



The White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for
Black Americans and Discovery Education

presents

Power Up

Day 1: Thursday, October 12, 2023

5:00 – 5:30pm Welcome and Opening Remarks Boardroom

- Alexis K. Holmes, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans (White House Black Initiative)
- Ronique Hicks, Senior Director of Partnerships, Discovery Education
- Dr. Calvin J. Watts, Superintendent, Gwinnett County Public Schools

5:30 – 8pm College and Career Fair Cafeteria

Attendees can visit tables to gather information about educational and career opportunities from institutions of higher education, federal agencies, public and private sector companies, and more.

- Monique Toussaint, White House Black Initiative

5:30 – 6:15pm Youth Engagement ("Write your own story; Own your narrative") Boardroom

- Erika Magnon, Gwinnett Youth Commission
- Erika Alexander, Co-Founder, Color Farm Media
- Alexis K. Holmes, Executive Director, White House Black Initiative

6:15 – 7 pm Youth Engagement Listening Session Boardroom

Youth participants will provide feedback on their school experience, wellness, and future options.

- Chase Moore, Special Assistant, Office of the Secretary, US Department of Education
- Salome Daniel, Confidential Assistant, White House Black Initiative
- Eburn Kayode, Gwinnett Youth Commissioner
- Temilade Onodipe, Gwinnett Youth Commissioner

6 – 7 pm Family Roundtable with Office of Civil Rights (OCR) Grayson Room

OCR Staff will provide an overview of student/family rights and compliant process.

- Demetria Mills-Obadic, General Attorney, OCR - Atlanta
- Joshua Brownlee, Attorney, OCR - Atlanta

6 – 7pm Black Educator Roundtable 3.111

Black educators will discuss strategies for building communities of practice and promote educator well-being. Participants will also be exposed to the Black Teacher Collaborative's Pedagogical (BLP) framework and have the opportunity to reflect on their current practices to identify alignment.

- Nate Thomas, Educator Diversity Lead, White House Black Initiative
- Erreick Stewart, Senior Managing Director, Partnerships & Growth, Black Teacher Collaborative
- Katrina Smith-Paggett, Director of Professional Learning, Black Teacher Collaborative

Day 2: Friday, October 13, 2023

- 9:00 – 9:05 am Welcome & Remarks Boardroom
- Alexis K. Holmes, Executive Director, White House Black Initiative
 - Ronique Hicks, Senior Director of Partnerships, Discovery Education
 - Dr. Calvin J. Watts, Superintendent, Gwinnett County Public Schools
 - Mistress of Ceremony LaWanda Toney, Senior Advisor, Office of Communication and Outreach
- 9:05 – 9:50 Black Economic Opportunity Panel Boardroom
- Moderator: Kelly Burton, CEO, Black Innovation Alliance
 - Donald J. Hawkins, FinTech Entrepreneur
 - [Michelle Taylor Willis](#), Media Executive/Personality, Author, Actress
 - Jeff Patterson, Supervisory Lender Relations/Economic Development Specialist, SBA
- 9:50 – 10:00 Break
- 10:00 – 10:45 Mental Health Panel Boardroom
- Moderator: Kalila Winters, Senior Advisor, White House Initiatives, U.S. Department of Education
 - Andre Castro, Director of Community Engagement, Gwinnett, Newton, & Rockdale County Health Departments
 - Cassandra Collins, Executive Director, Recovery Consultants of Atlanta
 - Dr. Pamela Roshell, Chief Operating Officer, Office of the County Manager, Health, Human Services & Public Works
 - Dr. Dawn Tyus, Project Director, Morehouse School of Medicine
- 10:45 – 10:50 Transition
- 10:50 – 11:50 Breakout Sessions
- Leveraging Entrepreneurship and Innovation to Drive Generational Wealth Creation
Room: Collins Hill/Dacula
 - Kelly Burton, CEO, Black Innovation Alliance
 - [Nikki Porcher](#), Buy From A Black Woman
 - [Lekeisha French](#), Preneurology/The Future in Color
 - [Marguerite Pressley Davis](#), Finance Saavy CEO
 - Discovery Education - Industry in the Classroom
Room: 106/107/108
 - Moderator: Jackie Smalls, Vice President, Social Impact, Discovery Education
 - Dr. DeNelle West, Chief Academic Officer, Gwinnett County Public Schools
 - Kathleen Kosmoski, Manager, American Society of Mechanical Engineers
 - ED - Advancing Opportunity Through Education/Unlocking Career Success
Room: Berkmar/Parkview
 - Dr. DeAndre Jones, Chief of Staff, Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education, U.S. Department of Education
 - ED – A Conversation on Student Loan Debt Relief
Room: Grayson
 - Ashley Harrington, Senior Advisor, U.S. Department of Education
 - Small Business Administration
Room: Meadowcreek/Brookwood
 - Jeff Patterson, Supervisory Lender Relations/Economic Development Specialist

- 12:00 – 1:00 Lunch [Black owned food trucks in parking lot]
▪ Performance by South Gwinnett High School Orchestra Room 3.101
- 1:05 – 1:50 Courageous Leaders Panel (Discovery Education) Boardroom
▪ Moderators: Dr. Luvelle Brown, Superintendent, Ithaca City Schools, NY and Dr. Christina Kishimoto, CEO, Voice4Equity (former State Superintendent of Hawaii)
▪ Dr. Lisa Herring, Strategic Advisor to the Secretary, US Department of Education
▪ Dr. Devon Horton, Superintendent, DeKalb County School District, GA
▪ Dr. Calvin J. Watts, Superintendent, Gwinnett County Public Schools, GA
- 1:50 – 1:55 Break
- 1:55 – 2:00 Remarks and Introduction of Commission Chair Boardroom
▪ Donna Harris-Aikens, Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategy, US Department of Education
- 2:01 – 2:05 Remarks and Introduction of Panelists Boardroom
▪ Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta, Chair, President’s Advisory Council on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans
- 2:05 – 3:00 Fireside Chat: Representation Matters Boardroom
▪ Moderator: Rep. Malcolm Kenyatta
▪ Stacey Abrams, Former Minority Leader, Georgia House of Representatives
▪ Erika Alexander, Co-Founder, Color Farm Media
▪ Caroline Heldman, Executive Director, The Representation Project
- 3:00 pm Closing Boardroom
▪ Alexis Holmes, Executive Director, White House Initiative on Advancing Educational Equity, Excellence, and Economic Opportunity for Black Americans

Thank you for joining us. Please stay connected.

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