



# EQUITY

SUMMIT • 2020

CENTERING EQUITY IN CRISIS AND TRANSFORMATION

## 10:00 - 12:00 P.M. | WELCOME AND OPENING SESSION - CENTERING STUDENTS IN EQUITY

Students have experienced extreme disruptions and deep inequities within their academic, social, home and community spaces. In an ongoing global pandemic and during protests against systemic discrimination and practices, students have been leaders in challenging the status quo of educational systems and insisting on a more inclusive, fair and just education system. Student engagement serves as a powerful tool to move equity forward both within and beyond the classroom. This session uplifts the diverse voices of students in addressing how the coronavirus and inequity has impacted their educational experiences. Presenters will focus on how districts can best serve the needs of students and work with students in times of crisis and transformation.

### 10:00 - 10:30 a.m. | Welcome and Introduction

- » Nathan Mains, CEO, PSBA
- » Dr. Heather Bennett, director of PSBA School Equity Services

### 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. | Centering Students in Equity

#### *Student Speakers*

- » *Shaniya L. Robinson, Harrisburg School District*
- » *Ethan Davis, Bethlehem Area School District*
- » *Caden Walker, Millcreek Township School District*
- » *Hana Goma, Derry Township School District*
- » *Karleigh Patton, Exeter Township School District*
- » *Itzamar Acevedo Salinas, Bethlehem Area School District*

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## 2:00 - 4:40 P.M. | CONCURRENT SESSIONS - TELLING OUR STORIES: BUILDING AN EQUITY FOCUS IN THE MIDST OF A PANDEMIC

The coronavirus and subsequent closure of school buildings have deepened inequities among students and between schools and communities. These concurrent sessions address these widening inequities such as access to digital learning, food insecurity, increased poverty, disparate trauma and mental health supports, language barriers, and discrimination. The conversations in these sessions also explore the new and burgeoning ways in which district and school leaders have mobilized to not only meet education needs but also to address the safety, nutrition and technology needs of students, professional staff and families. The COVID-19 crisis poses an urgent opportunity to center equity through policy and practice.

The concurrent sessions will specifically address the following topics through various lenses:

- Trauma and Mental Health
- Digital Equity
- Family and Community Engagement
- Education Equity Policies

### **2:00 - 3:15 p.m. | Concurrent Session I**

- » Track 1: Poverty, Trauma Informed and Mental Health  
Speaker: Dr. Donna Beegle, poverty consultant, Communication Across Barriers
- » Track 2: Advocating for Digital Equity  
Speaker: Angela Siefer, executive director, National Digital Inclusion Alliance
- » Track 3: Culturally Responsive Family, School, and Community Engagement  
Speaker: Mariela Puentes, program associate, family engagement, Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium

### **3:25 - 4:40 p.m. | Concurrent Session 2**

- » Track 1: Addressing Systemic Discrimination and Trauma Inside and Outside of the Classroom  
Panelists:
  - Stephen Sharpe, K-12 school counseling coordinator, Hempfield School District
  - Tyler Titus, LPC, board vice president, Erie School District
  - Rick Amato, principal, Broughal Middle School, Bethlehem Area School District
- » Track 2: Centering Equity in Remote and Distance Learning  
Panelists:
  - Karey Killian, K-5 library media specialist, Milton Area School District
  - Ernesto Ortiz, principal, McDonald Elementary School, Centennial School District
  - Jaclyn Miller, 4th grade elementary school teacher, Willow Hill Elementary School, Abington School District
  - Dr. Monica Lamar, assistant superintendent, Pittsburgh Public Schools
- » Track 3: Embedding Equity into District Policy and Culture  
Presenters:
  - Davelyn Smeltzer, sr. director of PSBA Governance Services
  - Dr. Heather Bennett, director of PSBA School Equity Services
  - Julie Haywood, school board director, Cheltenham School District
  - Daniel Schultz, school board director, Cheltenham School District
  - Pamela Henry, school board director, Cheltenham School District
  - Dr. Wagner Marseille, Superintendent, Cheltenham School District

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### **6:30 - 8:20 P.M.: BUILDING AN ANTIRACIST MOVEMENT IN SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY**

After the deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Aubrey, and Breonna Taylor, as well as the ongoing violence towards Black men and women, protests of multiracial and intersectional people have erupted across the country. This nationwide movement has prompted serious conversations and proposed actions in schools and communities tackling systemic racist policies and practices. The public response has highlighted the racial trauma that students, families, staff, school administration and communities of color have not only endured for centuries but continue to face today. This session, comprised of education stakeholders, will speak to the impact of systemic discrimination in our education system. The session will discuss best practices to remove barriers and move towards an antiracist, equitable school climate.

**6:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Antiracism Panel Discussion**

» Panelists:

- Adam Hosey, high school teacher, Harrisburg School District
- Paige Joki, attorney, Education Law Center
- Tricia Steiner, school board director, Derry Township School District
- Dr. Amber Sessoms, school psychologist, Central Dauphin School District

**7:30 - 8:20 p.m. | Keynote:** Dr. Sonya Douglass Horsford, associate professor of education leadership, Teachers College, Columbia University; founding director, Black Education Research Collective; co-director, Urban Education Leaders Program (UELP)

**8:20 - 8:30 p.m. | Next Steps**

Dr. Heather Bennett, director of PSBA School Equity Services