



COURAGEOUS CONVERSATIONS CATALYZING CHANGE

Black Women First

Powerful Innovators Changing the World

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021

1:00 PST, 2:00 MST, 3:00 CST, 4:00 EST

**Dr. Lakisha Simmons***Associate Professor, Belmont University*

Dr. Simmons is a first generation college student, tenured professor of analytics, and financially independent AchieveHer™. As executive director of The AchieveHer Academy and the CEO of BRAVE Consulting, an empowerment training company, she helps high-potential career women to become successful in business and at home, overcome career obstacles and gain confidence, foster career growth, and find personal balance. Her book, *The Unlikely Achiever*, helps women overcome life's most common obstacles to gain the prosperity they deserve.

**Dr. Jeannine E. Dingus-Eason***Dean, Feinstein School of Education and Human Development, Rhode Island College*

Prior to relocating to RI, she served as Professor and Prog. Dir. of the Exec. Leadership Doctoral Program at St. John Fisher College in Rochester, NY. Her research interests include the professional socialization of teachers, specifically, Black intergenerational teachers, examining familial and cultural influences, and the intersections of race, class, and gender on their work. She is currently completing her book, *A Thousand Worries: Black Mothers of Sons with Autism*, with SUNY Press.

**Kelisa Wing***Professional Development Specialist, Department of Defense Education Activity*

An Army veteran, Kelisa created the nonprofit #Squad Up for Education, empowering parents, students, and educators to become partners in education. She is currently enrolled in the Doctor of Education program at Walden University. Kelisa speaks nationally and internationally about discipline reform, equity, student engagement, and other topics, and is the author of *Weeds & Seeds: How To Stay Positive in the Midst of Life's Storms*, *Promises and Possibilities: Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline*, and *If I Could: Lessons for Navigating an Unjust World*.

PANEL LEADER

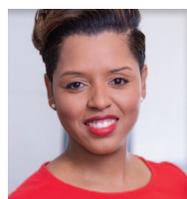
**Dr. Paul Miller***Principal and CEO, Green Tech High Charter School*

Dr. Miller is an expert in urban education who specializes in school reform and redesign, counseling school officials and administrators on effective strategies to increase student performance and establish a culture of success.

Paul has committed his life to educating and empowering low-income, urban youth with the hope of creating change and undoing the trend of underachievement that plagues inner-city, minority males. His greatest pride is in students who wake up to become productive, and then choose to help others become productive as well.

**Dr. Queinnise Miller***Principal, Houston ISD*

After 20 years as an educator, Dr. Miller still has a passion for teaching, learning, and leading. As a teacher, motivational speaker, trainer, author, and educational leader, she is driven by a belief that all children deserve a world class education regardless of background. As a school principal, she believes her job is to support and serve the people who really make a difference, teachers. In her book, *The Art of Giving a \$#IT: A Memoir & Guidebook for Urban Educators*, she offers advice, suggestions, and insights for aspiring, new, and veteran teachers.

**Dr. Dorsey L. Applrys***Chief City Auditor, City of Albany, New York*

As Chief City Auditor, Dr. Applrys is devoted to improving the quality of life for residents of Albany. She represented the First Ward on the Albany Common Council and served as Chair of the Public Safety Committee. Dr. Applrys is also a Clinical Associate Professor in the Health Policy, Management, and Behavior Department at the University at Albany School of Public Health and the Faculty Program Director—Public Health at Excelsior College. Dr. Applrys has been acknowledged for her strong leadership and commitment to advocating for others and serves on the board of a number of charitable foundations.

**Dr. Lesli C. Myers-Small***Superintendent, Rochester City School District*

Over a 30-year career, Dr. Myers-Small has dedicated her life to the development of high quality education. Leslie began as a counselor in the Rochester City School District, and served as Director of Student & Career Support in the Greece Central School District, as Asst. Superintendent in the Ithaca City School District, and as Superintendent of the Brockport Central School District. Lesli testified before the US Congress, resulting in the largest increase (77.5 percent) ever to the Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Program.

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