a welcoming and affirming space open to participants of all abilities.
EXAMINING AND UPROOTING WHITE SUPREMACY IN K-12 EDUCATION 320 C
Delma Jackson, III, Center for Whole Communities, Robin Carter-Cooper, Rochester Community Schools

White supremacy is woven throughout the U.S. public education system. Trace the impacts of this system of oppression from its beginnings to today’s disproportionately negative outcomes. Identify ways to disrupt white supremacy in the public education system and rebuild through a racial justice lens.

ORGANIZING TO WIN: ESCALATING TACTICS 340 A
Jitu Brown, Journey for Justice

One of the greatest strengths of social movements is often their capacity to disrupt. Participants will explore various tactics like strikes, sit-ins, marches and walkouts, and how to strategically employ them to awaken society to injustice.

MOVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE: COLONIZATION TO LIBERATION 340 B
Shan Byrd, New Brunswick Public Schools, New Jersey, Ka’ehukai Burly, Kamehameha Schools, Hawai’i, Gabriel Tanglao, NJEA

Deepen your understanding of immigration in the larger historical context rooted in colonialism. Connect the dots from Indigenous civilizations to the Africa Diaspora, and Eastern Culture to Western Imperialism. Gain a better understanding of the students we serve and explore ways to leverage classroom practice to amplify our collective impact on issues of education justice.

QUEERING BIPOC SOLIDARITY 350 D

Examine the intersection of racism and hetero-patriarchy in BIPOC communities and its impact on femme-identified, trans, and non-binary folks of color. Explore an intersectional framework for understanding and addressing power, privilege and oppression.

OUR STORIES, OUR SCHOOLS: CULTURAL RELEVANCY REQUIRED 351 A
Guadalupe Cardona, Association of Raza Educators, Leo Torres, Association of Raza Educators, Carolyn Torres, Association of Raza Educators

Over four years, the Association of Raza Educators helped build a coalition that moved the San Diego school board to adopt Ethnic Studies and make it a graduation requirement. Learn how to create a space for grassroots activism with educators, community members, parents and students to ensure our powerful histories transforms our future.

10:30 AM –12:30 PM RACIAL & SOCIAL JUSTICE FILM SCREENINGS

THE PRICE OF FREE 330 A
Anjali Kochar, Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation US, Reid Maki, National Consumers League, Makeda Harris, NEA

The choices we make as consumers, policymakers and leaders, help determine whether 152 million children are free to have a real childhood or be forced into labor or slavery. The Price of Free is a thrilling look at Nobel Peace Prize winner, Kailash Satyarthi’s, inspiring efforts in the movement to free every child.

BREATHEIN: THE EDDY ZHENG STORY 322 A
Eddy Zheng, Co-Director of the Asian Prisoner Support Committee, Monica Thammarath, NEA

Arrested at 16 and tried as an adult for kidnapping and robbery, Eddy Zheng served over 20 years in California prisons and jails. This film paints an intimate portrait of Eddy - the prisoner, the immigrant, the son, the activist - on his journey to freedom, rehabilitation and redemption.

THE HUNTING GROUND 332 A
Adaku Onyeka-Crawford, National Women’s Law Center, Louise Stompor, NEA Women’s Issues Committee, Illinois
Stephanie Johnson, NEA Women’s Issues Committee, South Carolina, Pamela Rios, NEA

One in five women in college are sexually assaulted, yet only a fraction of these crimes are reported, and even fewer result in punishment for the perpetrators. This film follows undergraduate rape survivors pursuing both their education and justice, despite ongoing harassment and the devastating toll on them and their families. This documentary continues to inspire new state laws and changes in campus policies.

RUMBLE 332 C
Crystal Echo Hawk, Echo Hawk Consulting, Sedelta Ososahwee, NEA

Rumble: The Indians Who Rocked the World is an electric look at Native American influence in popular music, going deep into the Indigenous foundations of rock.

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM ORGANIZING STUDIO

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12:45 PM CLOSING SESSION KEYNOTE ADDRESS

SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIVIST OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION

The 2019 Social Justice Activist of the Year Award will be presented to the exceptional effort that organizes and engages educators, parents, and the community in the fight for racial and social justice. The finalists this year are Kimberly Eckert (Louisiana), Winter Marshall-Allen (Alaska), and Danica Moore (Kansas)

2:00PM ADJOURN
SAVE THE DATE!
2019-2020
National Education Association
Minority & Women’s Leadership Training Seminar
WEST: December 6-8, 2019
EAST: January 24-26, 2020

CRSJ PLANNING COMMITTEE
Kevin Gilbert, NEA Executive Committee, Chairperson, Conference on Racial and Social Justice Planning Committee
Charmaine Banther, CA
Robin Brown, KY
Tracy R. Hartman-Bradley NE
Gladys Marquez, IL
Shannon McCann, WA
Cecily A. Myart-Cruz, CA
Tucker Quetone, MN
Mary Ann Rivera, IL
Sophia Rodriguez, OH
Christine Sampson-Clark, NJ
Louise Stompor, IL
Jacob Zebley, MD

CENTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE STAFF PLANNING TEAM
Rocio Inclán, Senior Director
Community Advocacy and Partnership Engagement Department
Human and Civil Rights Department

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