



# Equity, Quality, and Access: How Do We Create Schools Worth Choosing for All?

Thursday, October 25, 2018

8:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m. ET

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Conference Center, Root Room

1779 Massachusetts Ave, NW  
Washington, DC 20036

**#GoodSchools4All**



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## AGENDA

**8:30 Registration and light breakfast**

**9:00 Welcome and framing the issue**

**Nicole Dooley**

Policy Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

**Linda Darling-Hammond**

President, Learning Policy Institute

**9:20 Overview of *The Tapestry of American Public Education***

**Patrick Shields**

Executive Director, Learning Policy Institute

**9:35 Panel One: The Possibilities and Challenges of Choice**

**Moderator:**

**Linda Darling-Hammond**

President, Learning Policy Institute

**Panelists:**

- **John Brittain**  
Professor/Acting Dean, University of the District of Columbia  
David A. Clarke Law School
- **Ashley Griffin**  
Director of P-12 Research, The Education Trust
- **Julian Vasquez Heilig**  
Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies,  
Sacramento State University; Education Chair, California NAACP
- **Luis A. Huerta**  
Associate Professor of Education and Public Policy,  
Columbia University Teachers College
- **Julie Mead**  
Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

**10:40 Panel Two: Strategies and Solutions for Choice With Quality and Access**

**Moderator:**

**Peter Cookson, Jr.**

Senior Researcher, Learning Policy Institute

Professor, Georgetown University

**Panelists:**

- **Charmaine Mercer**  
Program Officer, Education, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- **Mohammed Choudhury**  
Chief Innovation Officer, San Antonio Independent School District
- **Robin Lake**  
Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education
- **Claire E. Sylvan**  
Founder and Senior Strategic Advisor,  
Internationals Network for Public Schools
- **Jonathan Raymond**  
President, Stuart Foundation

**11:40 Wrap-up and next steps**

**Patrick Shields**

Executive Director, Learning Policy Institute

## SPEAKER BIOS

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### **John Brittain** | @UDCLaw

Professor/Acting Dean,  
University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke Law School

John C. Brittain is the Acting Dean of the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. He joined the UDC Law faculty in 2009 as a tenured professor of law. Previously, he served as Dean of the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University, as a tenured law professor at the University of Connecticut, and as Chief Counsel and Senior Deputy Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. Brittain writes and litigates on issues in civil and human rights, especially in education law. He has served as President of the National Lawyers Guild and in leadership roles at the ACLU and the NAACP.

### **Mohammed Choudhury** | @moh\_choudhury @SAISD Chief Innovation Officer, San Antonio Independent School District

Mohammed Choudhury is the Chief Innovation Officer at the San Antonio Independent School District, where he develops and scales school design and turnaround initiatives. He recently served as the interim chief and founding director of the Office of Transformation and Innovation at the Dallas Independent School District. Previously, Choudhury served in teacher leadership roles developing and operationalizing successful school turnaround and change-management initiatives within the Los Angeles Unified School District. He began his career in education as a middle school English-as-a-second-language and social studies teacher in Central Los Angeles.

### **Peter Cookson, Jr.** | @PeterWCooksonJr @LPI\_Learning Senior Researcher, Learning Policy Institute

Peter W. Cookson, Jr. is a Senior Researcher at the Learning Policy Institute (LPI), where he co-leads the Equitable Resources and Access team and provides leadership for several equity initiatives. He also teaches sociology at Georgetown University and co-leads the National Poverty Study, a joint research project of Stanford University, John Hopkins University, and the American Institutes for Research (AIR). Cookson began his career as a case worker in New York City and as a teacher in rural Massachusetts. Most recently, he was Managing Director of the think tank Education Sector and founded The Equity Project at AIR.

### **Linda Darling-Hammond** | @LDH\_ed @LPI\_Learning President, Learning Policy Institute

Linda Darling-Hammond is President and CEO of the Learning Policy Institute and the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University. She is the former President of the American Educational Research Association and a member of the National Academy of Education and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She has authored more than 500 publications and has conducted extensive research on issues of school reform, equity, and accountability. Among her most recent publications are *Be the Change: Reinventing School for Student Success* and *Empowered Educators: How Leading Nations Design Systems for Teaching Quality*.

### **Nicole Dooley** | @NAACP Policy Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

Nicole Dooley is a Policy Counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF). Prior to joining LDF, she was an attorney in the DC office of the Department of Education Office for Civil Rights (OCR), where she worked with schools and colleges to resolve concerns of systemic violations of Title IX (discrimination based on sex), Title VI (discrimination based on race), and Section 504 (discrimination based on disability). Previously, she clerked for the Alaska Supreme Court and worked for the JustChildren program of the Legal Aid Justice Center.

### **Ashley Griffin** | @DrAshleyGriffin @EdTrust Director of P-12 Research, The Education Trust

Ashley Griffin is the Director of P-12 research at The Education Trust, where she conducts primary and secondary research to inform decision makers at the national, state, and local levels and to generate knowledge that can help practitioners promote quality and equity in educational systems for all students. Previously, Griffin served as the Director of Research and Evaluation at the Capstone Institute at Howard University. She has presented numerous papers, both nationally and internationally, on issues surrounding African-American achievement for students grades P-16, and formerly served as a reviewer for *The Journal of Negro Education*.

### **Julian Vasquez Heilig** | @ProfessorJVH @CaliforniaNAACP Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies, Sacramento State University; Education Chair, California NAACP

Julian Vasquez Heilig is a Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and the Director of the Doctorate in Educational Leadership at California State University Sacramento. He also serves as the California NAACP Education Chair. Vasquez Heilig's current research includes examining how high-stakes testing and accountability-based reforms and market reforms impact urban minority students. His research interests also include issues of access, diversity, and equity in higher education. Previously, he has held a variety of practitioner, research, and leadership positions in organizations from Boston to Beijing that have provided formative professional perspectives to bridge research, theory, and practice.

### **Luis A. Huerta** | @TeachersCollege Associate Professor, Teachers College, Columbia University

Luis A. Huerta is an Associate Professor of Education and Public Policy at Teachers College—Columbia University. He teaches courses in policy analysis and implementation, school finance, and organizational sociology. Huerta's research on school choice reforms examines policies that advance both decentralized and market models of schooling—including charter schools, vouchers, tuition tax credits, homeschooling, and virtual schools. He is the author of recent articles on school choice and school finance published in several education journals, including *Journal of Education Policy* and *Phi Delta Kappan*. He recently served as co-editor of the journal, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.

## SPEAKER BIOS

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**Robin Lake** | @RbnLake @CRPE\_UW

Director, Center on Reinventing Public Education

Robin Lake is Director of the Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE), a non-partisan research and policy analysis organization based at the University of Washington that develops transformative, evidence-based solutions for k-12 public education. Her research focuses on U.S. public school system reforms, including public school choice and charter schools, innovation and scale, portfolio management, and effective state and local public oversight practices. Lake has authored numerous studies and provided expert testimony and technical assistance on charter schools, district-charter collaborations, and urban school reform.

**Julie Mead** | @UWMadison

Professor, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Julie Fisher Mead is the Associate Dean for Education and Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she researches and teaches about topics related to education law. Her recent scholarship has proposed policy language to ensure charter schools promote equal educational opportunity, traced the evolution of the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program, examined voucher programs in relation to the education clauses of state constitutions, and analyzed voucher statutes' non-discrimination requirements. She is a member of the American Educational Research Association, the Education Law Association, and the University Council on Educational Administration.

**Charmaine Mercer** | @O\_MerC @Hewlett\_Found

Program Officer, Education, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Charmaine Mercer is a Program Officer in Education at the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation. Her portfolio focuses on education policy, practices, and tools that advance deeper learning experiences and outcomes, especially for those furthest from opportunity. Prior to joining the foundation, Mercer was a Director and Senior Researcher at the Learning Policy Institute, where she led a small team of researchers, policy advocates, and communication specialists. Previously, she served as the Vice President for Standards, Assessment, and Deeper Learning at the Alliance for Excellent Education, a national policy and advocacy organization that focuses on secondary schools.

**Jonathan Raymond** | @jraym0 @Stuart\_FND

President, Stuart Foundation

Jonathan Raymond is President of the Stuart Foundation. He brings insights from many years of experience in education, first as the Chief Accountability Officer of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School system in North Carolina, and then as Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District (SCUSD). From 2009–2013, his innovative approaches guided SCUSD's impoverished schools through a recession and transformed Sacramento's poorest performing schools in the neediest neighborhoods into some of the city's highest performing schools. In his new book, *Wildflowers: A School Superintendent's Challenge to America*, he shares his insights into what we need to do to transform America's public schools.

**Patrick Shields** | @Shields\_LPI @LPI\_Learning

Executive Director, Learning Policy Institute

Patrick M. Shields is the Executive Director of the Learning Policy Institute (LPI) and a member of its Early Childhood Learning and Educator Quality teams. Shields has more than 25 years of experience managing large-scale social science research projects. Prior to joining LPI, he was the Executive Director of SRI Education, where he also served as Research Director for Teaching and California's Future. Shields has also overseen many studies of STEM opportunities for disadvantaged children. He recently served on the National Academy of Sciences Committee on Strengthening Science Education through a Teacher Learning Continuum.

**Claire E. Sylvan** | @ClaireSylvan @IntlsNetwork

Founder and Senior Strategic Advisor,  
Internationals Network for Public Schools

Claire E. Sylvan is the Founder and Senior Strategic Advisor of the Internationals Network for Public Schools. An expert and practitioner in school reform and the education of immigrants and English language learners, she is passionate about providing all students with personalized educational opportunities. Previously, Sylvan worked in diverse roles spanning public secondary education, teacher education, and community/workplace organizing. She has developed innovative programs and practices for English language learners in New York City public schools, led the Internationals Schools Partnership, and piloted the Early College Program at the International High School at LaGuardia Community College, the first International High School.