

#DiversityMatters

Getting Public School Choice Right

MAY 15, 2018 | WASHINGTON, DC | *Join the conversation online at #DiversityMatters.*

8:30AM

NETWORKING BREAKFAST

9:00AM

WELCOME

DENISE FORTE @dm_forte
Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

HALLEY POTTER @halleytcf
Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

KIMBERLY QUICK @kquicktcf
Senior Policy Associate, The Century Foundation

9:10AM

NEW RESEARCH: NATIONAL SNAPSHOT OF CHARTER SCHOOLS' INTEGRATION EFFORTS

Experts will present the findings of new research published by The Century Foundation on the growing number of intentionally diverse charter schools across the United States. This research is the first time that a national inventory has been published and will provide an essential baseline for future research and policy practice. Reports are available at tcf.org.

HALLEY POTTER @halleytcf
Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

KIMBERLY QUICK @kquicktcf
Senior Policy Associate, The Century Foundation

9:30AM

BREAKOUT SESSION

Guided table discussion.

9:45AM

MODELS OF SCHOOL CHOICE AS A TOOL FOR DIVERSITY

This panel will analyze a variety of methods that schools and districts employ to disrupt segregation at the school level. Panelists will explore how public school choice has helped or hindered progress towards school integration—and how admissions and recruitment practices can lend a hand in creating and maintaining racial and socioeconomic diversity.

Moderator: **DENISE FORTE** @dm_forte
Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

VALERIE BRAIMAH @cityschoolsLA
Executive Director, City Charter Schools, Los Angeles

MICHAEL DEMATTEO, AIA @dematteomichael
COO, Blackstone Valley Prep (BVP) Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island

KATHRYN (KATIE) ELLIS
Deputy Chief of Staff, Chicago Board of Education

RICHARD D. KAHLENBERG @RickKahlenberg
Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

10:45AM

BREAK

11:00AM

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Introduction: **MARK ZUCKERMAN** @Mark_Zuckerman
President, The Century Foundation

Live Graphic Recorder: **LISA NELSON** @seeincolors
Founder and Creative Director, See in Colors

JOHN B. KING, JR. @JohnBKing
President & CEO, Education Trust
Former Secretary of Education, The Obama Administration

11:20AM

HOW DO YOU REAP THE BENEFITS OF DIVERSITY?

This session will examine the challenges and opportunities of diverse schools, and emphasize desegregation at the classroom level, equitable disciplinary practices, inclusive family engagement, and pedagogical approaches that respect and capitalize on the diversity of the school environment.

Moderator: **AMY ZIMMER** @the_zim
Journalist and Contributor, The Century Foundation

KRISTE DRAGON
CEO and Co-founder, Citizens of the World Charter Schools, Los Angeles

GISLAINE NGOUNOU, Ed.L.D. @GislaineEdSpeak
Chief Program Officer, PDK International

PATRICIA PERKINS @morrisjeff
Founding Principal, Morris Jeff Community School, New Orleans

KATE SEIDL
Principal, City Neighbors Charter School, Baltimore

12:20AM

LUNCH

12:45PM

LUNCHEON FIRESIDE CHAT

Monique Morris and Melissa Harris-Perry will discuss Morris' new book, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*. Learn how black girls, who are just 16 percent of the female student population, make up more than one-third of all girls with a school-related arrest, and what schools can do to change it.

Live Graphic Recorder: **LISA NELSON** @seeincolors
Founder and Creative Director, See in Colors

MELISSA HARRIS-PERRY @MHarrisPerry

Maya Angelou Presidential Chair and Director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center, Wake Forest University and Trustee of the The Century Foundation

MONIQUE MORRIS, Ed.D. @MoniqueWMorris

Founder and President, National Black Women's Justice Institute
Author, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*

1:15PM

BREAK

1:25PM

BREAKOUT SESSION

Guided table discussion.

1:40PM

THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION AND THE LEADERS THAT SHAPE IT

Millennials are the most diverse generation in American history and yet schools remain more segregated than they were in the 1970s. Hear the next generation of leaders in the school diversity movement share their perspectives on the impact of injustice and the potential for a transformed society.

Moderator: **KIMBERLY QUICK** @kquickctf
Senior Policy Associate, The Century Foundation

MATTHEW GONZALES

Director, School Diversity Project, New York Appleseed

BRITNEE LYNN MERRITT @sonrisa06

Student Recruitment Manager, Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST)

JULISA PEREZ

Director of Local Outreach, IntegrateNYC

JENNA TOMASELLO @jenna_tomasello

Co-founder, Learn Together, Live Together

2:40PM

BREAKOUT SESSION & NEXT STEPS

Guided table discussion and a review of participant commitments to supporting diversity in classrooms, schools, and communities across the country.

3:00PM

PROGRAM END

BIOGRAPHIES

VALERIE BRAIMAH @cityschoolsLA

Executive Director, City Charter Schools, Los Angeles

Since 2013 Valerie Braimah has served as executive director at City Charter Schools, a diverse charter school organization serving over 700 students K–8 in Los Angeles, CA. In recent years her schools have gained prominence as models of intentional integration, inquiry-driven learning, and social-emotional development (see <http://selforteachers.org/city-charter-schools-los-angeles/>). She brings over twenty years of leadership in public education as a teacher, charter school administrator, program evaluator, and educational consultant. Previously, Valerie was the vice president of community learning and engagement at Teach For America, responsible for leading TFA's multimedia Corps Member professional development strategy. Before that, she managed professional development, instruction, and teacher evaluation as the VP of instruction at the Alliance College-Ready Public Schools. She also served as the chief learning officer for Insight Education Group for over five years, facilitating school and district turnaround across the country. Valerie holds a master's degree in education policy from Johns Hopkins University.

MICHAEL DEMATTEO, AIA @dematteomichael

COO, Blackstone Valley Prep (BVP) Mayoral Academy, Rhode Island

Michael DeMatteo is the chief operations officer (COO) for Blackstone Valley Prep (BVP), an intentionally diverse network of public charter schools serving a mix of urban and suburban sending districts. In his role as COO, he manages all network-wide operations, including human capital strategies, facilities, strategic planning, development and maintenance, infrastructure and educational technology, scholar information systems, transportation, and food service. Additionally, Michael has helped to steer BVP's diversity committee for the past five years, advising network and school leadership as well as the board of directors on strategies to support BVP's socioeconomically diverse school model through staff recruitment and training and scholar curriculum design.

Prior to joining BVP, Michael practiced architecture and has over fifteen years of professional experience in institutional facilities programming, planning, and design, specializing in K–12 education. Interested in a more active engagement in the education sector, Michael completed a master's in public affairs at Brown University, where he focused his studies on urban education policy. While at BVP, Mr. DeMatteo was also an associate resident with the Broad Residency in Urban Education.

KRISTE DRAGON

CEO and Co-Founder, Citizens of the World Charter Schools, Los Angeles

Kriste Dragon is the CEO and co-founder of Citizens of the World Charter Schools, a national network of public charter schools that challenge students to realize their full potential and thrive in a diverse society. Prior to Citizens of the World, Kriste served as vice president of regional operations for Teach For America's western regions. Kriste is a member of the board of directors for the National Charter Collaborative and the advisory board for the National Association of Charter School Authorizers, and is the board chair for EdNavigator. Previously, Kriste served as the founding co-chair for the national advisory board of The Collective, Teach For America's national alumni of color association. Kriste is a Broad Academy fellow and an Aspen Pahari fellow, and a moderator for the Pahari NextGen program as well as the Aspen Young Leaders Fellowship.

KATHRYN (KATIE) ELLIS

Deputy Chief of Staff, Chicago Board of Education

Katie Ellis serves as deputy chief of staff to the Chicago Board of Education, where she acts as a key advisor and support to board members. In a previous role, Katie was the executive director of the Office of Access and Enrollment, managing the selection process for all of the district's magnet and selective programs. While serving as a project manager at CPS, Katie also led the district's shift from race-based admissions to socioeconomic based admissions after the CPS's Desegregation Consent Decree was vacated. Katie has a BS in chemical engineering from Northwestern University and an MBA from the Ross School of Business at University of Michigan. Katie is also the co-founder and vice-chair of the Three Sisters Scholarship Foundation, providing scholarships to over sixty students in twenty years of operation.

DENISE FORTE @dm_forte

Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

Denise Forte is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation, focused on issues related to K–12 and higher education, including efforts to increase the diversity, quality, and accountability of schools. Based in Washington, D.C., she works closely with TCF’s senior leadership to increase the organization’s presence and policy impact with lawmakers.

Denise Forte was previously the staff director for the House Committee on Education and the Workforce (Minority), providing strategic advice and counsel to the ranking member, Rep. Robert C. “Bobby” Scott (D-VA) and management direction to twenty-two members of staff. She left Capitol Hill for the nonprofit sector, serving as the vice president for policy leadership at Leadership for Educational Equity, a leadership development organization supporting current and former teachers in public leadership. Denise returned to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce where she worked for over ten years, rising to the position of education policy director for then-chairman George Miller (D-CA) and providing direction for the legislative agenda on education, children, and youth issues. Denise started her policy career on Capitol Hill in 1994 in the office of Congressman Scott when she received a congressional fellowship from the Women’s Research and Education Institute.

Denise also served in the Obama administration at the U.S. Department of Education from 2011 to 2013, where she held the positions of principal deputy assistant secretary and acting assistant secretary in the Office of Planning, Evaluation and Policy Development, providing direction and management to the office that oversees policy and budget development for the agency.

MATTHEW GONZALES

Director, School Diversity Project, New York Appleseed

Matt Gonzales is director of the School Diversity Project for New York Appleseed, a nonprofit social justice center that advocates for integrated schools and communities in New York City and State. He coordinates a citywide coalition of advocates called the NYC Alliance for School Integration and Desegregation (ASID). He is the policy coach for the youth advocacy group IntegrateNYC, and works directly with NYC school and district leaders supporting their efforts towards integration. Matt was recently appointed to Mayor de Blasio’s School Diversity Advisory Group, and sits on a statewide advisory board on equity, integration, and diversity. He is a former special education teacher at Bancroft Middle School in Los Angeles, and earned his master’s in education policy from Teachers College, Columbia University in 2016.

RICHARD D. KAHLENBERG

Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

Richard D. Kahlenberg is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation with expertise in education, civil rights, and equal opportunity. Kahlenberg has been called “the intellectual father of the economic integration movement” in K–12 schooling and “arguably the nation’s chief proponent of class-based affirmative action in higher education admissions.” He is also an authority on teachers’ unions, private school vouchers, charter schools, turnaround school efforts, labor organizing, and inequality in higher education.

He is the author or editor of sixteen books, including: *A Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education* (with Halley Potter) (Teachers College Press, 2014); *Why Labor Organizing Should Be a Civil Right: Rebuilding a Middle-Class Democracy by Enhancing Worker Voice* (with Moshe Marvit) (Century Foundation Press, 2012); *Tough Liberal: Albert Shanker and the Battles Over Schools, Unions, Race and Democracy* (Columbia University Press, 2007); *All Together Now: Creating Middle Class Schools through Public School Choice* (Brookings Institution Press, 2001); *The Remedy: Class, Race, and Affirmative Action* (Basic Books, 1996); and *Broken Contract: A Memoir of Harvard Law School* (Hill & Wang/Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1992).

JOHN B. KING, JR. @JohnBKing
President and CEO, The Education Trust
Former Secretary of Education, the Obama Administration

John B. King, Jr. is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps, from preschool through college. King served as the U.S. secretary of education from 2016 to 2017 as a member of President Barack Obama's administration. In tapping him to lead the U.S. Department of Education, President Obama called King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success" and his lifelong dedication to education as a teacher, principal, and leader of schools and school systems.

Before becoming secretary of education, beginning in January 2015, King carried out the duties of the U.S. deputy secretary of education, overseeing all policies and programs related to P-12 education, English learners, special education, and innovation. In this role, King also oversaw the agency's operations. King joined the department following his tenure as the first African American and Puerto Rican to serve as New York State education commissioner, a post he held from 2011 to 2015.

King began his career in education as a high school social studies teacher in Puerto Rico and Boston, MA, and as a middle school principal.

King's life story is an extraordinary testament to the transformative power of education. Both of King's parents were career New York City public school educators, whose example serves as an enduring inspiration. King's parents passed away from illness by the time he was twelve years old. He credits New York City public school teachers—particularly educators at P.S. 276 in Canarsie and Mark Twain Junior High School in Coney Island—for saving his life by providing him with rich and engaging educational experiences and by giving him hope for the future.

GISLAINE NGOUNOU, Ed.L.D. @GislaineEdSpeak
Chief Program Officer, Phi Delta Kappa International

Dr. Gislaine Ngounou is an education leader and social justice activist. Her work with the Children Defense Fund's Freedom Schools helped her to discover her calling: to dedicate her life's work to improving opportunities and outcomes for young people and communities, especially those that have been marginalized and underserved. Dr. Ngounou believes in the power of education, organizing, teamwork, narrative, and self-empowerment—to help individuals, communities, and organizations transform themselves towards a more socially just world. She brings experience as an educator, coach, and system leader with a deep focus on issues of equity, teaching, and learning, family and community engagement, and leadership development. She holds bachelor's, master's and administration degrees from the University of Missouri system, as well as a doctorate in education leadership from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Dr. Ngounou currently holds the role of chief program officer at Phi Delta Kappa International where she oversees the development and implementation of new programs, including school system-level partnerships with superintendents and senior leadership teams. Prior to joining Phi Delta Kappa International, she was the chief of staff for Hartford public schools in Connecticut.

PATRICIA PERKINS @morrisjeff
Founding Principal, Morris Jeff Community School, New Orleans

Patricia M. Perkins is a lifelong educator and instructional leader with more than thirty-five years of experience as an elementary and middle school teacher, curriculum leader, and school leader. She is the founding school leader of Morris Jeff Community School in New Orleans, Louisiana. Morris Jeff is one of the very first intentionally diverse, open-access charter schools in the city and state, and currently operates a PK-9th grade program which will grow to 12th grade by 2021. Throughout her career, Mrs. Perkins has focused on ensuring that all children are supported in reaching their maximum potential and especially in helping struggling students meet and exceed grade level expectations. She began her teaching career in Chicago public schools and has taught in public schools in Washington, D.C., Mississippi, Texas, and New Orleans, Louisiana. Mrs. Perkins earned her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Baylor University and is certified in educational leadership, K-8 instruction, and gifted education.

MELISSA HARRIS-PERRY @MHarrisPerry
Maya Angelou Presidential Chair
Director, Anna Julia Cooper Center, Wake Forest University

Professor Melissa Harris-Perry is the Maya Angelou presidential chair at Wake Forest University. There she is founding director of the Anna Julia Cooper Center and co-director of Wake the Vote. Melissa is editor-at-large of Elle.com and a contributing editor at *The Nation*. Along with Dorian Warren, Harris-Perry is principal and co-host of Freedom on Tap, an independent media project combining live events, and digital and audio content. From 2012 to 2016 she hosted the television show “Melissa Harris-Perry” on weekend mornings on MSNBC and was awarded the Hillman Prize for broadcast journalism.

She is an award-winning author and sought-after public speaker, lecturing widely throughout the United States and abroad. Harris-Perry received her BA in English from Wake Forest University and her Ph.D. in political science from Duke University. She also studied theology at Union Theological Seminary in New York. Harris-Perry previously served on the faculty of the University of Chicago, Princeton University, and Tulane University. Professor Harris-Perry has been awarded honorary degrees from many universities, including Meadville Lombard Theological School, Winston-Salem State University, Eckerd College, and New York University. She and her family live in North Carolina.

BRITNEE LYNN MERRITT @sonrisa06
Student Recruitment Coordinator, Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST)

Brittnee Merritt attended Colorado State University where she earned her bachelor’s degree in English. After graduating in 2011, she joined the Denver Public Schools AmeriCorps program, where she served nine months supporting students at an alternative high school with attendance supports, including developing programs that engaged students academically as well as getting them involved socially with their school. Brittnee joined Denver Public Schools’ Office of Family and Community Engagement after her term of service with AmeriCorps, where she supported the Denver metro area and Fairview Elementary facilitating community meetings, connecting families with basic services (food, electricity, and housing) and providing financial support such as grants and donations. In 2017 she joined Denver School of Science and Technology (DSST) as a student recruitment coordinator, where she currently manages student recruitment and coordinate strategic efforts to support building out an integrated campus for the fourteen schools within DSST’s network.

MONIQUE W. MORRIS, Ed.D. @MoniqueWMorris
Founder and President, National Black Women’s Justice Institute
Author, *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools*

Monique W. Morris, Ed.D., founder and president of the National Black Women’s Justice Institute (NBWJI), is the author of four books, including the widely acclaimed *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* (The New Press, 2016) and a forthcoming book on how schools can interrupt pathways to confinement for Black and Latina girls. She collaborated with Kemba Smith on her bestselling book, *Poster Child: The Kemba Smith Story*, and has contributed to several public reports and scholarly publications.

Her work has been profiled by MSNBC, CSPAN2, the *Washington Post*, the *New York Times*, *Essence Magazine*, NPR, and PBS, among several other media outlets. She speaks regularly and provides technical assistance on reducing racial and gender disparities in the justice system. Dr. Morris is also an executive producer and co-writer of a forthcoming documentary film on the criminalization of Black girls in schools; an appointed member of the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention’s National Girls Initiative Expert Panel and the California Department of Education’s Juvenile Court Student Transition Workgroup; and a member of the California Board of State and Community Corrections’ Committee on Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparity.

LISA NELSON @seeincolors

Founder and Creative Director, See in Colors

Lisa Nelson loves combining art with life. She is the founder of See In Colors, where she leads a team that captures conversations with hand-drawn pictures. By using the power of visuals, Lisa helps to bring key points and ideas to the surface. Her visual summaries cover topics ranging from business and leadership to community and faith. Her work has been featured in *Entrepreneur* with over 3,500 social media shares. Lisa has helped a variety of organizations use the power of visuals. Some of her clients include Susan G. Komen, AARP, University of Maryland, and Crayola. Lisa shares her collection of visual summaries on her blog at <http://seeincolors.com>.

JULISA PEREZ

Director of Local Outreach, IntegrateNYC

Julisa Perez is director of local outreach for IntegrateNYC, a student led, nonprofit organization that advocates for integrated schools in New York City. She is one of the founders of the organization's relationship committee and has written policy proposals to advocate for culturally responsive education, social identities clubs, and ethnic studies courses with the NYC Department of Education. She attends Brooklyn College and plans to major in education.

HALLEY POTTER @halleytcf

Senior Fellow, The Century Foundation

Halley Potter is a senior fellow at The Century Foundation, where she researches public policy solutions for addressing educational inequality. Her work focuses on school integration, preschool equity, charter schools, and college admissions. She is coauthor, with Richard D. Kahlenberg, of *A Smarter Charter: Finding What Works for Charter Schools and Public Education* (Teachers College Press, 2014). She is a board member and co-founder of the Diverse Charter Schools Coalition. Prior to joining The Century Foundation, Halley taught at Two Rivers Public Charter School in northeast Washington, D.C. She graduated summa cum laude from Yale University with a bachelor's degree in religious studies.

KATE SEIDL

Principal, City Neighbors Charter School, Baltimore

Kate Seidl currently serves as principal of City Neighbors Charter School, a progressive public K-8 school in Baltimore City. Before entering school leadership, Kate was a reading specialist, school librarian, and middle school language arts teacher at City Neighbors and a co-creator of the City Neighbors model of education beginning in 2006. City Neighbors combines Reggio Emilia's teacher practices of arts integration, project-based learning, and inspiration for creative expression. Earlier in her career, Kate held positions as an early childhood and elementary teacher, music and movement teacher, and adjunct faculty member at the Indiana University School of Education.

Kate holds a BA from Brown University, MS in education from the Bank Street Graduate College of Education, and administrative certification from Johns Hopkins University. Kate is dedicated to realizing the promise of progressive education in a diverse, public school setting.

JENNA TOMASELLO @jenna_tomasello

Co-founder, Learn Together, Live Together

Jenna Tomasello is the co-founder of Learn Together, Live Together, a nonpartisan, grassroots coalition of education stakeholders passionate about promoting diverse, equitable, and inclusive schools. As a product of public schools and a first-generation college student, Jenna has always held a deep appreciation for education and the opportunities it afforded her. Jenna is also a policy associate at the American Youth Policy Forum, where her work involves the development of learning events and dissemination of policy and practice guidance to frame issues, inform policy, and convene conversations that improve education and youth outcomes. Jenna has a background in philosophy and legal studies, and holds a master's degree in educational policy from the University of Rochester Warner Graduate School of Education and Human Development.

KIMBERLY QUICK @kquicktcf

Senior Policy Associate, The Century Foundation

Kimberly Quick is a senior policy associate at The Century Foundation working on education policy in the foundation's Washington, D.C. office. At TCF, Kimberly writes and conducts research on student assignment and desegregation, as well as broader educational equity issues, including tracking and within-school segregation. Kimberly is also co-chair of the marketing and communications committee of Learn Together, Live Together, a new coalition of youth, young adults, and parents passionate about promoting diversity in schools. Prior to joining TCF, Quick worked as a fellow in the office of the provost at Wake Forest University, where she helped to develop the university's communications, programming, and policy related to diversity and inclusion and student experiences. Kimberly graduated summa cum laude from Wake Forest with a bachelor's degree in politics and international affairs and minors in English and American ethnic studies.

AMY ZIMMER @the_zim

Journalist and Contributor, The Century Foundation

Amy Zimmer is an award-winning journalist based in New York. She covered education for the neighborhood news site DNAinfo, and her work has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *City Limits*. She wrote a book exploring the social history New York City Transit's Miss Subways contest, one of the nation's first integrated beauty contests, and organized an exhibition on the topic at the New York City Transit Museum. She is currently head of content strategy for Localize.city. Amy received her bachelor's degree in anthropology from Yale University and has a master's degree in journalism from New York University.

MARK ZUCKERMAN @Mark_Zuckerman

President, The Century Foundation

Mark Zuckerman is president of The Century Foundation. He served in the Obama White House as the deputy director of the Domestic Policy Council, leading teams on key initiatives, including reducing student debt, increasing accountability at for-profit educational institutions, reducing workplace discrimination, increasing wages for home health care workers, and expanding access to job training. Prior to that, as staff director of the House Education and Labor Committee, he helped win passage of landmark legislation such as the Affordable Care Act; the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act; the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act; and the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act.