## SYSTEM DESIGN: ENSURING WE SERVE CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN HISTORICALLY DISADVANTAGED

MAY 21ST, 2020

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### **OUTCOMES - PARTICIPANTS WILL**

- Examine the historical inequities of the educational system and how they are being translated into the virtual learning environment
- Identify structures and policies that perpetuate an inequitable school system
- Explore ways to interrupt the current educational system, both in schools and in remote learning environments for more equitable outcomes

### **AWARENESS** OF YOUR BIASES AND INEQUITIES

**Glenn Singleton's Four Agreements for Courageous Conversations:** 

- Speak Your Truth
- Stay Engaged
- Experience Discomfort
- Expect and Accept Non-Closure

## **SYSTEMIC** INEQUITY/RACISM

As you watch this short video, think of ways YOU have benefited from, or been denied, by the system of racism.



### THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE

"The biggest challenge with systemic racism is that there is no single person or entity responsible for it, which makes it very hard to solve..."

# THE HISTORY AND LEGACY OF ANTI-LITERACY LAWS

# "ONCE YOU LEARN TO READ, YOU WILL FOREVER BE FREE"

#### FREDERICK DOUGLASS

# THE LEGACY: JIM CROW LAWS



### THE MISSING HISTORY

How many of us learned in school about these African-American activists who fought against Jim Crow laws?



Ida B. Wells



**Isaiah Montgomery** 



**Charlotte Hawkins Brown** 

# LANDMARK DECISIONS THAT SHAPED THE SYSTEM OF INEQUALITY IN EDUCATION





### THE U.S. SUPREME COURT SYSTEMIZED INEQUITY

- In 1896, U. S. Supreme Court decision to uphold the constitutionality of racial segregation. The Court declared that it didn't conflict with the 14th Amendment as it didn't re-establish slavery.
- It gave constitutional sanction to laws designed to achieve racial segregation by means of separate and supposedly equal public facilities and services for African Americans and whites.
- It served as a controlling **judicial precedent** until overturned by the Supreme Court in Brown v Board of Education of Topeka in 1954.



## **AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the government's attempt to remedy the effects of long-standing discrimination against minority groups and women. It consisted of policies, programs and processes that gave preferences in hiring and admission to higher education.
- In, labeling it "reverse discrimination". 1978 the Regents of UC challenged affirmative action
- The Supreme Court began to impose significant restrictions on race-based affirmation actions in 1989.

# WHAT CAN WE DO?

### EDUCATIONAL EQUITY:

### ALTERING CURRENT PRACTICES AND PERSPECTIVES TO TEACH FOR SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION...

AND TO PROMOTE EQUAL LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS OF ALL RACIAL, CULTURAL, LINGUISTIC, AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS.

ENID LEE, ANTI-RACIST EDUCATIONAL CONSULTANT

# SOLUTIONS

- Systemic problems require systemic solutions
- We are all part of the system
- We all have a role to play in making it better



## SYSTEMIC CHANGE AND DISRUPTION

#### Human Resources Frame

"How do schools align teachers' needs with student outcomes?"

#### • Symbolic Frame

"How do schools create community while honoring shared cultures?"

#### Political Frame

"Whose preferences and interests are to be served by the school?"

#### • Structural Frame

"How should schools be designed to maximize effectiveness?"

Adapted from Bolman & Deal's 4 Frame Model

"...education is that whole system of human training within and without the school house walls which molds and develops men (and women!).

Education must not simply teach work - it must teach life."

W.E.B.Du Bois

How might NOW be an opportunity to transform the system?

### PRIVILEGE AND POWER = RESPONSIBILITY

- Become an ally by using your power to effect change
- Include your school community in conversations and decisions
- Learn what's missing from what you know about history
- Have conversations that might be uncomfortable but necessary to make change
- Look for leaders everywhere including in the mirror!

### POLICIES AND PROCEDURES THAT CREATE INEQUALITIES

- Tracking/Identification of Special Ed and Gifted Students
- Teacher Class Assignments
- Disproportionate/Overrepresentation of one group of teachers
- Allocation of Funds and Resources

### WHAT CAN BE...POST PANDEMIC

Nationalize education decisions about standards, curricula, financing, accounting, etc.



Completely **decentralize education** decisionmaking and funding to families and allow a demand-driven market to emerge. "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change."

**Charles Darwin** 

### FOR MORE INFORMATION...

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