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**Equal Opportunity Schools**

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### **Equal Opportunity Schools Announces Free Virtual Symposium Focused on Race, Equity & The Future of School, March 1-31, 2021**

*National Seattle-based nonprofit targets educators, school leaders, and administrators in monthlong virtual event to provide a space for education equity champions to share best practices and connect during the pandemic*

**SEATTLE, WA** - Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) today announced its free Virtual Symposium, *Race, Equity & The Future of School*, scheduled for March 1-31, 2021. The series of monthlong events, for EOS partners and the public, is designed to foster community—even more so during a pandemic—amongst educators, education leaders, thought partners, activists, community leaders, parents, and all who advocate on behalf of low-income and students of color.

EOS partners can customize their experience and register for the events that best fit their schedule and roles as education professionals. The event will offer a wide range of breakout sessions, known as *Role Alikes*, that provide a space for educators to share ideas, network, and be in community with those in their same role across the country. Attendees can also enjoy fun networking sessions, giveaways, a panel discussion, musical performances, and keynote addresses from LGBTQ advocate David Johns, award-winning author Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, and Harvard professor Dr. Karen L. Mapp.

#### **Kick-Off: Coffee Conversations with Dr. Sasha Rabkin, March 1**

#### **Orientation: Navigating a Monthlong Event with Dr. Sasha Rabkin, March 2**

EOS' Chief Strategy Officer Dr. Sasha Rabkin will host a soft-opening coffee hour on March 1. Followed by an orientation on navigating a monthlong event using the Whova App on March 2, ahead of the opening ceremony on March 4. *Race, Equity & The Future of School* will kick-off as a conversation between keynote speaker David J. Johns of the National Black Justice Coalition, attendees, and EOS staff about educating all children and will feature a performance from [Seattle-based violinist Ben Hunter](#).

Other keynote speakers will include Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, Associate Professor of Language and Literacy, Georgia State University (GSU) and Director of the GSU Urban Literacy Collaborative & Clinic, and Dr. Karen L. Mapp, Senior Lecturer on Education at the Harvard Graduate School and Faculty Director of the Education Policy and Management Master's Program, to offer their expertise on balancing educational opportunities for minority students. **All keynote sessions are free and open to the public.**

**Keynotes: David J. Johns, March 4 | Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, March 18 | Dr. Karen L. Mapp, March 25**

David J. Johns is the executive director of the National Black Justice Coalition, America's leading national civil rights organization dedicated to the empowerment of Black LGBTQ people through coalition building, federal policy change, research, and education. Johns was the first executive director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for African Americans by President Barack H. Obama, which worked across federal agencies and communities nationwide to produce a more effective continuum of education and workforce development programs for African American students of all ages. Johns is currently pursuing his Ph.D. in sociology and education policy at Columbia University.

Dr. Gholnecsar (Gholdy) Muhammad studies Black historical excellence within educational communities with goals of reframing curriculum and instruction today. Her cutting-edge ideas have earned Muhammad numerous awards, including the 2014 National Council of Teachers of English Promising New Researcher Award, and the 2016 NCTE Janet Emig Award, to name a few. She works with teachers and young people across the United States and South Africa on best practices in culturally responsive instruction. She is the author of the best-selling book, *Cultivating Genius: An Equity Model for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy*.

Over the past 20 years, Karen L. Mapp, EdD has committed her research and practice to the cultivation of partnerships among families, community members, and educators that support student achievement and school improvement. In 2020, Dr. Mapp became the host and author of Scholastic's webinar series *Building Powerful Partnerships with Families*. She is a founding member of the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement and serves on the board of several organizations, including The Hyams Foundation. Dr. Mapp served as a consultant on family and community engagement to the U. S. Department of Education. Mapp is the author and co-author of several articles and books.

**Role Alike Sessions, Networking Session & Panel Discussion, March 8-31**

They will be joined by a plethora of other speakers and EOS staff throughout the month in Role Alike and networking sessions and a panel discussion.

- **Role Alike Sessions: Mondays, Tuesdays, and two Wednesdays (see website for dates)**  
Role Alike sessions give current EOS partners a space to be in community with others who share their role in schools across the country and who work to ensure education equity for underserved students. Through these sessions, EOS aims to provide toe holds from which partners can climb higher to a more secure perspective from which to act courageously. Role Alike tracks will be offered for counselors, principals, school leaders, superintendents, district leaders, and teachers.  
**Role Alike sessions are free and open to EOS partners only.**
- **Building Equitable Learning Environments (BELE) Reunion and Networking Session, March 19**  
BELE works with educators, policymakers, grantmakers, schools, and school support organizations to innovate and implement equitable learning environments that are grounded in research and the science of learning and development. This session will give attendees the opportunity to network, build community with equity champions across the country, share ideas, get inspired, and have fun.

- **Initiate Equity Panel Discussion, March 22**

Superintendents across the country will share how they leverage EOS' tools to increase access to advanced classes for low-income and students of color.

**Whova App**

EOS will be implementing Whova for the event, a platform that allows participants to join the symposium from anywhere on any device or browser, to offer attendees a customizable and thoroughly engaging experience. Sign up for sessions and network with conference attendees via the app.

**For More Information**

To learn more or to register for the symposium visit: <https://eoschools.org/news/events/2021-virtual-symposium/>

**About Equal Opportunity Schools ([www.eoschools.org](http://www.eoschools.org))**

Equal Opportunity Schools is a national nonprofit organization serving school districts of all sizes. We are here to help better serve students of color and low-income students and improve the accessibility of advanced learning classes. We provide tools such as a gaps chart analysis, equity pathways reports, beginning and end-of-year student/administrator surveys, best practices from more than 700 schools in 220+ districts across 33 states, and support to make equity and improved access to rigorous courses a district priority. For more information, please visit [www.eoschools.org](http://www.eoschools.org).

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