

A Dining Room Discussion

A Special Black History Month Event
Sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education

February 21, 2019, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm



Welcome from Interim Superintendent Sheila Alles

Thank you for attending the Michigan Department of Education Black History Month event, *A Dining Room Discussion*. The experts at the table today reflect some of the rich perspectives that informed Michigan's Top 10 in 10 strategies, the state's Marshall Plan for Talent, and the draft Social Studies Standards. As our work to achieve greater educational equity in Michigan continues, it is important that we listen closely to those voices who can speak to the challenges and promises of our urban core communities.

Our team responsible for planning today's critical conversation draws inspiration from Singleton and Linton's Four Agreements as outlined in their book *Courageous Conversations About Race*. On behalf of this team, I ask each of you to:

- Stay engaged.
- Experience discomfort.
- Speak your truth.
- Expect and accept non-closure.

Since a prior Black History Month event at MDE focused on African American male perspectives (enter "*A Conversation Spanning Decades*" in any search engine to view the archived event), we are delighted to give these dynamic African American females their own platform this year. The candid discussions heard today will undoubtedly resonate with all of us as we continue our collective work to make Michigan a Top 10 education state.

Sincerely,



Sheila A. Alles
Interim State Superintendent
Michigan Department of Education



The objectives for our Dining Room Discussion include

- Learning how Michigan's Top 10 in 10 strategies can be applied in our urban core districts to improve academic outcomes
- Developing a deeper understanding of how the proposed changes to the state's Social Studies standards might impact students of color and all students in Michigan
- Examining the opportunities for students of color as Michigan embarks on its Marshall Plan for Talent
- Informing policy and funding decisions, based on the perspectives of eight influential African American women



Your Dining Room Host

Dr. Pamela Pugh was elected by the citizens of Michigan to the State Board of Education in November 2014. On January 8, 2019, she was elected as Vice President of the State Board of Education. Her term extends through January, 2023.



Her professional career led her to the role of Chief Public Health Advisor for the City of Flint, Michigan where she has served since October 2016. She previously worked for 5 years as a consultant with Regeneration LLC, a business owned and founded by Dr. Pugh and which serves as a catalyst for economically sustainable and healthy urban communities by assisting public agencies, organizations, and businesses in building capacity through effective operations and winning partnerships. Prior to starting this business, she was employed by the Saginaw County Department of Public Health for 14 years.

Dr. Pugh received a Doctorate of Public Health (DrPH) from the University of Michigan School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering from Florida A&M University.

Dr. Pugh is the Chair of the Michigan Democratic Women's Caucus and 5th Vice President of the National Federation of Democratic Women. She has assisted in organizing events aimed at mobilizing women and getting them involved in the political process.

2019 Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Black History Month Committee



Pictured left to right (standing) Alisande Shrewsbury, Valerie Jemerson, Gayle Green, Stephanie Schenkel, (seated) Bersheril Bailey, Beverly Brown and Evelyn Oliver. Not pictured are Gloria Chapman, Jill Griffin, and Theresa Saunders.

- Bersheril Bailey, State Manager, Michigan, Great Lakes Comprehensive Center, American Institutes for Research
- Beverly Brown, Ph.D., Black History Month Event Chairperson, Early Middle College Manager, Office of Career and Technical Education, MDE
- Gloria Chapman, Education Consultant, Partnership District Office, MDE (not pictured)
- Gayle M. Green, Ed.D., Education Consultant, Office of Educational Supports, MDE
- Jill Griffin, Ed.D., Urban and Mathematics Education Consultant, Office of Educational Supports, MDE (not pictured)
- Valerie Jemerson, Talent Development Liaison, Michigan Talent Investment Agency
- Evelyn J. Oliver, State Administrative Manager, Technology Integrity and Outreach, Office of Child Development & Care, MDE
- Theresa Saunders, Ph.D., Education Consultant, Office of Educational Supports, MDE (not pictured)
- Stephanie Schenkel, Education Consultant, Office of Health and Nutrition Services, MDE
- Alisande Shrewsbury, Special Assistant to the Superintendent, Office of the State Superintendent, MDE

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Dining Room Discussion Participants



Clarinda Barnett-Harrison is the director of Economic Prosperity and executive director of the Detroit Regional Workforce Fund within the United Way for Southeastern Michigan. In this position, Clarinda is developing the strategic path-forward to strengthen UWSEM's positioning on efforts related to financial stability, wealth-building and workforce development – creating access to economic mobility for all families in southeast Michigan. With over 15 years of economic development experience, Clarinda brings a wealth of knowledge, having held leadership positions at the Michigan Economic Development Corporation and other local and regional economic development organizations.

Clarinda's contributions to the business community have been recognized by the Michigan Chronicle's Women of Excellence Honoree (2018), Crain's 40 under 40 (2017), and the Michigan Business Professional Association Women in Leadership Shooting Star Award.

Clarinda also donates her time and expertise as the immediate past chairperson of Teen HYPE Detroit, as a trustee at the Detroit Historical Society, a board director for the Michigan Non-Profit Association, and as treasurer for Voices of Women to Win Political Action Committee



Paula D. Cunningham is the State Director for AARP Michigan which has more than 1.4 million members. AARP works to lead positive change and deliver value to all people 50+.

Prior to joining AARP Michigan, Paula D. Cunningham was the CEO of Capitol National Bank (CNB). She was the only African American woman in the country to be president of a majority owned bank.

Ms. Cunningham was the first woman to be President of Lansing Community College. Lansing Community College has more than 30,000 students and is the state's third largest community college.

She serves on numerous boards and has received distinguished awards and recognition for her exemplary work and contributions. A few of her awards include being inducted into the Michigan

Women's Hall of Fame, the 2016 Michigan Black Caucus Trailblazer Award, and a recipient of the prestigious Athena Award. She was also featured in Ebony Magazine as a "Woman on the Move. The Administration Building on Lansing Community College's campus is named in her honor.

Dr. Brandy Lovelady Mitchell is a lifelong children's advocate with passion about education and helping students and educational staff maximize their potential.

Her career began at what is now Network 180, connecting children and families to mental health and substance abuse services. From there she entered into public education as a School Counselor, Guidance Classroom Teacher, Consultant and Administrator. Currently, she serves as the Director of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for Kent Intermediate School District. Dr. Lovelady Mitchell recently completed a Doctorate of Education Leadership at Eastern Michigan University. Her doctoral studies focused on high-achieving black males at the secondary level.

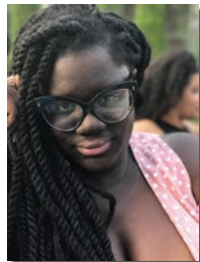


Dr. Lovelady Mitchell's intention is to help educators and key stakeholders shift the narrative from pathologies to the success stories of children of color. Her professional work and doctoral studies caused Eastern Michigan University to describe her as an "upcoming educator to watch" and the university honored her as one of their 2015 Scholars of Excellence. Recently, the Grand Rapids chapter of Historically Black Colleges and Universities honored Brandy as an Elite Educationalist. She has also had the honor of being invited to participate in two White House Convenings related to our former First Lady, Michelle Obama's Reach Higher initiative. She gladly participated!

Dr. Mitchell loves spending her free time with her family, reading and attempting to learn to golf, which comes at the expense, unfortunately, of her husband's bent and battered golf clubs.

Joy Mohammed is an educational activist and blogger based out of Detroit, Michigan.

She has a bachelor's degree from Grand Valley State University and a Master's in Educational Counseling from Wayne State University. Joy is currently the Assistant Director of Diversity, Recruitment and Admissions at the University of Detroit Mercy. Her goal there is to increase the number of students



of color who have access to quality postsecondary education in the City of Detroit. Joy balances her university work with highlighting educational inequities and working for educational policy reform in Detroit and across the nation through her consulting, blogging, and speaking engagements. You can follow her on social media @joyistheculture.



Tawana “Honeycomb” Petty is a mother, social justice organizer, youth advocate, poet and author.

She is the founder and director of Petty Propolis, where she gets to grow through organizing transformative art and education initiatives. Honeycomb is a four-time author and founding member of Riverwise Magazine, a Data Justice Coordinator for the Detroit Community Technology Project, a member of the Detroit

Digital Justice Coalition, a Detroit Equity Action Lab fellow and a board member of the James and Grace Lee Boggs Center to Nurture Community Leadership.

Honeycomb has been widely recognized for her social justice contributions. She is a past recipient of the Spirit of Detroit Award, the Woman of Substance Award, the Women Creating Caring Communities Award, the Detroit Awesome Award, the University of Michigan Black Law Student Association’s Justice Honoree Award, was recognized as one of Who’s Who in Black Detroit in 2013 and 2015, and was awarded the Wayne State Center for Peace and Conflict Studies Peacemaker Award in 2018.



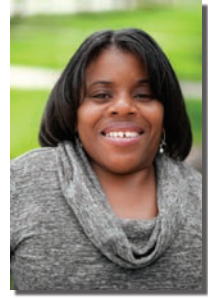
Jasmine Elaine Simmons is a freshman at Oakland Community College.

She is currently on track to complete an Associates of Arts degree in the fall semester of 2019 and plans to use this degree to pursue a Bachelor’s in Elementary Education.

Jasmine comes from a family of educators, so it has always been one of her dreams to help teach those who are less fortunate and give them a fighting chance. She is the oldest child in her family and has two younger sisters who look up to her to set an example of excellence and perseverance. She is pursuing a career as a teacher because she believes that it is one of the noblest and fulfilling jobs that a person can have. She is deeply honored and grateful for the chance to participate as a “guest at the table” thereby adding her voice to policy discussions that will one day impact her, as well as the students she plans to educate.

Dr. Seena M. Skelton serves as the Director of Operations for the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center at Indiana University, providing equity-focused technical assistance to education systems within a 13-state region.

Dr. Skelton has over 20 years of experience in the areas of systems change, school improvement, inclusive practices, and promoting educational equity. Dr. Skelton received her Ph.D. in School Psychology and Master of Education degrees from the University of Cincinnati. She received her Bachelor of Science in Psychology degree from Central Michigan University.



Dr. Skelton has worked as a school psychologist in K-12 school systems, as well as in Head Start Programs in southwest Ohio and northern Kentucky. Focusing her research and practice on learning environments, Dr. Skelton has vast experience in providing technical assistance and professional development at the local, state, and regional levels in implementing systems-wide, school-based innovations for improving the academic and social performance of all students, with specific emphasis on improving the achievement of marginalized students. In her various roles as a consultant for the Southwestern Ohio Special Education Regional Resource Center/State Support Team, co-director of technical assistance and professional learning at the Equity Alliance at Arizona State University, co-founder and co-director of Empowering Education Consultation and Systems Support Services, director at the Great Lakes Equity Center, and director at the Midwest and Plains Equity Assistance Center, Dr. Skelton has worked with various agencies within a collaborative strategic framework to assist education systems engage in transformative change towards educational equity.

Dr. Skelton has been an instructor at Northern Kentucky University, the University of Cincinnati, the College of Mount Saint Joseph, and Indiana University - Purdue University, Indianapolis where she taught graduate level educators and pre-service teachers in educational psychology, inclusive educational practices, multicultural education, and issues related to culture and mental health. Dr. Skelton has co-authored book chapters and has presented at numerous local, state, national, and international conferences on various topics related to improving outcomes for all students.



Kimberlydawn Wisdom, MD, MS, is Senior Vice President of Community Health & Equity, and Chief Wellness and Diversity Officer at Detroit's Henry Ford Health System. She is a board-certified emergency medicine physician; Chair of the Gail and Lois Warden Endowment on Multicultural Health. In 2003, she was appointed by Governor Granholm as the nation's first state-level Surgeon General. In 2012 she was appointed by President

Obama to serve on the Advisory Group on Prevention, Health Promotion and Integrative and Public Health. She focuses on health care equity, infant mortality/maternal & child health, chronic disease, physical inactivity, unhealthy eating habits, and tobacco use.

Dr. Wisdom provides strong leadership in diversity, population health, and improving the health of those disproportionately affected by poor health outcomes. Dr. Wisdom founded the award-winning program - the African American Initiative for Male Health Improvement (AIM-HI) and the Women Inspired Neighborhood (WIN) Network: Detroit to reduce infant mortality.

As Michigan Surgeon General, she founded the nationally known Generation With Promise program - a youth leadership and empowerment effort now housed at Henry Ford. Under her leadership, the health system has received numerous awards for its equity, diversity and inclusion efforts, including the American Hospital Association Equity of Care Award in 2015, and No. 2 ranking on DiversityInc's 2017 Top Hospitals and Health Systems list. Recipient of numerous awards, Dr. Wisdom has authored several peer-reviewed publications, appeared on national television, including ABC's Nightline, and has presented to audiences across the country and internationally.

Alternate Panelists



State Rep. Sarah Anthony is serving her first full term representing the 68th House District, which encompasses part of the city of Lansing and Lansing Township. She currently serves as the Democratic Caucus Chair for the 2019-2020 session. In November 2018, Anthony was sworn into her partial term, making her the first African-American woman to serve in this capacity in Lansing's history.

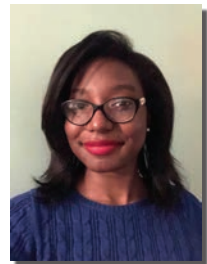
Anthony was born and raised in Lansing and graduated from Everett High School on Lansing's south side. Following graduation, she attended Central Michigan University, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in political science and legal studies. Rep. Anthony also went on to earn a Master's of Public Administration degree from Western Michigan University and was later named a fellow of the University of Michigan's New Leadership Academy.

After graduation, she immediately returned to Lansing to work for former State Rep. Joan Bauer. There, she served as a Legislative Assistant, working closely with Lansing residents to streamline government services and with neighborhoods to connect them to vital improvement services and funds. In 2010, Anthony began an eight year service as Deputy Director with the Michigan College Access Network.

In 2012, Lansing residents elected her to the Ingham County Board of Commissioners, making her the youngest African American woman to serve in this capacity in the United States. During her time as a commissioner, Anthony served in many leadership positions, including chairing the Democratic Caucus and Finance Committee as well as serving as Chair and Vice Chair of the board. She has been a fearless leader for health care access, social justice, services for senior citizens and working families.

Anthony has worked every day to help solve problems for Lansing's residents. She understands the challenges that so many small businesses, families and residents in her district face on a day-to-day basis, and is dedicated to representing their voice in government.

Haile Brown is a graduate of Howard University who holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science. Ms. Brown grew up in Michigan where she attended public schools in both Ypsilanti and Ann Arbor. During her formative years she participated in school, church and community activities. Haile also served as a Youth Parks and Recreation commissioner for the City of Ypsilanti. She recently served as a Field Organizer for the Michigan Democratic Party.



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