



**EXCELLENCE  
THROUGH  
EQUITY  
CONFERENCE  
2018**

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**MICHAEL BONNER**  
**TEACHER**

Mr. Bonner is an inspiring second grade teacher at North Carolina's South Greenville Elementary School, where the majority of students have strenuous familial dynamics and many are homeless. The school is 100% FRL (free and reduced lunch) and is located in an impoverished neighborhood in Eastern North Carolina. In early 2017, Bonner was honored by Ellen DeGeneres in recognition of his positive and innovative educational approaches for children coping with the challenges of poverty. "I wish I could go back to second grade, so Mr. Bonner could be my teacher," Ellen DeGeneres released on her social media accounts in January 2017.



**ALBERTO M. CARVALHO**  
**SUPERINTENDENT, MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

Mr. Alberto M. Carvalho is the superintendent of the award-winning Miami-Dade County Public Schools, the fourth-largest school district in the United States, with over 346,000 students and 52,000 employees. Carvalho was born in Portugal to a father who worked as a custodian and mother who worked as a seamstress. He was one of six children and the only one to graduate high school. He described growing up in "pretty dramatic poverty," living "in a one-room apartment with no running water and no electricity." He came to the United States after high school in the early 1980s. As an undocumented immigrant, he worked mostly in construction and restaurants (as a dishwasher) and was homeless for a time before beginning his career in education.



**STEVE PERRY**  
**EDUCATOR, AUTHOR**

Dr. Steve Perry's heart pumps passion and produces positive change, and is the most talked about innovative educator on the scene today. He is the founder and principal of what *U.S. News and World Report* has cited as one of the top schools in the country, Capital Preparatory Magnet School in Hartford, Connecticut. Capital Prep has sent 100% of its predominantly low-income, minority, first generation high school graduates to four-year colleges every year since its first class graduated in 2006. When Perry speaks, he reaches the heart of his audience to motivate change in themselves and their community. In addition to being the principal of Capital Preparatory Magnet School, Dr. Perry, MSW is an Education Contributor for *CNN* and *MSNBC*, an *Essence Magazine* columnist, best-selling author, and host of the #1 docudrama for TVONE "Save My Son."





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**DONNA PORTER AND DJ BATISTE  
TEACHER AND FORMER STUDENT**

Ms. Donna Porter has dedicated her life to the field of education and has gained a breadth of wisdom. She is a certified instructor in the Conscious Discipline method of classroom management and has been profiled with DJ Batiste on the CBS Evening News and in the book, *American Teacher*. DJ Batiste began his educational journey being kicked out of Head Start. Some years later, he was in juvenile detention and leading a large violent gang in Mississippi. High school came around and after constant suspensions and trouble with the law, he was introduced to Conscious Discipline in a single moment by his beloved teacher, Donna Porter.

Passionate! Dynamic! Motivational! Donna Porter and DJ Batiste have a story that is sure to inspire this year's conference attendees.



**DANIEL WALKER  
HISTORIAN, FILM MAKER**

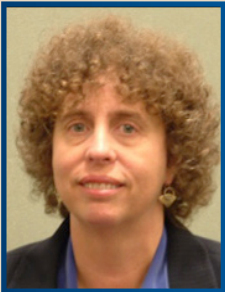
Professor of History at El Camino College and President/CEO of Perfect Works, Daniel Walker is a historian who knows how to teach history that is reflective of some of the darkest periods in world history (i.e., slavery, holocaust, etc.) and its impact on our shared history. As the resident historian on the Footsteps to Freedom Tour, he recounts very sensitive historical topics including racism in a purely historical and unbiased way. Dr. Walker empowers attendees to engage in these conversations.





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## FEATURED SPEAKERS



### **KARIN CHENOWETH**

**EDUCATOR, AUTHOR, THE EDUCATION TRUST**

Karin speaks to the high leverage strategies leaders of successful high-poverty and high-minority schools have undertaken to promote and sustain student achievement. Her book, *Getting It Done*, turns to the crucial issue of school leadership, exploring how school leaders have promoted unprecedented levels of school and student achievement. Joining Dr. Chenoweth will be Sergio Garcia, principal from Artesia High School, Lakewood, California, whose leadership and school was featured in the article "Yes, There are High Poverty Public Schools That Operate at a High Level".



### **EDWIN JAVIUS**

**FOUNDER, PRESIDENT, CEO, EDEQUITY INC.**

Equity is not a Strategy! It is a Mind-set! Dissatisfied by the un-changing narrowing of the racial achievement gap has been the driving force for Edwin Lou Javius. Advocating for students and school equity are two of the many talents of Edwin Lou Javius, who has established a reputation of inspiring educators to tackle the difficult issues of Educational Equity. From working in the system, to working on the system, he has supported districts and school sites to design, implement, and sustain promising practices to close the achievement gap. The work of Mr. Javius has prompted educators to change the dialogue from achievement gap to closing the "Opportunity Gap."



### **KIZZY LOPEZ**

**FRESNO PACIFIC UNIVERSITY**

Kizzy Lopez, former director of the Renaissance Scholars Program at Fresno State University, is now a faculty member at Fresno Pacific University. Kizzy serves to guide foster youth students through their rough years in college. Students may not know that Kizzy has had her own struggles through her educational career, as she herself is a product of the foster system and spent the first month of her freshman year in college as a homeless student. Kizzy will share strategies that have proven to be successful in engaging foster and homeless youth as they navigate the elementary, high school, and college educational systems.





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**KENNETH B. MORRIS, JR.**  
**FOUNDER AND PRESIDENT, DOUGLASS FAMILY INITIATIVES**

Take a living history journey with a direct descendant of two of America's greatest heroes. Kenneth B. Morris, Jr. is the **great great-great grandson of Frederick Douglass** and the **great-great grandson of Booker T. Washington**. Ken will give a dynamic presentation about the history of his famous family, the pressure he felt growing up in the shadow of his esteemed ancestors, and his work today fighting against modern slavery as President of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives (FDFI). His career and life path are driven by a clear focus on FDFI's mission "*To Advance Freedom through Knowledge and Strategic Action.*" Current FDFI projects include PROTECT, a partnership with two California-based nonprofit organizations, 3Strands Global and Love Never Fails, to provide grade-level appropriate, state standard-compliant human trafficking prevention education to thousands of California school children from grade school to high school.



**RACHEL RUFFALO**  
**SENIOR PRACTICE ASSOCIATE, EDUCATION TRUST-WEST**

Dr. Ruffalo helps inform, focus, and coordinate Education Trust-West's work on closing achievement and opportunity gaps as she works with schools and districts throughout California. She contributes to overall research, data collection, and product production of the Practice Team. Key areas of work include student access to rigorous content (e.g., California State Standards, English Development Standards, and college and career preparatory curriculum), effective teaching, and education for equity. Dr. Ruffalo will engage in conversation around principles found in her latest publication: "*Unlocking Learning II: Math as a Lever for English Learner Equity.*"



**DR. RASHAD ANDERSON**  
**ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF TEACHER EDUCATION**

Dr. Rashad Anderson serves as an Assistant Professor of Teacher Education, Campus Director of the Call Me MiSTER Program, and a teaching appointment in the Honors College at SC State University. Dr. Anderson's research focuses on critical approaches and dialogue of social justice and equity issues in education including racial, gender, religious, sexual, and class oppression. Central to his work is engaging students, scholars, practitioners, and community members to find and implement effective means to better propel Black male youth through K-12 and higher education settings. Dr. Anderson received his Ph.D. in Educational Foundations and Inquiry at the University of South Carolina.





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**ABDUL-MALIK MUHAMMAD, Ed.D.**  
**EDUCATOR | PRESIDENT AND FOUNDING TEAM LEADER, AKOBEN LLC.  
CEO AND FOUNDER, TRANSFORMING LIVES INC.**

Dr. Abdul-Malik Muhammad has over 20 years serving both youth and adults as a teacher, Principal, Campus President, Executive and State Director, and Vice President. Always working with the underserved in urban and rural areas, he has focused on the development of Black boys to men, establishing a progressive pedagogy for oppressed youth, and building progressive organizations. He is currently President and CEO of several educational, mental health, and human services operations. Through this work, he is continuing to diligently work towards "transforming lives, one community at a time."



**MESHACH SOLI**  
**PASTOR AND MOTIVATIONAL SPEAKER**

Meshach Soli will join our conference to share the challenges Pacific Islander/Polynesian students face navigating our educational system. Soli, an engaging speaker of Samoan descent, will share his experience matriculating through the educational systems and how he has made those experiences, good and bad, foundational to his work with all youth.



The Excellence Through Equity Conference is designed to provide educators with the information and resources needed to eliminate the gaps in achievement, expectations, and opportunity for students from diverse ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds. The conference content will focus on state priority aligned best practices that should be implemented to create equitable school environments for all learners.

**SEPTEMBER 20–21, 2018 • RENAISSANCE INDIAN WELLS**  
44400 INDIAN WELLS LANE • INDIAN WELLS, CA 92210

Online registration is available at <http://rcoe.k12oms.org>.