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## Centering Authentic Youth Leadership

February 9, 2022



**Welcome! Choose a question(s) to respond to in the chat:**

- Do you have programs, activities, or supports for student leadership in your school or classroom? What do they look like?
  - Do you see White Supremacy Culture showing up in your school? How?
  - What questions do you have about White Supremacy Culture in schools?



## *Engaging Respectfully With Each Other Today*

- Please **use the chat feature** throughout this conversation—we value your voices! Feel free to share constructive ideas, resources, and comments.
- As noted on the event page, we will be **recording the conversation portion** of this session.
- We will have the opportunity to come together for **Q&A at the end of the session**. If questions are popping up for you, feel free to drop them in the Padlet.
- Participants who engaging in cyberbullying or deliberate attempts to intimidate other commenters or **disrupt conversation will be promptly removed**.
- Lastly, feel free to discuss the conversation on **social media** as we chat tonight!

## Our Guests

### *Brenda Aviles*



she/her

Curriculum  
Specialist,  
Diversity  
Talks



### *Molly Cohen*



she/her

Director of  
Strategic  
Partnerships,  
Diversity  
Talks

# Diversity Talks

Diversity Talks partners with schools, districts, and a broad range of organizations to provide:

- Youth-led professional development
- Youth and educator fellowships
- Individual cultural competency assessments
- Organizational culture research
- Anti-racism training and resources



# Resources

How can we support authentic student leadership in our efforts to create equitable learning spaces?

STUDENT  
ACHIEVEMENT  
PARTNERS

*How can we support authentic student leadership in our efforts to create equitable learning spaces?*

Diversity Talks Coffee & Conversation Resources

- [Diversity Talks](#)
- [White Supremacy Culture Framework](#), Tema Okum (interactive website)
- [White Supremacy Culture \(still here\)](#), Tema Okum (paper)
- ALF discussion guide
- Spark

**Breakout Room Directions**

**Introduce yourselves:** Name, pronouns, location, role, anything else you would like to share

**Discuss:**

- What do you need to divest from personally?
- What did you hear that challenged your beliefs about your capabilities?
- Where are there opportunities for you to shift power structures in your school or system? (think about your classroom, professional learning communities, etc.) How will you be mindful of who is burdened in this work?

**Add questions to the Padlet for Q&A:** <https://bit.ly/2ddHesv>

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## (Some) Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture



Artwork by Tema Okun

## *Discussion Questions:*

- 1) How do features of White Supremacy Culture manifest in the classroom? How do we unlearn them?

DENIAL & DEFENSIVENESS

RIGHT TO COMFORT &  
FEAR OF CONFLICT

PERFECTIONISM

POWER HOARDING

Tema Okun (2021)  
Tema Okun and Kenneth Jones (2001)

(Some)  
Characteristics of  
White Supremacy  
Culture



Artwork by Tema Okun

## *Discussion Questions:*

2) What does authentic youth leadership look like? Do you view your youth as partners in this work?

DENIAL & DEFENSIVENESS

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POWER HOARDING

Tema Okun (2021)  
Tema Okun and Kenneth Jones (2001)

## (Some) Characteristics of White Supremacy Culture



Artwork by Tema Okun

## Discussion Questions:

3) How do we recognize what beliefs and mindsets we need to personally divest from before we can get to a place where students can lead?

DENIAL & DEFENSIVENESS

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Tema Okun (2021)  
Tema Okun and Kenneth Jones (2001)



# Conversation Groups

10 minutes

**Introduce yourselves:** Name, pronouns, location, role, anything else you would like to share

## Discuss (choose):

- What do you need to divest from personally?
- What did you hear that challenged your beliefs about youth capabilities?
- Where are there opportunities for you to shift power structures in your school or system (think about your classroom, professional learning communities, etc.)? How will you be mindful of who is burdened in this work?



Add  
questions  
for the  
Q&A to  
Padlet!



padlet

## Q&A Time

*What questions do you  
have?*



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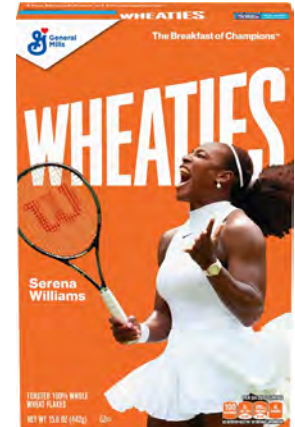
Feedback is the TRUE breakfast of champions!

Please take a moment to share your thoughts on this experience with us! We are learning what it looks like to connect with you most effectively, and every comment counts.

<https://bit.ly/DiversityTalksFeedback>

To be among the first to hear about future events, please join our community! This sign-up will also offer you **first access** to our new events this fall that focus on bringing aligned instruction in conversation with anti-racist principles.

<http://bit.ly/coreadvocatesignup>



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## Upcoming Events!

### Coffee & Conversation: Feb 24, 6-7pm ET

#### Meaningful, Inclusive Literacy Practices

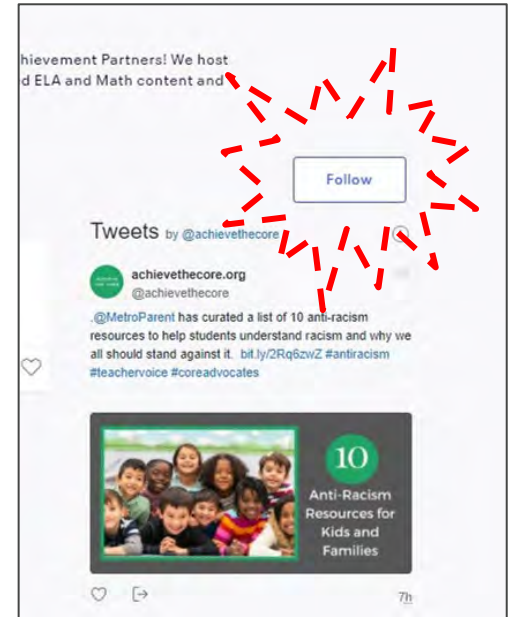
Featuring



Dr. Sarajaneé Davis  
Educator Programs Coordinator at [achievethecore.org](http://www.achievethecore.org)

Dr. Sarajaneé Davis will join us to talk about creating meaningfully inclusive literacy classrooms. She will share strategies for understanding how teacher identity impacts student learning experiences, analyzing text for bias, and soliciting student feedback. She will also discuss how to process student feedback in ways that are productive and beneficial to building trust and community in the classroom.

[Register here.](#)



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