



GFE'S 2017 CONFERENCE – SEL SESSIONS

Equity in Education: Empowering Community Voice

Monday October 16-Wednesday October 18, Washington, DC

Please note – the sessions listed below self-identified as focusing on SEL; many other sessions are focused on topics that also intersect, including equity, family engagement, youth leadership, community partnerships, policy, etc. Please peruse the full agenda to find what you're most interested in!

Monday, 10/16: 3:45-4:30PM: A Community Approach to Social and Emotional Learning

Learn how Bridgeport, Connecticut, with over 22,000 students in the public school system, has approached involving the entire community in moving towards equity for all: students, teachers, administrators, and community members alike. In this session, you will hear from a school principal, a community leader and a professional development provider. Funders will hear directly from the presenters about the role each of us can play in supporting social and emotional development and how far investments can reach!

Moderator: Mirellise Vazquez, Tauck Family Foundation

Monday 10/16: 3:45-5:00 PM: Tearing Down Walls: Three New England Funders Respond to the Election

For many, images of New England conjure bucolic landscapes and largely, liberal-leaning homogenous communities. Just as the U.S. has grown more diverse, so has New England, and the recent election has surfaced racial tensions that were often ignored. This session will focus on how three New England foundations stepped up to support and lift the voices of vulnerable community members. Doing so required nimbleness and the ability to listen to the community. Participants will hear about the work being funded in schools and in rural and urban communities.

Moderator: Delia Arellano-Weddleton, Nellie Mae Education Foundation

Tuesday 10/17: 10:45AM-12PM: The Supportive School Communities Project: Promoting SEL in Chicago

In communities divided by language barriers, cultural differences, and issues surrounding immigration, it can be challenging to create strong school-family-community partnerships. The Supportive School Communities Project has worked to redress these kinds of issues by uniting schools, families and the community around a single goal: to promote social and emotional learning (SEL) as a way to help all students develop into knowledgeable, responsible, caring and contributing members of society. This session tells the story of how we are working to make this goal a reality in a Chicago community.

Moderator: Karen VanAusdal, CASEL

Tuesday, 10/17: 1:15- 2:30 PM: From Symbols to Systems: Voices Building Family-School-Community Partnerships

How can school districts move past “parent involvement” and one-sided “parent and community engagement” strategies toward true family, school and community partnership that promotes greater educational equity supporting student success? Join school district and foundation leaders as they share systemic change pursued to generate deeper family, school and community partnerships than seemed possible just a few years ago. Learn about the research, mindset, uses of data, policy and leadership development, and other equity-focused capacity-building strategies to experience similar gains.

Moderator: Jackie Coleman, Hartford Foundation for Public Giving

Tuesday, October 17: 1:15-2:30 PM. From Trauma to Transformation: Bringing Lived Experience into the Classroom

More than 12% of U.S. adults has had four or more Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES). Prolonged activation of stress response in children disrupts brain architecture, affects memory, language and skill acquisition, and increases long-term health disorders. Research demonstrates that children with four or more ACES are 32 times more likely to have learning and behavior problems than children with none. Presenters will relay their experiences addressing this public health crisis through community-building, family-strengthening strategies and integrating trauma-informed practices into classrooms to create responsive learning climates that promote academic success.

Speaker: Phyllis Glink, The Irving Harris Foundation

Tuesday 10/17: 2:45-4PM: Using the Science of Adolescent Development to Build Student and Community Voice

Recent major advancements in the science of learning and adolescent development provide significant insights into the importance of empowering student agency and voice in the context of their communities as a powerful learning strategy for middle and high-school age young people. Join a working session with leaders in adolescent development, practice, philanthropy and youth organizing to discuss how best to move forward in this new and rapidly developing area to help develop effective adolescents and improve the success of youth organizing outcomes.

Moderator: Dan Leeds, National Public Education Support Fund

Tuesday 10/17: 5:15-6:30PM: Learning is Social and Emotional – How Grantmakers are Collaborating to Support Thriving Youth.

Co-hosted by Grantmakers for Thriving Youth and the Funders’ Collaborative for Innovative Measurement. Learn how grantmakers are collaborating to support advancements in practice, policy and research to provide all young people with the opportunities to develop the skills and capacities they need to thrive in school, work, citizenship and life. Lead funders will provide snapshots of the collaborators’ strategies, current projects and opportunities for grantmaker involvement.