

2020 Cradle to Career Network Convening

the power of

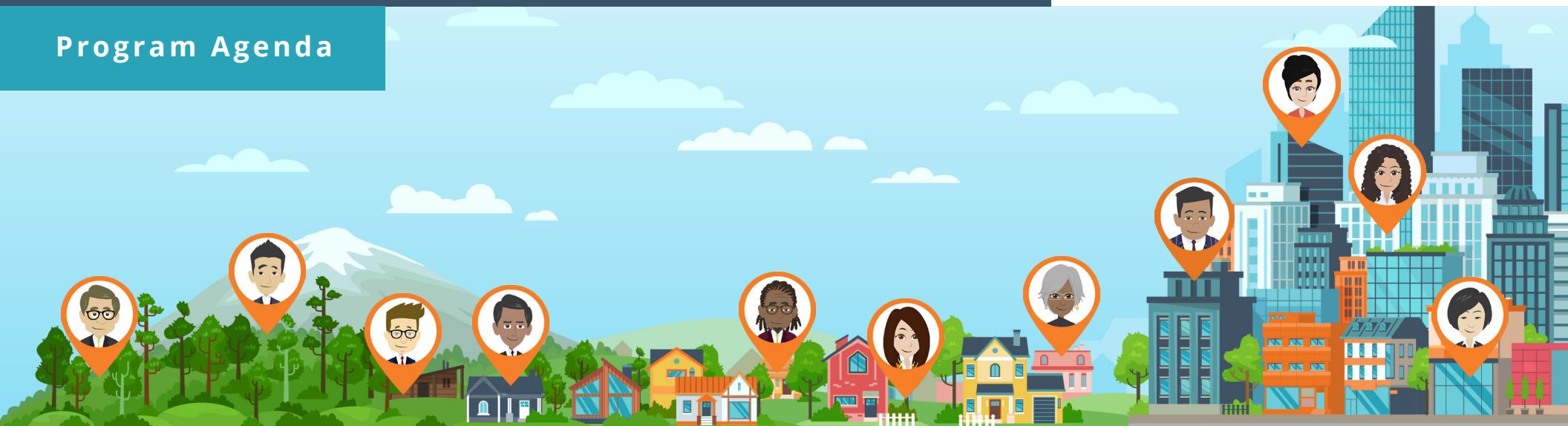


StriveTogether[®]
Every child. Cradle to career.

**BUILDING
A BETTER
FUTURE WITH
YOUTH AND
FAMILIES**

Sept. 18-25

Program Agenda



program agenda table of contents

03 welcome message

04 theme and speakers

05 what's new

06 virtual tips and testimonials

07 forward friday

08 mindful monday

09 together tuesday

10 workshop wednesday

12 transformational thursday

13 forward friday



welcome message from ceo and board chair

the power of
YOU

2020

We are looking forward to hosting you virtually for our 2020 Cradle to Career Network Convening. Our theme this year is **The power of you: Building a better future with youth and families.**

The convening looks different this year, but the importance of this movement — and the role we play in improving the lives of kids and families — remains the same. In fact, this network is rising to the challenge by addressing some of the greatest structural issues of our time.

Over the course of our virtual event, we will celebrate and learn from network members who are using their power and working with youth and families to respond and recover from the pandemic. A public health crisis and the killing of unarmed Black people have created a reckoning in our country. From community leaders and policymakers to business leaders and neighbors, people are recognizing the need to transform systems to get equitable results. They're speaking to the work that we began more than a decade ago.

We know systems transformation is possible because of you. We're seeing examples across the

country of network members building a better future with youth and families. This includes earning trust, strengthening relationships and shifting power to Black, Indigenous, Latinx and Asian youth and families in their community.

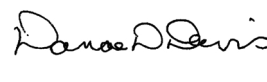
As you engage over these six days, we encourage you to think bigger because we need to reimagine the future as we work toward an equitable recovery. Now is the time to redesign systems to get better results for every child and every family.

While this event looks different, the heart of it is the same. Connect with peers throughout the week, engage and share what you're learning across social media using #ConveneC2C. We are so grateful for your presence and invite you to learn, share and commit to building a better future with youth and families.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Blatz



Danae Davis



JENNIFER BLATZ

President & CEO
StriveTogether



DANAE D. DAVIS

Board Chair
StriveTogether

2020 cradle to career network convening theme

The power of you is more important now than ever. Every child deserves every opportunity to succeed. Every community holds the answers to make it possible. When we recognize and elevate community authority, local change becomes lasting impact. Join us as we build a better future with youth and families.

the power of



2020

2020 cradle to career network convening speakers



**JENNIFER
BLATZ**

President & CEO
StriveTogether



**AKIA
CALLUM**

Director of community
impact and marketing
at Waterbury Bridge
to Success Community
Partnership



**GEOFFREY
CANADA**

Leading advocate for
children and innovator
in the field of education,
president of Harlem
Children's Zone



**NIKOLE
HANNAH-JONES**

Pulitzer Prize-winning
creator of the 1619 Project,
New York Times magazine
staff writer, MacArthur
Genius, winner of the
National Magazine Award



**CHRISTIAN
PAIGE**

Emmy-nominated poet,
educator and passionate
community advocate

what's new daily convening themes

MINDFULMONDAY

ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO GROUND AND ENERGIZE

Mindful Monday sessions will deepen your understanding of how your identity impacts the way you lead and work with others. Through live sessions or asynchronous engagements that you can engage in at any time, you'll develop tools and strategies to practice resilience in your systems change work.

TOGETHERTUESDAY

COLLABORATIVE SESSIONS AND RACIAL AFFINITY GROUPS

Together Tuesday sessions will offer two opportunities to engage with your peers. During collaborative sessions, you'll join other attendees in identifying solutions and ideas to challenges from communities across the country. During racial affinity group time, you can choose to engage in collective dialogue and learning with others who share your racial identity.

WORKSHOPWEDNESDAY

IDEAS AND RESOURCES TO PUT INTO PRACTICE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Workshop Wednesday sessions will feature ideas, strategies and insights from leaders in the field and the Cradle to Career Network. Sessions will focus on how you can apply learnings into the work in your own community.

TRANSFORMATIONAL THURSDAY

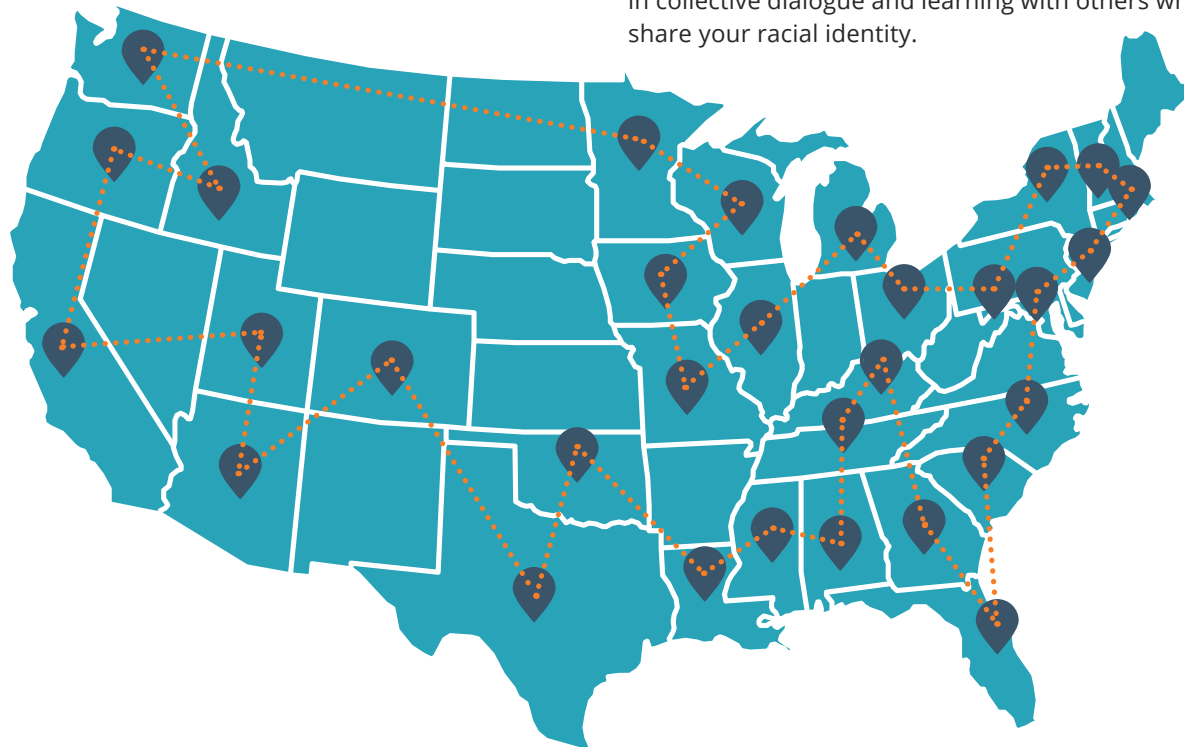
ACTION PLANNING TO BUILD A BETTER FUTURE

Transformational Thursday sessions will offer coaching and action planning sessions to support you in applying your insights from the week in your community.

FORWARDFRIDAY

KEYNOTES AND NETWORKING

Forward Fridays will feature our keynote speakers and will provide powerful calls to action. Our speakers will share messages to ground you in your goals for the coming year and re-energize you for the work ahead.



make the most of the convening virtual tips

This is our first-ever virtual Cradle to Career Network Convening! The virtual setting enables increased access to attend the convening as well as flexibility in attending sessions throughout the week. Here are some tips to help you get the most out of the week:

- Once you register, you'll be enrolled in the CrowdCompass event navigator, which can be viewed on a laptop or a phone. Here, you'll access all Zoom links for the sessions. Look out for instructions and an invitation to create your CrowdCompass login on September 9.
- When you join Zoom, you can change your name to include your gender pronouns so others can correctly refer to you in conversation. You can do this when you register or during the meeting, by clicking on the ellipsis to the right of your photo/camera and clicking "rename". Learn more about gender pronouns [here](#).
- When you join sessions, be aware of background noise — mute yourself when not talking.
- Use the chat box on Zoom to converse, react and share thoughts with other attendees throughout sessions.
- To be present together during sessions, turn off other notifications and remove distractions as much as possible.
- Take breaks when you need them!

previous attendee testimonials

"All guest speakers for me were so powerful for various reasons. They all brought something different to the platform that was relatable, humbling and empowering. I was trying to hold back tears on the last day of plenaries. Seriously trying not to start bawling. So inspiring, honest and genuine. I have a bit more hope for our community after hearing such powerful testimonies."

■ Temeka Wirkkala, collective impact specialist (organizer for parent engagement) at Every Hand Joined in Red Wing, Minn.

"The convening has given me the best experience of seeing what the StriveTogether Network is about. I felt the collective — we are all doing this work in community. Everyone is doing the same work that you're doing, just doing it in different ways."

■ Abdi Iftin, grassroots fellow with United Way of Salt Lake in Salt Lake City, Utah

"The 2019 Cradle to Career Network Convening has had the biggest impact on my efforts to change outcomes and close disparity gaps because StriveTogether displayed we are not only talking about it, we are walking it for you and with you. ... It wasn't doing business as usual and for me, that's how you change outcomes, that's how you close disparity gaps. Lead by example from the top so it filters down throughout the Network and back into the communities across the country. I would consider that systems change, proof point and leading into systems transformation."

■ Feedback from anonymous 2019 network survey

2020 cradle to career network convening program agenda

**FORWARD
FRIDAY**

September 18, 2020

OPENING PLENARY

1:30-3:00 PM ET

Christian Paige

Poet, educator and community advocate



Christian Paige is an Emmy-nominated poet, an educator and a passionate community advocate. For the last decade, he has dedicated himself to eliminating barriers for students in education. As a writer, Paige believes in the responsibility to speak truth to

power and to creatively challenge broken ideologies.

Born, raised and still living in his hometown, he will tell you that one of the most important pieces of his identity is his community. He believes Tacoma, Wash., is the greatest city on the planet and has yet to apologize to anyone who disagrees. His love of his community fuels him, inspires him and reminds him of his responsibility to tell the truth at all cost. His goal as an artist is to challenge and inspire the audiences with his work.

Jennifer Blatz

President & CEO StriveTogether



Jennifer Blatz is the president and CEO of StriveTogether, a national nonprofit working in 70 communities across the United States to enable more than 12 million young people to succeed in school and life.

Jennifer is a nationally recognized leader and expert in building place-based partnerships. For two decades, she has designed, developed and implemented strategies that drive large-scale community improvement through partnership with local leaders and organizations.

Prior to taking the helm of StriveTogether, Jennifer served in leadership roles, including deputy director and senior director of operations. She was instrumental in launching the national Cradle to Career Network and creating the StriveTogether Theory of Action™.

Geoffrey Canada

Educator, activist and author



Geoffrey Canada is a leading advocate for children and innovator in the field of education. Canada grew up in one of the most devastated communities in the United States, the South Bronx, raised by a single mother. He

earned his bachelor's degree from Bowdoin College, and eventually went on to earn a master's degree at Harvard University.

Canada created the Harlem Children's Zone, a birth-through-college network of programs that today serves more than 13,000 low-income students and families in a 97-block area of Central Harlem in New York City. In 2011, Canada was named one of the world's most influential people by Time magazine and as one of the 50 greatest leaders by Fortune magazine in 2014. President Barack Obama created the Promise Neighborhoods Initiative to replicate the Harlem Children's Zone model

across the country. After 30 years with the organization, Canada stepped down in 2014 as chief executive officer of the Harlem Children's Zone but continues to serve as president.

In June 2020, Canada founded The William Julius Wilson Institute, which will serve as the national platform to help communities impacted by poverty across the country design and implement their own place-based programs.

NETWORKING

3:30-4:30 PM ET

Join your peers for a networking session to build relationships and get excited for the week ahead! This networking session will feature different ways to interact with others using Zoom breakouts and engaging activities.

[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.

2020 cradle to career network convening program agenda

**MINDFUL
MONDAY**

September 21, 2020

ON YOUR OWN

Mindful of race: Transforming racism from the inside out

Ruth King recorded interview

Guided meditation: Finding unity in awareness

United Way of Salt Lake

Notice the rage, notice the silence: Podcast and reflection

On Being episode with Resmaa Menakem

Patterns in nature and systems

StriveTogether

SESSION BLOCK

3:00-5:00 PM ET

Somatic approaches to resiliency: An introduction to Tension and Trauma Releasing Exercises (TRE®)

Norwalk ACTS

Adaptive self-care: Caring for ourselves and our communities

Read Fort Worth

Embodiment, oppression and resilience

Prentis Hemphill

Liberating conversations

*United Way of Salt Lake,
Developmental Design*

Notice the rage, notice the silence: Live session

StriveTogether

Restore, reset, resilience: Help yourself to help others

Bridgeport Prospers



[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.

2020 cradle to career network convening program agenda

**TOGETHER
TUESDAY**

September 22, 2020

COLLABORATIVE SESSION BLOCK

12:00-2:00 PM ET

Black, Indigenous, Latinx & Asian Leaders collaborative session

StriveTogether

NOTE: This session is capped at 30 participants total. To request to join complete the form in the session description on your Cvent registration. We will confirm attendance by September 9.

Diversifying leadership tables and navigating transitions

Eastside Pathways, ROC the Future

Racial justice embedded at every level of the organization

Cradle to Career, Eastside Pathways, ROC the Future

Grassroots leadership and community engagement

*Greater Dalton Education Partnership,
Generation Next*

Collective impact and equity in rural communities

Austin Aspires, imPACT East Idaho, Partners for

Education at Berea College

Exploring financial stability and value proposition

Achieve Brown County, Fresno Cradle to Career

AFFINITY GROUPS

3:00-5:00 PM ET

Asian & Asian American affinity group

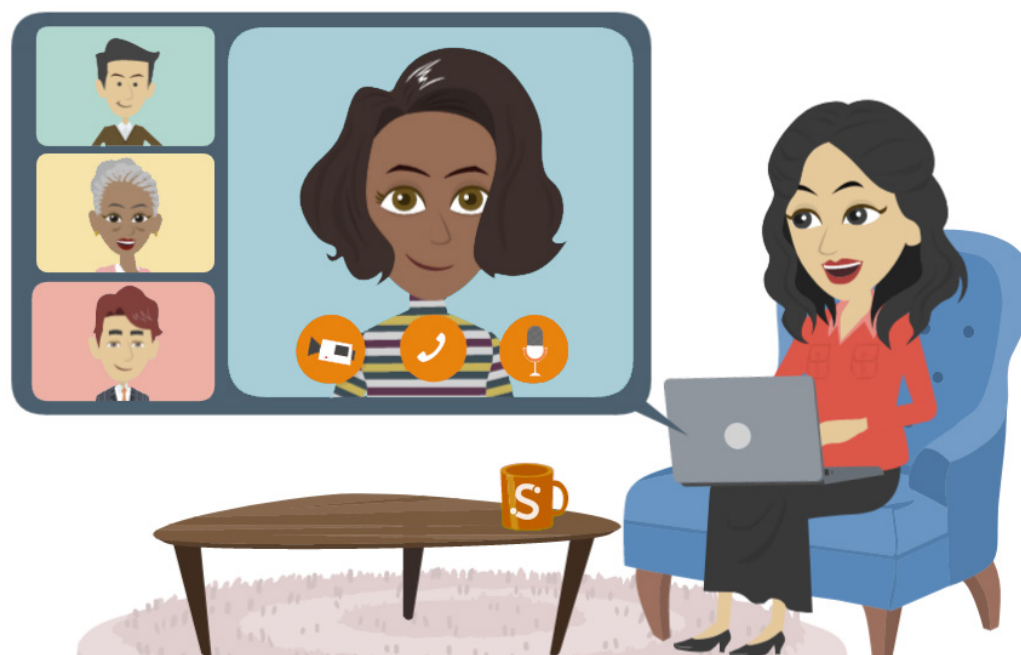
Black affinity group

Indigenous/Native American affinity group

Latinx affinity group

Multi-racial affinity group

White caucus for racial equity



[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.

2020 cradle to career network convening program agenda

WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY

September 23, 2020

"There is definitely a variety of workshops and topics to choose from at the convening. Every morning, we meet as a team to decide who's going to different sessions and getting great content and tools."

■ KARL NICHOLS, VICE PRESIDENT OF INVESTOR DEVELOPMENT AT E3 ALLIANCE IN CENTRAL TEXAS

Network member input has led us to add session levels reflecting the target audience. Levels are based on the intended participant's experience with the session's topic area.

- **Discover** is for attendees who are just beginning work in this topic.
- **Build** is for attendees who have some experience with the topic and want to dig deeper to gain more tools or knowledge in that area.
- **Accelerate** is for attendees who have a lot of experience with the topic.

SESSION BLOCK

12:00-2:00 PM ET

Equity by design: Dismantling power constructs for inclusive co-creation

Creative Reaction Lab

Note: This session is capped at 40 participants total. A partnership can bring a maximum of two attendees, and one of the attendees must be a youth/young leader. To request to join complete the form in the session description on your Cvent registration. We will confirm attendance by September 9.

Accelerate: Familiar with topic



Putting students at the center: Insights from communities of the Together for Students initiative

Together for Students national partners and local implementation communities

Build: Some experience with topic

Charting the path toward systems transformation

StriveTogether Race and Ethnic Equity Action Team

Build: Some experience with topic

Climbing the ladder of youth voice: Moving from tokenism to intergenerational leadership

Bridge to Success Community Partnership, UP Partnership

Build: Some experience with topic

The national policy landscape: Influence and impact

StriveTogether

Discover: Newer to topic

Build: Some experience with topic

[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.

Workshop Wednesday sponsored by Walmart Foundation

2020 cradle to career network convening program agenda

WORKSHOP WEDNESDAY

September 23, 2020

Young people power: A Charlotte experience

Our Turn

Discover: Newer to topic

Build: Some experience with topic

Accelerate: Familiar with topic

The importance of health in an early childhood program in the Mississippi Delta

Delta Health Alliance

Discover: Newer to topic

Build: Some experience with topic



SESSION BLOCK

3:00-5:00 PM ET

Improvement essentials

StriveTogether

Discover: Newer to topic

Build: Some experience with topic

How to co-develop with young people: Lessons learned from recruitment to shared tables

UP Partnership

Build: Some experience with topic

Accelerate: Familiar with topic

Embedding racial equity into finance and operations

StriveTogether

Discover: Newer to topic

Disrupting myths and mindsets to support community-led work

StriveTogether Co-development of Solutions Fellows

Accelerate: Familiar with topic

Equity by design: Dismantling power constructs for inclusive co-creation

Creative Reaction Lab

Note: This session is capped at 40 participants total. A partnership can bring a maximum of two attendees, and one of the attendees must be a youth/young leader. To request to join complete the form in the session description on your Cvent registration. We will confirm attendance by September 9.

Accelerate: Familiar with topic

The role of housing from cradle to career

*Bridgeport Prospers, Mission Promise
Neighborhood*

Discover: Newer to topic

Build: Some experience with topic

Ideas—Arrangements—Effects: Systems design and social justice

Design Studio for Social Intervention

Accelerate: Familiar with topic

[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.

Workshop Wednesday sponsored by Walmart Foundation

2020 cradle to career network convening program agenda

TRANSFORMATIONAL THURSDAY

September 24, 2020

COACHING SIGN-UP

9:00 AM-5:00 PM ET

One-on-one StriveTogether coaching

StriveTogether

Note: To request a coaching session with a StriveTogether coach, complete the form in the session description on your Cvent registration. We will confirm attendance by September 9.

OUTCOME AREA SESSION BLOCK

12:00-2:00 PM ET

Peer partnership consultation: Prenatal - 5

StriveTogether

Peer partnership consultation: Third grade reading

StriveTogether

Peer partnership consultation: Middle grade math

StriveTogether

Peer partnership consultation: High school

StriveTogether

Peer partnership consultation: Postsecondary

StriveTogether

Peer partnership consultation: Employment

StriveTogether

TEAM TIME

2:00-3:00 PM ET

Meet with your team for planning

On your own

SESSION BLOCK

3:00-5:00 PM ET

Leading through complexity

StriveTogether

Note: This session is capped at 20 participants total, with one spot per partnership available. To request to join complete the form in the session description on your Cvent registration. We will confirm attendance by September 9.

Coaching through adaptive challenges

StriveTogether

Note: This session is capped at 20 participants total, with one spot per partnership available. To request to join complete the form in the session description on your Cvent registration. We will confirm attendance by September 9.

Transforming policy: From development to implementation

StriveTogether

Rearranging education: How to imagine new arrangements that can transform learning

Design Studio for Social Intervention

Nothing about us without us — Recognizing an LA student voice

Our Turn



[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.

2020 cradle to career network program agenda

**FORWARD
FRIDAY**

September 25, 2020

COFFEE PARTNERS NETWORKING

12:00-1:00 PM ET

On this last day of the 2020 Convening, join your peers over a coffee break! During this coffee partner time, you will be partnered one-on-one with another peer at random to get to know one another and reflect on learnings from the week! If interested, register for this session on your Cvent registration! We will email your coffee partner the morning of September 25th.

CLOSING PLENARY

1:30-3:00 PM ET

Akia S. Callum

Director of Community Impact and Marketing



Akia S. Callum serves as the director of community impact and marketing at Waterbury Bridge to Success Community Partnership. With over eight years of experience as a community organizer, political strategist, social justice advocate, educator and branding consultant for cross sector entities, Akia knows firsthand the importance to 'Engage. Empower. & Inform' communities around

equitable practices regarding youth and race.

She holds a bachelor's degree in legal studies and a master of education in curriculum and instruction from Post University.

Nikole Hannah-Jones
Investigative reporter



Nikole Hannah-Jones covers racial injustice for The New York Times Magazine. She has spent years chronicling how policy has created — and maintains — racial segregation in housing and schools. Hannah-Jones was the creator and lead writer of The 1619 Project. Named for the year the first enslaved Africans arrived in America, the multimedia project features an ongoing series of essays and art on the relationship between slavery and everything from social infrastructure and segregation to music and sugar. Hannah-Jones' introductory essay earned the Pulitzer Prize for commentary.

Hannah-Jones co-founded the Ida B. Wells Society for Investigative Reporting with the goal of increasing the number of reporters and editors of color. She holds a master's degree in mass communication from the University of North Carolina and earned her Bachelor of Arts in history and African American studies from the University of Notre Dame.

Christian Paige

Poet, educator and community advocate



Christian Paige is an Emmy-nominated poet, an educator and a passionate community advocate. For the last decade, he has dedicated himself to eliminating barriers for students

in education. As a writer, Paige believes in the responsibility to speak truth to power and to creatively challenge broken ideologies.

Born, raised and still living in his hometown, he will tell you that one of the most important pieces of his identity is his community. He believes Tacoma, Wash., is the greatest city on the planet and has yet to apologize to anyone who disagrees. His love of his community fuels him, inspires him and reminds him of his responsibility to tell the truth at all cost. His goal as an artist is to challenge and inspire the audiences with his work.

[Register here](#) by Friday, September 4.



StriveTogether is a national movement with a clear purpose: help every child succeed in school and in life from cradle to career, regardless of race, ethnicity, zip code or circumstance. In partnership with nearly 70 communities across the country, StriveTogether provides resources, best practices and processes to give every child every chance for success. The StriveTogether Cradle to Career Network reaches more than 12 million students, including more than 6 million children of color, and has partners in 30 states and Washington, D.C.

For more information about StriveTogether, visit StriveTogether.org.

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