

# 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL *Conference* PROGRAM



A golden ticket graphic with a decorative border. On the left side, it features the NBCDI logo (National Black Child Development Institute) and the '50 FORWARD' logo. The center of the ticket has the words 'GOLDEN TICKET' in large, ornate, golden letters. Below this, it reads 'LONGEVITY THROUGH LEGACY' and 'OCTOBER 14-15'. At the bottom right, it says 'START TIME: 12:00PM EST'.



## Longevity *Through* Legacy



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# NBCDI 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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## ABOUT NBCDI

Established in 1970, the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI) is a national nonprofit organization with a mission "to improve and advance the quality of life for Black children and families through education and advocacy." With our National Affiliate Network, we develop and deliver strengths-based, culturally relevant, evidence-based, and trauma-informed curricula and programs focused on health and wellness, family engagement, and early literacy. We also support increased access to effective education by providing professional development scholarships to early childhood educators. NBCDI, our National Affiliate Network, and our members advocate for and inform education policies at the federal, state, and local levels to support equitable systems for Black children and families across the country.

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

Welcome to our first ever fully virtual conference! This special occasion kicks off our 50th anniversary and represents just how much our world has changed. For example, our ways of gathering. Our need to be in community runs so deep that we are pivoting to online gatherings to ensure that we still experience the magic of being together. It proves how much we need each other. In order to thrive fully, we need

our communities and our collective belonging. As I mark the beginning of my journey at the helm of NBCDI, I am honored to be a part of this community and will lean on you all to see the mission of NBCDI realized.

I am proud to bring new leadership to NBCDI. At our 50th Anniversary, I am profoundly aware of the need to balance ushering in a vision for NBCDI's next 50 years with honoring 50 years of tradition and legacy. As such, we are opening conference in alignment with decades of tradition by having a performance of "Lift Every Voice and Sing," and having children recite the pledge of allegiance. I recognize that for some, it may be challenging to have our children recite specifically "liberty and justice for all" when we as a country are so far from accomplishing this ideal. However, NBCDI is an organization dedicated to the fight for liberty and justice for all. For our children and as part of our work, we believe that it is essential that our children know that this is their country. Their ancestors built it and their mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, sisters, and brothers continue to shape the best parts of it. We fight for them not because it's a nice thing to do, but because as Americans, they have rights that this country must provide them. Reciting the pledge of allegiance is not about blind allegiance, but about being empowered to demand that this country live up to its promise.

Author and activist Arundhati Roy said, "Historically, pandemics have forced humans to break with the past and imagine their world anew. This one is no different. It is a portal, a gateway between one world and the next. We can choose to walk through it, dragging the carcasses of our prejudice and hatred, our avarice, our data banks and dead ideas, our dead rivers, and smoky skies behind us. Or we can walk through lightly, with little luggage, ready to imagine another world. And ready

to fight for it." As the new President and CEO of NBCDI, I say to you all that we've been called to create the new normal and we are ready to fight for a brighter tomorrow for Black children and families as we begin to set the vision for the next 50 years together during this conference.

NBCDI has been at the forefront of social justice, centering the possibilities, not the problems, of Black children and families; claiming that being Black is not a risk factor; changing early childhood policy; and convening stakeholders across the educational continuum, while also implementing culturally relevant and affirming programs. We stand at the intersection of long-term systemic change and immediate provision of key resources. Our immediate attention is needed as we work together to bring children and educators back to school under difficult circumstances that include everything from the politicizing of face masks, to dealing with the undoubtable trauma of COVID-19 and social unrest. Our children and families have faced the loss of loved ones to coronavirus, and experienced homelessness, hunger, social isolation, and the imposition of online suspensions and expulsions. While we work together to address the devastation of our communities and gather to heal, we will also celebrate the strength and brilliance we have shown in the face of adversity over this past year and in the 50-year history of NBCDI.

This is why I am looking forward to our 50th Anniversary Virtual Conference. It is a time for us to reflect on how far we have come and set the course for where we are going. As we convene generations of activists, educators, change agents, and community leaders, we pay homage to the foundation laid by our ancestors and elders, and we acknowledge the sacrifices and contributions of Black people throughout American history. I am so grateful that NBCDI convenes the top educators, scholars, activists, and change agents in the Black community to share stories, exchange knowledge, and display the beauty and brilliance of Black people during conference.

I am elated to join the great legacy of NBCDI and the remarkable work it has contributed over the past 50 years. During our two days together, we will celebrate our collective efforts to enhance the lives of Black children and families, honor the legacy of our past, and set forth the vision for our future. Thank you for continuing to fight with us. Our partners make us stronger. And thank you for joining us for this triumphant milestone: 50Forward. As the late John Lewis would say to us all, let's get into some "Good Trouble" together.

**Dr. Leah Austin, Ed.D.**

President & CEO, National Black Child Development Institute

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

## WELCOME TO THE NBCDI 50TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE



**Roland Martin**

Our 50th Anniversary Conference will be moderated by **Roland Martin**, Host and Managing Editor of #RolandMartinUnfiltered.

This year's conference is virtual. You will join the conference by logging into the conference website, using the same email address that you used to register for the conference. During conference, if you have any questions, feel free to type questions in the chat box or call (202) 833-2220 and select option 7. While we'll miss seeing you in person, we've made it easy for conference participants to network. Head over to the **Community** space on the conference homepage, sign in, and join the **Community**. You will find conference attendees names, photos, and bios.

You'll also find two cool features — the ability to:

- Send a message to anyone in the **Community**.
- "Star" your favorite contacts. With the star feature, you can keep track of conference participants you connected with or want to connect with later. If you are enjoying a conference session or panel discussion, be sure to head over to the **Community** and star the speaker or panelist so you can connect.

The key to a virtual conference is ensuring camaraderie and community engagement, so make sure to connect with others, just like you would in person. In addition to the **Community** space for conference attendees, the chat feature will be available during conference, and everyone can comment and post conference happenings on social media with hashtag #50Forward.

## SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14

12:00–12:45 PM ET	Opening Celebration: NBCDI Virtual 50th Anniversary
12:45–1:00 PM ET	Networking Break
1:00–2:30 PM ET	Legacy Voices, 50 Years and Counting: The Spirit of Sankofa
2:30–4:00 PM ET	Featured Session: If Not Us Who?: Black Children and Mental Health
2:30–4:00 PM ET	Men of NBCDI: The Impact of COVID-19 on Black Boys and Fatherhood
4:00–5:00 PM ET	Concert from the Couch

### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 15

12:00–12:05 PM ET	50Forward Reflections
12:05–1:00 PM ET	Intergenerational Roundtable Discussions
1:00–1:30 PM ET	EDx Speakers
1:30–1:45 PM ET	Networking Break
1:45–2:45 PM ET	Voices from the Field
2:45–3:30 PM ET	Closing Keynote & Celebration



# 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

NBCDI is excited for you to join us for our 50th Anniversary Virtual Conference. We know you will enjoy the program. We want to introduce you to some important people who helped make it all possible, and give you a layout of our two days of celebration.

## Meet our 50th Anniversary Conference Co-Chairs:



**Geoffrey Canada**, President, Harlem Children's Zone. He has become nationally recognized for his pioneering work helping children and families in Harlem and as a passionate advocate for education reform. Mr. Canada founded the Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ), which the *New York Times Magazine* called "one of the most ambitious social

experiments of our time." In October 2005, Mr. Canada was named one of "America's Best Leaders" by *U.S. News & World Report*. In 2014, he announced his retirement at the end of the school year, ensuring that he will continue to remain a passionate advocate for education and poverty issues.



**Angela Wiggins**, NBCDI Board Secretary and BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee. She has two decades of experience in corporate philanthropy, strategic communications, and external affairs. Ms. Wiggins has proven leadership and experience building partnerships that

drive corporate priorities, amplify brand awareness and reputation, and improve communities. Currently at BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, she manages Community Relations and Foundations that support nonprofit partners in the state.

### NBCDI is grateful to our **50TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE**

for their hard work and contribution to our virtual conference. Thank you:

- Gloria Blevins, BCDI-Cleveland President
- A. Scott Bolden, Reed Smith LLP
- Commissioner Bruce Boyden, Head Start Program, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
- Kenneth Braswell, Fathers Incorporated
- Professor Michelle A. Brown, BCDI-Paramus President
- Dr. Wendell Campbell, Washington Adventist University
- Betty Clegg, NBCDI Council of Elders
- Dr. Carol Brunson Day, former NBCDI President and CEO; NBCDI Council of Elders
- Dr. Devonya Govan-Hunt, BCDI-Charlotte President
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- Robert Thornton, NBCDI Board of Directors; Skillman Foundation
- Thomas Waller, NBCDI Board Chair; Walmart
- Barry Walston, BCDI-Albany President
- Michael Williams, NBCDI Council of Elders
- Gordon Woodward, Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP

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**NBCDI**

**www.nbcdi.org • moreinfo@nbcdi.org**  
(202) 833-2220 • (800) 556-2234  
8455 Colesville Road • Suite 910  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

# BLACK LIVES MUST MATTER FOR EVERY SPARK TO SHINE

Walmart is proud to be part of the American family and believes that America's social challenges become Walmart's challenges to help address as well. We all must do more to stand against racism and to keep supporting the basic principles of human rights, dignity, and justice.

Moving forward, we're helping build a more equitable world by influencing these four systems:

**Criminal justice.** We're supporting work to re-shape hiring practices to help non-violent, formerly incarcerated applicants be appropriately considered and assisted as they re-enter the workforce.

**Education.** We're strengthening recruiting of diverse associates, including from HBCUs, and addressing potential disparities in development programs.

**Financial.** We're supporting more diverse suppliers and marketplace sellers, along with leveraging our influence to increase access to capital for women and people of color.

**Health.** We're addressing root causes of health disparities through working with organizations like the American Diabetes Association to help communities live healthier.

Together with the Walmart Foundation, we're also addressing racism and inequity within these four systems by committing \$100 million over five years through a new Center for Racial Equity.

We are committed to helping build a brighter, more diverse, and more equitable America.

Visit [Walmart.com/RacialEquity](https://Walmart.com/RacialEquity) to learn more.



# DAY 1: NBCDI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

## Opening Celebration: NBCDI Virtual 50th Anniversary

Thursday, October 14 • 12:00–1:00 PM



**Nakkia Gold**

“Lift Every Voice and Sing” will be performed by recording artist **Nakkia Gold**. The Invocation will be provided by **Pastor Cean R. James**.

The National Black Child Development Institute’s 50th Annual Virtual Conference will kick off with the Opening Session paying homage to our history. This session will be a high-energy, streamed event. The session will feature two legends in the field of Black child development, NBCDI Founder Evelyn K. Moore and Barbara T. Bowman, co-founder of the Erikson Institute, with a special guest interviewer.



**Pastor Cean R. James**

### About the Speakers



**Evelyn K. Moore**

**Evelyn K. Moore** is President Emeritus of the National Black Child Development Institute (NBCDI). Ms. Moore is a co-founder of NBCDI, which was created in 1970 to focus on Black children and families. Through her direction and visionary leadership, she successfully organized a nationwide network of volunteer Affiliate chapters that work in partnership with the national office to provide direct services and impact policies at the national, state, and local levels in the areas of early education, child welfare, health, and parenting.



**Barbara T. Bowman**

**Barbara T. Bowman** is the Irving B. Harris professor at Erikson Institute. Throughout her career, she has been an advocate for young children, applying knowledge about child development to her work integrating policy and practice. She is an internationally renowned expert, delivering speeches and lectures, and holding local, national, and international leadership positions. Today, Ms. Bowman works to strengthen programs for young children and families by serving on numerous boards and committees, including the Chicago Public Library board.



## Legacy Voices, 50 Years and Counting: The Spirit of Sankofa

Thursday, October 14 • 1:00–2:30 PM

NBCDI's Council of Elders invites you to join a celebration of our legacy of uplifting Black children and families. For our 50th Anniversary, Legacy Voices will be centered on Sankofa, a symbol of our Akan ancestors' belief that the past serves as a guide for planning the future. Through Sankofa, the Akan people taught that the wisdom gained in learning from the past ensures a strong future. As we gather to cast a vision for Black children and families, this session will uplift Black researchers and scholars who have been foundational in opposing negative frameworks associated with Black child development and the ecology of Black families. NBCDI's strengths-based, culturally responsive approach to programs and policy initiatives has been cultivated over time through generations of thought leaders, advocates and academics who have paved the way for the leaders of today.



**Dr. Ursula Parrish Daniels**

This session is led by NBCDI Elder **Dr. Ursula Parrish Daniels**, Professor Emerita, Bergen Community College, in partnership with NBCDI Elder Dr. Ruby Burgess.

Activism, volunteerism, and professionalism are fundamental to the character of Dr. Daniels. She has been an advocate for the empowerment of women and the rights of children throughout her professional career. Her deep concern regarding the disparities that exist for students of color is documented through her numerous efforts on their behalf. Dr. Daniels works diligently to facilitate collaborations between Bergen Community College and its K-12 partners to promote student success. Additionally, her efforts to promote Bergen, NJ as a community resource are endless.



**Dr. Ruby Burgess**

includes study tours to North East, East, and West Africa with Dr. Asa G. Hilliard III and Adventures in Health, Education, and Agricultural Development, Inc.

**Dr. Ruby Burgess** holds a Doctor of Education degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, and Master of Arts and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Pacific Oaks College, Pasadena, California. She has studied African and African American history, heritage, and culture, which

## About the Panelists

**Session Lead: Dr. J. Luke Wood** is Vice President of Student Affairs & Campus Diversity and Dean's Distinguished Professor of Education at San Diego State University. Dr. Wood also serves as the Co-Director of the Community College Equity Assessment Lab (CCEAL), a national research and practice center that partners with community colleges to support their capacity in advancing outcomes for underserved students of color.



**Dr. J. Luke Wood**

**Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka** is a Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy, a Fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG), and Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG (the Coalition) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Through the Coalition, Dr. Iruka is leading projects and initiatives focused on how evidence-informed policies, systems, and practices in the early years can support the optimal development and experiences of minoritized children and children from low-income households.



**Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka**

**Dr. Tonia Durden** is a Clinical Associate Professor and Birth Through 5 Program Coordinator within the Department of Early Childhood and Elementary Education at Georgia State University. Dr. Durden's primary scholarship and research trajectory focuses on exploring how to develop and support African American children's socio-cultural development and create racially equitable learning experiences for children of color.



**Dr. Tonia Durden**

**Dr. Brian L. Wright** is an Associate Professor and Program Coordinator of Early Childhood Education in the Department of Instruction and Curriculum Leadership in the College of Education and Coordinator of the Middle School Cohort of the African American Male Academy at the University of Memphis. Dr. Wright teaches undergraduate- and graduate-level (masters/doctoral) courses that include — but are not limited to — culture and learning, indigenous and decolonized philosophies, critical pedagogies, and masculinities in urban schools.



**Dr. Brian L. Wright**

*continued*

# NBCDI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

## Legacy Voices, 50 Years and Counting: The Spirit of Sankofa

Thursday, October 14 • 1:00–2:30 PM

*continuation*

### About the Artists



WombWork Productions, Inc.

**WombWork Productions, Inc.**, based in Baltimore, MD, brings together art and spirit through traditional art forms and showcases socially relevant productions that empower performers and youth in social change issues. Their philosophy is that all life comes from the womb, and out of the darkness comes the light of understanding.

**Heritage Works**, based in Detroit, MI, promotes youth and community development through cultural traditions, arts and education. Their programs encourage personal, artistic and community excellence by promoting cultural understanding, skill and tool development, and cultural fluency.



Heritage Works



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## NBCDI

National Black Child  
Development Institute

## Featured Session: If Not Us Who?: Black Children and Mental Health

Thursday, October 14 • 2:30–4:00 PM

As NBCDI looks to the future and how the world is changing for Black children and families, our communities must engage in a conversation about mental health and social media. Social isolation due to COVID-19 and increasing suicide attempts among Black children and teens highlight the critical need for this discussion. Child development experts have long observed negative impacts of social media on mental health starting in early childhood. Immersion in a virtual world can delay emotional and social development. Join us for a conversation on protecting children from the harmful aspects of social media and how social networks can be an outlet for healing and self-love that bolsters rather than degrades mental health among our children.

This session will kick off with **Dr. Jeff Gardere** interviewing **Dominique Dawes** (2:30-3:00 pm).



**Dr. Jeff Gardere**

**Dr. Jeff Gardere** is a board-certified clinical psychologist and an ordained interfaith minister. In addition to having a private practice in Manhattan, he is an Associate Professor and Course Director of Behavioral Medicine at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine in New York City. Dr.

Gardere, better known as “America’s Psychologist,” is also a prolific author of four books and a contributing author of a half-dozen books, including the brand new text, *The Causes of Autism*. He has been a contributor to the FOX Network, the Today Show, MSNBC, and CNN.



**Dominique Dawes**

**Dominique Dawes** is best known for her tremendous success as an Olympic gymnast who competed in and won team medals in three Olympic Games, becoming the only American gymnast to do so. Ms. Dawes also holds minority ownership of the Washington Spirit (DC’s professional women’s soccer team) and was the co-chair of the President’s Council for Fitness, Sports and Nutrition under the Obama administration. She starred in the Broadway hit musical, *Grease*, and has been a motivational speaker for over 25 years.

**Immediately following the interview will be a panel discussion on Black Children and Mental Health, with an audience Q&A (3:00-4:00 pm).**

## About the Panelists

**Dr. Valerie Alloy** is a behavioral health program administrator, educator, researcher, and practitioner with over 30 years of clinical practice and senior management experience. She is currently Chief of the Bureau of Grants Administration with the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services.



**Dr. Valerie Alloy**

**Dr. Betancourt** is the Senior Vice President for U.S. Social Impact at Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit organization behind Sesame Street. She directs the development and implementation of community and family engagement initiatives making a difference in the lives of vulnerable children and their families.



**Dr. Jeanette Betancourt**

**Calvin Mann** is National Encourager, Agent of Change, Advocate for Boys and Fathers, Author, and President and Founder of EMIY Inc. and Good Fathers Only. Committed to advocacy and involvement in the community, Mr. Mann produces music, videos, quotes, books, inspired apparel, and events that encourage others to find their purpose and follow their dreams!



**Calvin Mann**

## Men of NBCDI: The Impact of COVID-19 on Black Boys and Fatherhood

Thursday, October 14 • 2:30–4:00 PM

This year, Men of NBCDI will hold a thoughtful, open discussion on the impact of the pandemic and racial reckoning of 2020 on Black boys, youth, and fatherhood. This engaging discussion will also address the trauma and mental health challenges Black children are wrestling with due to the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on Black communities. Men of NBCDI will also hold a dialogue about the Black Lives Matter movement, policing of Black boys and youth in schools and communities, and the lack of Black male educators.

This session has been convened by Men of NBCDI, **Dr. Wendell Campbell** and **Mr. Barry Walston**.



**Dr. Wendell Campbell**

**Dr. Wendell Campbell** serves as the Board Chairman for the Edward C. Mazique Parent Child Center in Washington, DC. He has been involved in early education and Head Start for 30

years, and he provides training services for childcare professionals nationally.



**Barry Walston**

**Barry Walston** is a Public Health Practitioner and Social Change Agent and President of BCDI-Albany. BCDI-Albany focuses on delivering culturally relevant resources

and programmatic support that respond to the unique strengths and needs of Black children, including early childhood education, health, child welfare, literacy, and family engagement.

## About the Speakers

**Session Lead: Roland Martin** is the host and managing editor of #RolandMartinUnfiltered, the first daily online show in history focused on news and analysis of politics, entertainment, sports, and culture from an explicitly African American perspective. He is the author of three books: *Listening to the Spirit Within: 50 Perspectives on Faith*; *Speak, Brother! A Black Man's View of America*; and *The First: President Barack Obama's Road to the White House as Originally Reported* by Roland S. Martin.



**Roland Martin**

**Dr. Na'im Akbar** is a noted scholar, lecturer, author, and highly respected researcher in African American Psychology, charter board member of NBCDI, and former president of the Board of National Association of Black Psychologists. Dr. Akbar has received world renown for the important books he has written and has been sought as an expert on numerous national TV talk shows, including *The Oprah Winfrey Show*.



**Dr. Na'im Akbar**

**Kenneth Sherman** is the Educational and Professional Development Director and Chief Academic Officer of HighScope's San Antonio Hub of Excellence in San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Sherman joined HighScope in 2014 as a HighScope Demonstration Preschool teacher and an Early Childhood Specialist. He has more than 20 years of experience as a teacher of young children and has been a center director, mentor, teacher, coach, and trainer.



**Kenneth Sherman**

**Ed Gordon** rose to national prominence as anchor of *BET News*, host of *BET Tonight*, and creator of *Conversations with Ed Gordon*, a one-on-one interview series of specials, also on BET. Mr. Gordon is the host of *1Hundred: The Ed Gordon Podcast* and author of the book, *Conversations in Black: On Power, Politics and Pop Culture*.



**Ed Gordon**



## Concert from the Couch

Thursday, October 14 • 4:00–5:00 PM

Please join NBCDI for a soul-stirring performance from Gospel legend **Yolanda Adams**. Let's celebrate 50 years of service to Black children and families and acknowledge the advocates and educators who have held our communities together during an unprecedented year, with a global pandemic and protests for justice.



**Yolanda Yvette Adams**

Gospel legend **Yolanda Adams** is a world-renowned singer, record producer, actress, entrepreneur, philanthropist, radio host of her own nationally syndicated morning gospel show, and the proud mother of daughter, Taylor Ayanna Crawford. She has earned numerous accolades, including the first American Music Award for Contemporary Gospel Artist, four Gospel Music Association Dove Awards, five Grammy Awards, 16 Stellar Gospel Music Awards, seven NAACP Image Awards, three Soul Train Music Awards, and five BET Awards.

## Concert from the Couch Special Message



**Chelsea Clinton**

Former first daughter, **Chelsea Clinton**, will commend the community service work done by the NBCDI National Affiliate Network, salute the village NBCDI has created to support Black children and families, and acknowledge the Elders for their wisdom and contributions to future generations.

## Honorees Include:

- NBCDI staff will join us for an award presentation. **BCDI-Hampton Roads** and **BCDI-Denver** are the recipients of the **2021 Peer-Selected Affiliates of the Year Award** for the work both Affiliates have done to garner attention from major donors and sponsors, and increase brand recognition in their markets, creating partnerships that advance racial equity for Black children and families.
- **BCDI-Charlotte** is the recipient of the **2021 Board of Directors Affiliate Award** for the Affiliate's excellent work in the field and exceeding expectations in efforts to support Black children and families during the COVID-19 pandemic. BCDI-Charlotte is recognized for consistency in programming, membership development, outreach and engagement efforts, fundraising efforts, and service delivery.
- **Octavius V. Catto Community Family School** is the recipient of the **2021 NBCDI Staff Award** for the school's mission to "provide a safe and secure learning environment, rigorous instruction, cultural awareness, and individualized attention that exceeds our students' needs." **This award is given in partnership with HarperCollins Children's Books. Together, we are awarding more than \$5K in books and other resources to support Catto Community Family School's literacy efforts.**



# DAY2: NBCDI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

## 50Forward Reflections and Intergenerational Roundtable Discussions

Friday, October 15 • 12:00–1:00 PM

### 50Forward Reflections

We'll begin the second day of the conference with NBCDI Founder, **Evelyn K. Moore's** powerful vision of the next 50 years of advocacy for Black children and families. Ms. Moore will provide her perspective on founding NBCDI — her work with the Perry Preschool Program, which laid the foundation for Head Start. She will also share a 10-step plan to ensure Black children have access and equity in this country.



**Evelyn K. Moore**

### Intergenerational Roundtable Discussions



**Dr. Leah Austin**

In these conversations, we will gather to discuss how we collectively envision a brighter future for Black children, youth, and families. The session is designed to engage the entire community in the call to action. As we embark upon our work with NBCDI's new leadership, President and CEO **Dr. Leah Austin**, we ask participants to engage in a dialogue about the issues facing our children and actions that must be taken to realize, a better future for Black children, youth and families in local communities and nationally.

### Conversation Topics

<i>Promoting Literacy in a Tech-infused Society</i>	Donna M. Chandler, NBCDI Council of Elders Dr. Yessenia Rosario-Adon, Educational Director, Rena Day Care, Inc.; BCDI-New York Member
<i>The Impact of Head Start on Black Children: What's Next?</i>	Dr. Gambi White-Tennant, BCDI-Paramus Vice President Christopher Rountree, NBCDI Policy Analyst
<i>Navigating the Pre-K to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Public School System</i>	Linda Melton Mann, NBCDI Council of Elders; BCDI-Mid-Hudson President Professor Michelle A. Brown, BCDI-Paramus President
<i>The Ways Black Adolescents Recognize, Analyze, and Respond to Oppression (Racism, Sexism, and Classism)</i>	Cassandra Johnson, BCDI-Denver President Hasira Soul Ashemu, Founder and President, Righteous Rage Institute for Healing and Social Justice; Creator, SoulJourneyLife Wellness and Healing Network
<i>Black Children Matter: A Vision for the Future</i>	Dr. Valora Washington, CEO & President, The CAYL Institute Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka, Public Policy Research Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
<i>How Education and Child Welfare Systems Are Failing to Protect Black Girls</i>	Deborah Green, BCDI-Houston President T'wala Lochner, BCDI-Houston Vice President
<i>Teaching African American History and Culture to Young Children and Youth</i>	Dr. Ruby Burgess, NBCDI Council of Elders Mariama Glascoe-Kirkland-Smith, J.D., Family Law Attorney
<i>Read to Succeed: Fostering a Love of Reading in Black Children from Birth</i>	Dr. Ursula Parrish Daniels, NBCDI Council of Elders, Professor Emerita, Bergen Community College Dr. Devonya Govan-Hunt, BCDI-Charlotte President

*continued*

# NBCDI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

<i>Are Care and Education the Same? What is Play, How Much and What Kind Do Children Need?</i>	Barbara T. Bowman, Irving B. Harris professor at Erikson Institute; NBCDI Council of Elders Dr. Dina Walker DeVose, Interim Assistant Dean of Recruitment, Retention, and Inclusion, Georgia Southern University
<i>Black Male Achievement Starts at Birth: Creating a Supportive Early Education Environment for Black Boys</i>	Dr. Wendell Campbell, NBCDI Council of Elders Barry Walston, BCDI-Albany President
<i>Mental Health Supports for Black Children and Families in Periods of National Crisis and Adversity</i>	Rhonda Carloss-Smith, NBCDI Council of Elders; BCDI-New York President Chanel Rigby, MSW, Infant Toddler Mental Health Consultant, Child Development Support Corporation
<i>The Impact of the Child Welfare and Educational Systems on Black Children</i>	Michael Williams, President/CEO, Orchards Children's Services; NBCDI Council of Elders Lola Rooney, M.Ed., BCDI-Philadelphia President
<i>Culturally Responsive Practices that Support Identity Development in Black Children</i>	Dr. Carol Brunson Day, Distinguished Fellow, Council for Professional Recognition; former NBCDI President and CEO; NBCDI Council of Elders Dr. Stephanie Curenton Jolly, Director, Center for the Ecology of Early Childhood Development (CEED)
<i>Let's Talk About It: Why We (Children, Educators, and Parents) Need Early Childhood Mental Health Interventions</i>	Blythe Keeler Robinson, President & CEO, Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Centers; NBCDI Board Member Dr. Lee Johnson III, Senior Policy Analyst, ZERO TO THREE
<i>Racial Identity and Socialization Among Black Youth</i>	Dr. Onnie Rogers, Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Northwestern University Diane Leslie Hughes, Psychology Professor, Steinhardt School of Culture, Development, and Education, New York University
<i>Using Culturally Relevant Education to Engage African American Students in STEM/Math</i>	LaJoi Gardner, Science and Learning Environment Coordinator, Madison School District Lorna Randle, M.Ed., 8th Grade Mathematics Interventionist
<i>Erasing Blackness: The Threat to Black Child Development Continues (Campaign Against Critical Race Theory)</i>	Dr. Aisha Ray, Professor Emerita, Erikson Institute Cemeré James, Senior Advisor to the President and CEO, NBCDI
<i>Philanthropy's Role in Advancing Racial Equity for Black Children</i>	Portia Kennel, Senior Advisor, Buffett Early Childhood Fund Rashida Brown, Senior Policy Associate, American Public Human Services Association
<i>Racism in Health: Addressing Infant and Maternal Mortality in Black Communities</i>	Dr. Sherri Killins Stewart, Director, Systems Alignment and Integration, BUILD Initiative Ngozi Lawal, Project Director, Prenatal to Three Initiative, Center for the Study of Social Policy
<i>Black Parents and Caregivers Advocating for School Change and Better Outcomes for Our Children</i>	Dr. Bisa Batten Lewis, BCDI-Atlanta President Kimberly Hendricks-Brown, Ed.D., Principal on Special Assignment (PSA), Department of Community and Family Services, Fresno Unified School District
<i>Featured: Intergenerational Fireside Chat with NBCDI's Founder, Board Chair, and President and CEO</i>	Evelyn K. Moore, NBCDI Founder and President Emeritus; NBCDI Council of Elders T. Anthony Waller, NBCDI Board Chair Dr. Leah Austin, NBCDI President and CEO



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# NBCDI 50TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE SESSIONS

## EDx Speakers

Friday, October 15 • 1:00–1:30 PM

NBCDI will close our virtual 50th Annual Conference by bringing together visionary minds from our community to share their 50Forward vision for Black children and families. Please join us for a powerful series of visionaries from research, policy, practice, and philanthropy.

Without a vision, our people perish. Our children need our greatest thought leaders and all of us setting our intention for their future as we work to break the barriers of institutional racism. This speaker series is designed to support our champions for children and equity to return to their communities reenergized to advance the cause of educational equity for Black children throughout the country.

## About the Speakers



**Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka**

**Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka** is a Research Professor in the Department of Public Policy, a Fellow at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute (FPG), and Founding Director of the Equity Research Action Coalition at FPG (the Coalition) at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Through the Coalition, Dr. Iruka is leading projects and initiatives focused

on how evidence-informed policies, systems, and practices in the early years can support the optimal development and experiences of minoritized children and children from low-income households.



**Dr. John Jackson**

**Dr. John Jackson** is President & CEO at Schott Foundation for Public Education. Dr. Jackson leads the Foundation's efforts to ensure a fair and substantive opportunity to learn for all students, regardless of race or gender. Dr. Jackson joined the Schott Foundation after serving as National Director of Education and Chief Policy Officer of the National Association for the

Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) from 2000-2007. In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Jackson to serve as Senior Policy Advisor in the Office for Civil Rights (OCR) at the U.S. Department of Education.

**Dr. Myra Jones-Taylor** is the Chief Policy Officer at ZERO TO THREE, the national leader on infant-toddler policy and program development. There, she leads the development and implementation of the organization's policy agenda, priorities, and strategies. Dr. Jones-Taylor has the honor of being both an Ascend Fellow and a Pahara Fellow at the Aspen Institute.



**Dr. Myra Jones-Taylor**

**Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr.** is an accomplished leader in early childhood education and the CEO of the Council for Professional Recognition. He has vast professional Head Start experience, having served in large and small, urban and rural, center-based and family child-care-based programs, as well as programs focused mainly on Hispanic families.



**Dr. Calvin E. Moore, Jr.**



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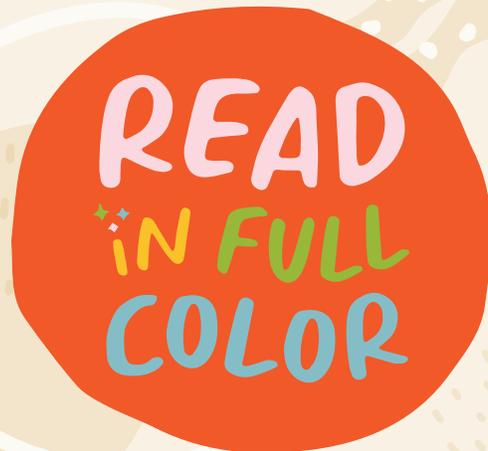
## READING STARTS AT HOME.

But I know it can be tough to know what to do to nurture the reading vocabulary, interest, and skills that children need. That’s why I share FREE book lists, activities, crafts, and evidence-based reading tips on my blog.

Visit [mayasmart.com/nbcdi](http://mayasmart.com/nbcdi) for raise-a-reader recommendations or email [hello@mayasmart.com](mailto:hello@mayasmart.com) to receive my weekly newsletter.



NBCDI conference sponsor Maya Smart is an author and early literacy advocate who helps parents nurture, teach, and advocate for children on the road to reading. Her book, *Reading for Our Lives: Why Early Literacy Matters and How to Achieve It*, is forthcoming from Avery/Penguin Random House.



### STORIES THAT REFLECT EVERY READER

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## Voices from the Field

Friday, October 15 • 1:45–2:45 PM

NBCDI will convene an expert panel for a discussion on our *Responsible Transformation of the Early Childhood Education Workforce* white paper. As states across the country increasingly require college degrees for early childhood educators, these “Voices from the Field” will share their thoughts on the importance of maintaining diversity in the early childhood education (ECE) workforce and the critical need for Black educators.

In support of Black educators, NBCDI launched our Responsible Transformation of the Early Childhood Education Workforce policy initiative to identify how best to implement the new degree requirements without displacing the current workforce. In this white paper, NBCDI delivers recommendations to advance the early childhood education workforce by strengthening supports for Black educators and raising awareness of the need for more investment in the ECE workforce, with an emphasis on Black educators.

*This session is generously sponsored by the Bezos Family Foundation.*

## About the Panelists



**Dr. Felicia DeHaney**

**Session Lead: Dr. Felicia DeHaney** is director of program and strategy at the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. In this role, she supports foundation efforts to promote thriving children, working families, and equitable communities. Prior to joining the foundation, Dr. DeHaney was president and CEO of the National Black Child Development Institute.



**Dr. Lea J.E. Austin**

**Dr. Lea J.E. Austin** is an expert on the U.S. early care and education system and its workforce. As Executive Director of the Center for the Study of Child Care Employment at the University of California, Berkeley, she leads the Center’s research and policy agenda aimed at improving the status and well-being of early educators. Dr. Austin has extensive experience in the areas of workforce compensation, preparation, working conditions, racial equity, and most recently the effects of COVID-19 on the child care workforce.



**Dr. Devonya Govan-Hunt**

**Dr. Devonya Govan-Hunt** is president of the Mecklenburg Child Care Association and serves the Charlotte Bilingual Preschool (a premier, one-of-a-kind dual language program) as vice president of the board. She served as a chairperson of the Ready for School committee with Read Charlotte and was the Chairperson for the Kindergarten Ready team during the implementation phase of the project — an effort to double the percentage of children reading on grade level by the end of third grade by 2025. Dr. Govan-Hunt was instrumental in helping to form the Charlotte Mecklenburg Board of Education Community Equity committee.



**Dr. Kisha Lee**

**Dr. Kisha Lee** is a dedicated and passionate administrator of early childhood programs. She has managed early childhood programs for the past 15 years, has been in the ECE field for nearly 30 years, and was a former certified public school teacher who taught kindergarten, first and third grades. Currently, she serves as the Director at the National Children’s Center, serving children and families of the Ward 8 community in Washington, DC from birth to school-age, with varying abilities.



**Dr. Valora Washington**

**Dr. Valora Washington** is an internationally recognized authority in early childhood education. She is known for conceptualizing, leading, and executing significant change initiatives impacting policy, programs, and practice in higher education, philanthropy, and national nonprofits, as well as in local, state, and federal government programs. Dr. Washington is considered a pioneer in early education, having been named as a Legacy Leader by the Center for Enhancing Early Learning Outcomes (CEELO).



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# Thank you

# 2021 CONFERENCE VOLUNTEERS!



# Longevity Through Legacy

Tweet with us during and after the conference! @NBCDI #LongevityThroughLegacy #50Forward 19

## Closing Keynote & Celebration

Friday, October 15 • 2:45–3:30 PM

The conference will close with a powerful keynote from our newly named President and CEO, **Dr. Leah Austin**, as she charts a course for NBCDI's next 50 years of impact on the lives of Black children and families.



**Dr. Leah Austin**

**Dr. Austin** is an accomplished, multi-faceted, and visionary leader who has been working on behalf of Black children and families for over two decades. Dr. Austin began her career as a public school teacher in southeast Washington, DC, teaching kindergarten and first grade. Forever the educator and advocate, she went on to work for several nonprofit and philanthropic organizations over her career. In fact, Dr. Austin credits the summers she spent outside of the classroom interning at the National Black Child Development Institute as giving her both a solid grounding in the

intersections of policy, practice, and programs, and an unwavering commitment to asset-based framing of Black children and their families.

Dr. Austin has enjoyed a dynamic career that has included teaching, grantmaking, organizing, research, and evaluation. She is an educator, an advocate, and a futurist working to create conditions that allow people to imagine and plan better futures. Her professional trajectory includes leadership positions with the United Way of Greater Atlanta, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Southern Education Foundation, Russell Innovation Center for Entrepreneurs, and most recently, the Schott Foundation for Public Education.

## Closing Performance



**The Detroit Youth Choir**

Following the keynote, America's Got Talent second place finalists, **The Detroit Youth Choir** (DYC), will send us off with an exuberant performance. DYC is composed of youth between the ages of 8-18. They have performed at various events around the city of Detroit, nationally, and internationally. DYC participated in a documentary IMAX film titled *America's Musical Journey*,

recorded with the UK group, The Go! Team. They've also performed for the Detroit Pistons and Cleveland Cavaliers, to name a few of their engagements.

We hope you enjoyed our two-day virtual celebration. We look forward to seeing you at conference in 2022. Thanks for your continued support and partnership. #50Forward!



# Longevity Through Legacy

# CONFERENCE ON-DEMAND

NBCDI has additional resources available to conference attendees to watch during conference as your schedule permits. See highlights below of the type of content that we will offer. The full list will be available on the conference website.



## Documentary *Tomorrow's Hope* Takes a Deep Dive into Pre-K Education | Film Threat Podcast Live

Description: The journey of passionate educators and tenacious kids and their families on the South Side of Chicago is examined in the documentary *Tomorrow's Hope*. We'll chat with the people behind this incredibly successful pre-K program.

Duration: 31:28



## Panel on Education

Description: Cynthia Jackson, Lula Ford, and Dr. Mahalia Hines engage in a discussion about education.

Duration: 17:00



## Getting Men Involved in Early Childhood Education

Description: Male staff from Educare Atlanta and its parent organization, Sheltering Arms Early Education & Family Centers, lead a discussion on the challenges and rewards of a career in early learning.

Duration: 37:57



## Fathers United in Early Learning

Description: If you get men involved and educate them about child development, you can better a whole family.

Duration: 0:51



# Longevity Through Legacy

Tweet with us during and after the conference! @NBCDI #LongevityThroughLegacy #50Forward 21

# REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

## Register for NBCDI's 50th Anniversary Conference online at

<https://www.nbcdi50forward.com>.

Call NBCDI at (202) 833-2220 and select option 7 if you need help with the registration process.

After you register, you will be invited to join the online conference **Community** so that you can connect with other participants. The online conference **Community** is similar to getting your name badge if we were in person. We want everyone to network and connect during conference through the interactive networking tools available for you during conference.

## You can join the online conference Community using these 3 easy steps:

**STEP 1:** Visit <https://www.nbcdi50forward.com/community>.

**STEP 2:** You will receive an email to verify your email. Please click to CONFIRM in that email, to go back to the **Community** page.

**STEP 3:** Click EDIT PROFILE in the **top right-hand corner** of the screen.

Add all your professional information. Please add a headshot so we can see you!

What's cool about **Community** is the **star feature**. If you see several conference participants you want to connect with, click on the star under their name and photo, and once conference ends, you will receive an email with a list of names and contact information for all the individuals you starred. Also, you can send anyone in the **Community** a message so you're sure to link up with them.

The screenshot shows the top navigation menu with links for HOME, AGENDA, SPEAKERS, and COMMUNITY. Below the navigation is the NBCDI logo and the text "50 FORWARD National Black Child Development Institute". A quote reads: "NBCDI's national conference brings together premier child development experts, advocates, policymakers, and educators from across the country. The national conference is the only convening of its kind with a focus on the challenges facing Black children, families, and communities, but also highlighting the success, resilience, assets, and strengths through an unapologetic showcase of all things Black culture." Below the quote are two buttons: "View Agenda" and "Print Agenda". A countdown timer displays "THE COUNTDOWN IS ON" with 15 DAYS, 0 HOURS, 49 MINUTES, and 49 SECONDS. A large banner features the text "LONGEVITY Through LEGACY" and "NBCDI 50Forward Virtual Conference" with a "Register" button.

The screenshot shows the login page with a navigation menu including HOME, AGENDA, SPEAKERS, and COMMUNITY. There are two tabs: "LOGIN WITH EMAIL" (selected) and "LOGIN WITH TICKET NO.". An input field for "Email" is present. A "LOGIN" button is at the bottom. A "Privacy - Terms" link is in the bottom left, and a "Not registered? Register Now" link is in the bottom right.

# JOIN OUR CONFERENCE COMMUNITY

Here are screenshots to walk you through logging in to the Community!

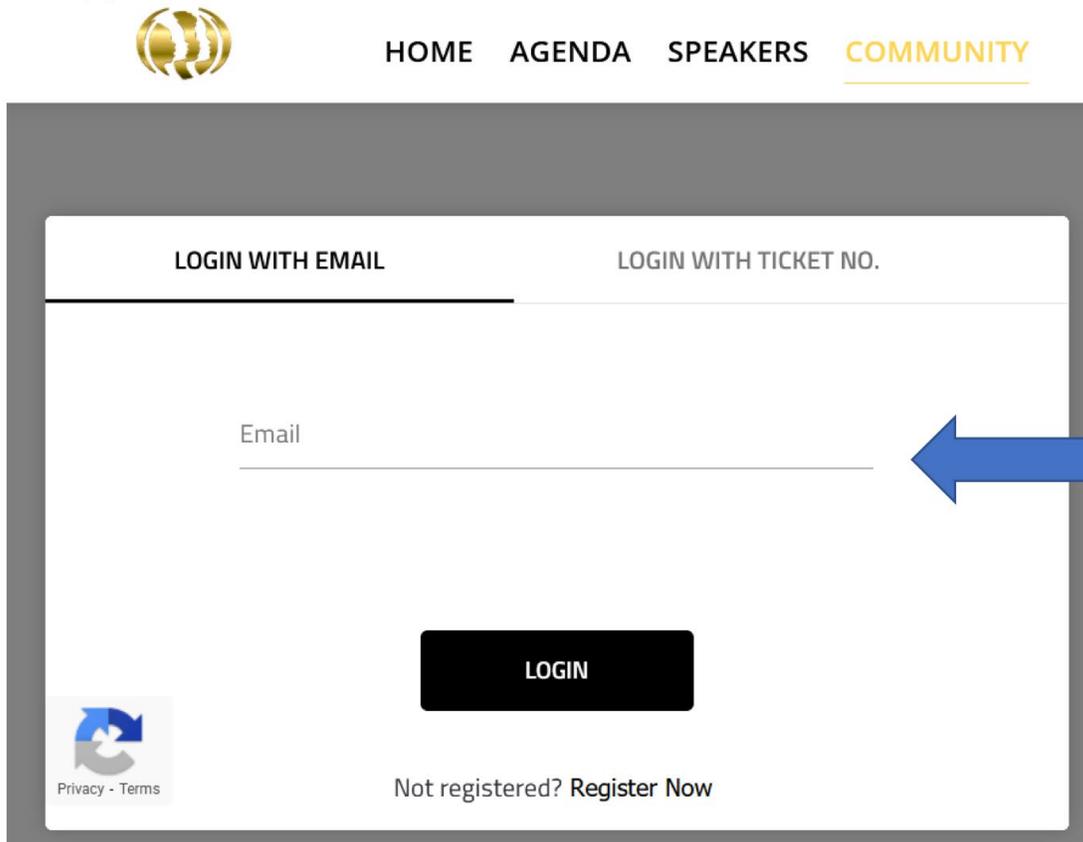
Instructions to join the **Community**:

From the Homepage, you will see this list across the top of the page:

**Click on Community**

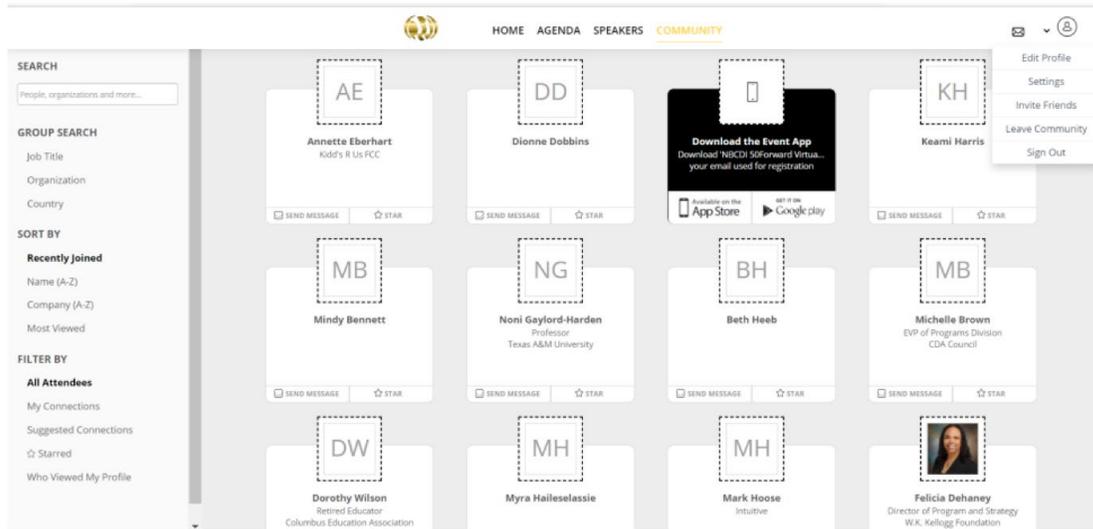


This screen will appear: Enter your email or ticket number to log in



# JOIN OUR CONFERENCE COMMUNITY

This screen will appear: drop down your profile and click edit profile



This screen will appear: Fill out all of your information and upload your picture

## Your Profile

First Name \*  Tommie

Last Name \*  Parker

Email \*  tparker@nbcidi.org

Job title

Change email

Organization NBCDI

Country

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