

# The Re-Segregation of American Schools: The Economics of Inequity

August 18, 2021 | 10:00am to 1:00 pm

Speaker bios



## **Donald Bowers, Vice President, Federal Reserve Bank, Houston Branch & C@R Board Member**

Donald Bowers is Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas. In this role, Donald serves as secretary to the Houston Branch Board of Directors and supports the Dallas Fed's Industry Outreach and Business Continuity functions.

As a native Houstonian, Donald demonstrates a sincere interest in his community and in education. He currently serves on the board of the American Leadership Forum, Children at Risk, the Houston Area Urban League, and he is a trustee at Rice University.

Donald and his wife, Shawn, are the proud parents of two outstanding young men. One is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy and is a Lieutenant in the United States Navy. The other is a graduate of Texas State University and is a special education instructor and coach in Pearland ISD. Donald received his bachelors' degree from Rice University and M.B.A. from Sam Houston State University with a concentration in Banking and Finance.



## **Frazier Wilson Ph.D. – Vice President, Shell Oil Company Foundation, and Director, Workforce Development & Diversity Outreach, Shell Oil Company**

Dr. Frazier Wilson directs Shell's corporate and foundation contributions, workforce, community, employee giving, and education outreach programs. Wilson has worked at Shell for over 25 years, beginning in accounting and community relations roles. Prior to joining Shell, he worked in education as a teacher, volunteer and mentor. He holds a Bachelor of Science in accounting from Jackson State University and an MBA and doctorate in Educational Leadership from Texas Southern University.

Active in the community, with a passion for workforce development, mentoring and youth sports. Dr. Wilson represents Shell Oil Company on the Greater Houston Partnership Up-Skill Houston Executive Committee, a nationally recognized employer-led initiative that develops the talent pipeline to meet the needs of Greater Houston's economy and its people. He also represents Shell efforts with the Greater Houston Black Chamber Leadership program as a mentor for early career participants. Dr. Wilson is a graduate of Leadership Houston, American Leadership Forum, the United Way's Project Blueprint and a mentor with Big Brothers and Big Sisters. He currently serves on the boards of the Smithsonian Science Education Center, Texas Southern University Foundation and Museum of Fine Arts Houston. He is chairman emeritus of 100 Black Men of Metropolitan Houston. Recent honors include induction into the Texas Southern University College of Education Hall of Fame, recipient of the Fort Valley State University Cooperative Development Energy Program Platinum Achievement Award, CSTEM STEMing The Tide Corporate Leadership Award and recognition by Children at Risk as one of the Thirty Most Influential Leaders.



**Robert Nelson, Director, Digital Scholarship Lab, University of Richmond**

Robert K. Nelson is the Director of the Digital Scholarship Lab and Head of Digital Engagement in Boatwright Library. He is the editor of *American Panorama: An Atlas of United States History*, which includes “Mapping Inequality: Redlining in New Deal America.” *American Panorama* received the 2019 Roy Rosenzweig Prize for Innovation in Digital History from the American Historical Association and was named a tech innovation by the Chronicle of Higher Education’s in 2016; “Mapping Inequality” received Honorable Mention for the 2019 Garfinkel Prize from the American Studies Association’s Digital Humanities Caucus. Other digital history projects that Nelson has developed include *Mining the Dispatch* and a remediated, enhanced version of Charles Paullin’s 1932 *Atlas of the Historical Geography of the United States*. Nelson teaches course related to antislavery and slavery in the United States and about the digital humanities.



**Colleen Dippel, Founder and CEO, Families Empowered**

Colleen Dippel founded Families Empowered in 2009 and is the current Chief Executive Officer. Families Empowered is a statewide parent service organization that has supported over 100,000 families across four cities in Texas. She is a former public-school teacher. Colleen left teaching to help launch a private sector education technology start-up. In 2001, she became the Director of the KIPP School Leadership Program. There she supported the implementation of a year-long training and evaluation program for school principals. In 2008, she joined Aquinas Company as the Director of Education Initiatives, and she launched Families Empowered while serving in this role. Colleen was awarded Leadership for Education Equity’s Emerging Political Leader Fellowship and an Aspen Institute Pahrara Fellowship. She holds a BA from The University of New York at Albany and a MA in Educational Leadership from National Louis University. Colleen is the proud mother of two active school age children.



**Jennifer Miyake-Trapp, Assistant Professor of Education, Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology**

Dr. Jennifer Miyake-Trapp is a scholar-practitioner committed to social justice and educational equity through instructional transformation. She strives to empower educators to enact asset-based pedagogical approaches in diverse learning contexts. Her primary interests focus on culturally sustaining curriculum and instruction, teacher critical reflection, instructional design, learning technologies, and English language teaching. Always close to K-12 classrooms, she frequently collaborates with local public schools to develop student-centered, community-based programs and partnerships. Dr. Miyake-Trapp is a leader in online learning and currently serves as Chair of the MA in TESOL program, the MS in Leadership suite of programs, and the EdD in Learning Technologies at the Pepperdine University Graduate School of Education and Psychology.



**Deb Delisle, President and CEO, Alliance for Excellent Education**

Deborah S. Delisle is the president and chief executive officer (CEO) of the Alliance for Excellent Education (All4Ed), a Washington, DC–based national policy, practice, and advocacy organization dedicated to ensuring all students, particularly those who are traditionally underserved, graduate from high school well prepared for success in college, work, and citizenship.

Prior to her current position with All4Ed, Delisle served as executive director and CEO of ASCD, a professional community of more than 120,000 education professionals around the world. She also served as U.S. assistant secretary of elementary and secondary education from 2012 to 2015. During that time, she played a pivotal role in policy and management issues affecting prekindergarten, elementary and secondary education, and oversaw eighty-six programs with a portfolio of nearly \$26 billion.

During Delisle’s more than forty years in education, she has served in a variety of roles at the local, state, and federal levels. Prior to her role at the U.S. Department of Education, Delisle was a senior fellow at the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE) where she worked to enhance educator performance systems and create transformative school and district cultures. She also served as Ohio’s thirty-fifth state superintendent of public instruction and was the superintendent of the Cleveland Heights–University Heights (Ohio) City School District. Delisle has served on several education-related boards and received numerous honors, including having a school named after her in honor of her lifetime of service to students. In July 2014 she was identified by the National Journal as one of five women in America who influence and shape national education policy.



**Meshea L. Poore, Esq.**

Meshea L. Poore, Esq., a long-time champion of underrepresented people, serves as vice president and chief diversity officer for the West Virginia University Division of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. In that role, she motivates the Mountaineer family to recognize the value in diversity and challenges all who interact with her to create transformational change.

Poore has been helping light the way toward equity throughout her career. An attorney who served in the WV House of Delegates from 2009-2014, she is an accomplished and sought-after motivational speaker, public and political leadership consultant and strategist. The Women’s Campaign Fund named her a “Game Changer” during her campaign for the U.S. House of Representatives for WV’s 2nd Congressional District. She has mentored and consulted with hundreds of elected officials throughout the nation as they seek higher office. Poore is also an experienced educator who served as an adjunct professor at WV State University, as a faculty member in residence

at the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University and has teaching privileges at WVU College of Law. In 2017, Poore became the first African-American woman named president of the West Virginia State Bar since its 1947 founding. Prior to operating her own practice, she was an attorney in the Office of the Kanawha County Public Defender in Charleston, WV.

She is an alumna of the prestigious German Marshall Memorial Fellowship, a member of the executive committee for the Commission on Access, Diversity and Excellence for the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities and is President of the Big 12 Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. Poore earned her bachelor's degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C., and her law degree from

Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. She also graduated from the Women's Campaign School at Yale University.

Poore has recently facilitated insightful conversations with leading voices in social justice work, including Ibram X. Kendi, National Book Award Winner and author of *How to Be an Antiracist*; Nikole Hannah-Jones, Pulitzer Prize winning reporter and creator of the landmark 1619 Project; and W. Kamau Bell, sociopolitical comedian and host of the Emmy Award winning CNN docuseries *United Shades of America*.



**Sharon Watkins Jones, Director, Texas Racial Equity Collaborative, CHILDREN AT RISK**

Sharon Watkins Jones is Director of Texas Racial Equity Collaborative at Children at Risk. Her career has included positions of leadership in public affairs and higher education administration. She is a former Director of Political Strategies at ACLU of Texas and Director of Career and Technical Education at Lone Star College System. She is also owner of WatkinsJones political consulting. Sharon was born and raised in Waco, Texas and received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology from The University of Texas at Austin. Sharon volunteers extensively. She is an advocate for GirlTrek, a black women's wellness organization. She is a life member of NAACP, a member of The Links, Inc., Texas Spring Cypress Chapter and has been a member of Delta Sigma Theta Public Service Sorority, Inc for 35 years. She has been married for 27 years to Michael Jones and they are proud parents of Kaitlyn, a graduate student at The University of Houston and Elliott, a high school senior, headed to Sam Houston State University in the fall of 2021.



**Victoria Franklin, Retired Teacher, Cy Fair and Houston ISD**

Victoria is a native of West Philadelphia attending inner city schools. Her college education took place in rural Pennsylvania attending Lycoming College. Moving to East Orange New Jersey, Victoria began her educational career as the Director Head Teacher of a Day Care Center in a Morristown New Jersey Housing Project. Once relocating to Houston she was employed in the Houston Independent School Districts Rice School of International Communication and Durham Elementary where she received The Teacher of the year award. Then moving to Cypress Fairbanks ISD Reed Elementary where she received ESL teacher of the year. Her 40 year career in education included, 3rd grade gifted and talented, 5th grade Read 180 program for struggling readers and as a parent of three sons that attended both the HISD and CFISD districts. Although currently retired Victoria continues her involvement with youth through the Jack and Jill of America organization as the Associate Chairperson and volunteering in the classrooms of friends.



**Dr. Beverly E. Cross, Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education,  
College of Education, University of Memphis.**

Beverly Cross is the Morrie and Lillian Moss Chair of Excellence in Urban Education in the College of Education. She received her BS degree from Alabama A&M University and her MA and PhD degrees from The Ohio State University. During her professional service in education over the past 34 years, she worked in Ohio as a high school teacher and state department of education supervisor. As a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee she co-led an innovative program to prepare teacher leaders for urban schools. Since arriving in Memphis, she has designed a Graduate Certificate in Urban Education, created The Center for Urban Interdisciplinary Research and Engagement), both approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents, and coordinated the Johnson Scholars Program that develops exceptional urban educators for the community. She chairs and

serves on numerous doctoral student dissertations.

Her research focuses on equity in education, urban education, and teacher education. Her research has appeared in national scholarly journals such as the International Journal of Educational Reform, Educational Leadership, the Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy and Education Studies. She guest edited a special issue of the journal, Theory Into Practice, focused on urban education. In addition to numerous book chapters, she co-edited A Look Inside Social Justice Practices: A Primer for Social Justice and Teacher Lives in the Bluff City: Voices and Perspectives from Classrooms.

She was recently served as co-PI on a grant entitled the African and African American Institute that engages an interdisciplinary group of faculty, university students, and classroom teachers in learning abroad in Ghana. This experience is used to offer a summer institute for area high school students to enable them to make strong connections between African and African history, arts, and culture (proven to enhance academic achievement). In another recent grant award, Dr. Cross collaborated with two external partners, Teach for America and Teach Plus, to design and provide professional development to area teachers to enhance their teacher effectiveness. Her current work centers on designing a new urban teacher preparation program in collaboration with local school districts. The program focuses on local recruitment of teachers, culturally relevant teaching, deep content knowledge, and whole-school reform.

Dr. Cross recently served on the Research and Dissemination Committee for The American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and the Division B: Lifetime Award Committee for the American Educational Research Association.



**Randy Bowman, Founder and CEO, At Last!**

Committed to attacking intergenerational poverty by improving urban educational outcomes, Randy Bowman founded AT LAST!—The Urban Boarding Experience, and serves as its CEO. AT LAST! admitted its first Scholars-In-Residence, and began delivering program services to them on March 7, 2021. It helps aspirational children perform better during the 7 hours they are in school by focusing on the educational resources and tools they receive during the 17 hours they are not in school.

He is also an accomplished entrepreneur, leader and businessperson with a proven track record of addressing complex challenges with pragmatic innovation in both the for profit and nonprofit worlds (including creating new strategies, adapting business models, creating and standing up new organizations, and driving execution to the successful attainment of objectives).

He co-founded, co-owned, and was President of a successful and innovative company that served the North American continent logistics and transportation needs of Fortune 500 companies from 2001 until selling his interest in early 2017. This 16-year run included 49 consecutive quarters of operating profit.

Prior to launching the logistics company, Bowman spent 12 years practicing law. He was a corporate finance lawyer, representing publicly-held and privately-owned clients in transactions ranging from initial capitalizations through ultimate liquidity events and all times in between. He also established a considerable entertainment practice, negotiating deals to finance or create entertainment content, provide services in the entertainment or sports industries, and exploit and/or acquire rights in entertainment or sports content.

He now invests for his own account (alone and with others), primarily in under-invested portions of urban areas (Reimagine Red Bird and MarLo1 of Dallas) to address the challenges he experienced as one of four children raised by an impoverished mother in the Pleasant Grove area of Dallas.

He also serves on select boards, including the board of a publicly-traded financial advisory services and investment management firm, Westwood Holdings Group (WHG). He is Chair of the board for Impact Dallas Capital (a mezzanine fund supporting Mayor Rawlings' effort to increase economic development in Southern Dallas) and has served on that board five years. He also served five years as a Chair and board member for the City of Dallas Employee Retirement Fund (the \$3.7B pension fund for all City employees who are not police and fire). He was also Chair of the Parkland Foundation Board during the last five years of its successful campaign to raise the final \$150,000,000 necessary to build the new \$1.3B Parkland Hospital.

He holds a BA from the University of Texas, is a member of the Friar Society (UT's oldest and most prestigious honor society), a member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated, and graduated magna cum laude from Whittier College School of Law, where he served as the Editor-in-Chief of the Law Review.



**Dr. Fred Bonner, Professor and Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership and Counseling and Founding Executive Director of the Minority Achievement, Creativity and High-Ability (MACH-III) Center at Prairie View A&M University**

Dr. Fred A. Bonner, II is Professor and Endowed Chair in Educational Leadership and Counseling at Prairie View A&M University. He is formerly the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Endowed Chair in Education in the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University and an esteemed expert in the field of diversity in education. Prior to joining Rutgers, he was Professor of Higher Education Administration and Dean of Faculties at Texas A&M University-College Station. He earned a B.A. in chemistry from the University of North Texas, an M.S. Ed. in curriculum and instruction from Baylor University, and an Ed.D. in higher education administration & college teaching from the University of Arkansas. Bonner has been the recipient of numerous awards, including the American Association for Higher Education Black Caucus Dissertation Award and the Educational Leadership, Counseling and Foundation's Dissertation of the Year Award from the University of Arkansas College of Education. His work has been featured nationally and internationally. He is the author of the recently released book, *Building on Resilience: Models and Frameworks of Black Male Success Across the P-20 Pipeline*.



**Arthur Mitchell, Executive Director, STEM Equity Alliance**

Arthur Mitchell is the Executive Director for the STEM Equity Alliance (STEM EA), a nonprofit dedicated to three goals: creating systems whereby STEM subjects are taught using culturally responsive approaches; increasing the diversity of STEM educators; and creating a more durable STEM pipeline for groups which are underrepresented in STEM career fields. Through the STEM EA he provides clients and partners key strategic direction and leadership development in systems change aligned to cultural proficiency and equity goals. STEM EA has partnered with the PA Department of Education to create a statewide network to increase STEM teacher diversity through the creation of school district and higher education strategic planning and action teams. He also serves as a technical advisor for equity for the Washington STEM and Washington LASER networks where he has

helped them refine their strategic plan to intentionally center on equity and helped to build the capacity of their regional networks. Arthur is also the inaugural STEM Equity Fellow for the Philadelphia Regional Institute for STEM Educators (PRISE). In addition to his work with at STEM EA, he is a co-founder of the National Institute for Inclusive Competitiveness (NIIC), a national hub of strategists playing a critical role creating the regional economic infrastructures needed to increase asset ownership, entrepreneurship, and productivity for America's Most Vulnerable Populations. The NIIC's mission is to accelerate economic productivity in targeted vulnerable communities in partnership with HBCU and regional economies. Through the NIIC Arthur leads a collaboration with the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) where they developed and manage the Takeda STEM HBCU Innovation, Industry, and Immersion (I3) program, sponsored by Takeda Pharmaceuticals. I3 is a pipeline to the doctorate program for STEM students from HBCUs.

Arthur has served in K-12 education for almost 30 years, working in the most impoverished urban and the most affluent suburban districts in the Mid-Atlantic region as a teacher and administrator. He has held positions of influence in a variety of institutions in the directing county and state level activities tasked with improving STEM curriculum and instruction, designing robust professional development systems, fostering innovation, and securing industry and higher education partnerships.

He is a graduate of Howard University (Microbiology), Temple University (Science Education) and Gwynedd Mercy University (K-12 Administration).



**Sharmily Roy, Director of the Center for Social Measurement & Evaluation, CHILDREN AT RISK**

Prior to Children at Risk, Sharmily Roy has work experience in global and domestic public health programs. At the Texas Department of State Health Services, she supported evaluation and technical assistance to improve disease surveillance and reporting. Growing up, Sharmily held a passion for becoming an aid worker to help others, which has inevitably carried into her work today. She is dedicated to improving systems to serve the needs of children so they can live safe, fulfilled, and empowered lives in good health. Sharmily is originally from Atlanta, GA, where she received her Bachelor's degree in International Relations from Agnes Scott College and Masters in Public Health at Georgia State University. She is currently pursuing a doctoral degree at UTHealth Science Center at Houston.



**Isabel Lopez, Executive Director, NestQuest**

Isabel Lopez is the Executive Director for NestQuest Houston and has been part of the team since its founding in 2017. She has led NestQuest from its very first family to where we stand today, supporting over 50 families with access to quality, affordable housing and excellent public schools. Isabel spent several years as a participant of the Public Housing Program as a teen and into the early years of her adulthood. She experienced the stigmatism, low quality education and limited opportunities for students and their families while on the program. She has worked to increase access for families for 13 years with Houston Housing Authority and Harris County Housing Authority. Her knowledge and daily experiences while working with the Housing Choice Voucher Program enables NestQuest to provide exceptional service and resources to increase each family's path to success and stability.



**Helen Stagg – CEO, Change Happens!**

Helen Stagg is Chief Executive Officer of Change Happens, a community-based social service organization in Houston, Texas. Change Happens is one of the largest minority-founded organizations in the Greater Gulf Coast Region of Texas. As CEO Ms. Stagg is responsible for operational planning and management, program operations and oversight, addressing strategic organizational issues, human resources planning and management, financial planning and management, fundraising, and community relations/advocacy. Change Happens' mission is to "empower people to help themselves" and to this end the organization is makes a difference to the 65,000 clients it serves annually. Ms. Stagg's role in leading one of Houston's premier non-profit organizations has resulted in exceptional growth that expanded the organization's program to include: after school and summer

enrichment programs, HIV prevention, housing and supportive services, workforce development and employment, reentry support programs, case management, enrollment in health insurance coverage for the uninsured, substance misuse prevention and treatment, mentoring; and neighborhood and economic revitalization, affordable housing, community engagement and expanding services for children and families. Ms. Stagg received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Texas A&M University, Commerce. Ms. Stagg completed her graduate studies and received a Social Work Master's Degree from the University of Houston, Graduate College of Social Work. After receiving her undergraduate degree, Ms. Stagg had a long career with Texas Health and Human Services Commission. She joined Change Happens and began her work in non-profit leadership. Ms. Stagg is a Certified Prevention Specialist and an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist. Ms. Stagg serves on the board of the Texas Association of Substance Abuse Programs, the Greater Houston Healthy Marriage Coalition, and the Advisory Board of the University of Houston's Health Research Institute. She was an honoree of the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work's 50 for 50 honorees (2019). This recognition honors 50 GCSW alumni who "represent the vision of achieving social, racial, economic, and political justice." Ms. Stagg was recently named one of three recipients awarded the Third Ward Go Champion award for her dedication in spearheading comprehensive, residentled, and collaborative community development in Houston's Third Ward. Ms. Stagg is has served as an adjunct professor at the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work and Houston Community College.





**Derrell Bradford, President, 50CAN**

Derrell Bradford is the president of 50CAN: The 50-State Campaign for Achievement Now. In his role, Derrell trains and recruits local leaders across the country to serve as executive directors of state CANs, advocacy fellows, and citizen advocates. He leads the National Voices fellowship which focuses on education policy, media, and political collaboration, and is a member of the organization's executive team.

Derrell previously served as the executive director at Better Education for Kids. At B4K Derrell worked to secure passage of the tenure reform legislation TEACH NJ. B4K's advocacy also led to electoral victories for reform-minded candidates across the state. Prior to B4K, Derrell spent nine years with New Jersey's Excellent Education for Everyone (E3) as director of communications and then executive director. While there he also served on the state's Educator Effectiveness Task Force.

Derrell frequently contributes to education debates in print, digital, radio and TV media. Derrell is a member of the Aspen Global Leadership Network (Pahara Fall 2016) and serves on several boards including The National Association of Charter School Authorizers Advisory Board and the PIE Network. He was the founding board chair of EdBuild, a member of the editorial advisory board at The Line, a member of the AEI leadership network and a senior visiting fellow at the Thomas B. Fordham Institute. A native of Baltimore, Derrell attended the St. Paul's School for Boys and the University of Pennsylvania, where he received a bachelor's degree in English.