

Please join us for the Students of Independent and Private Schools Diversity Conference, supported by Education Collaborative of Western New York and hosted at Nichols School. Entitled *Creating our Dream School*, the conference is an opportunity for students to articulate a vision about what our schools would look like if they were truly inclusive: our “dream schools.” The conference will focus on the use of language and how it shapes our community, including discussions about stereotypes, microaggressions and assumptions.

Keynoting the conference is Mr. Rodney Glasgow, Head of Middle School, St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, and co-chair of the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference, and Mr. Jarrett Mathis, Founder, Empowering Ourselves, Inc.

All students at Education Collaborative of Western New York high schools are invited to attend the conference. At the conference, students will address questions including:

What should day-to-day life look like in a diverse and welcoming community?
How would you describe your experience so far at your school?
How do you and your school define diversity?

This is a student-organized, student-run conference, and to support that effort, Dr. Phyllis A. Floro, University at Buffalo’s Associate Director of Diversity, will hold a training session in January for students interested in acting as diversity ambassadors and facilitators during the conference. Schools are encouraged to nominate two students to fill this important role.

The tentative conference schedule and application form are enclosed. If you have any questions, please contact Caitlin Crowell or Erin Habelt at 716.332.6300.

We would love this conference to create a sense of community amongst our students and families. If you are interested in helping the organizers of the conference, please let us know. The greater the participation, the greater the impact this conference will have in building a more inclusive community for us all.

Students of Independent and Private Schools Diversity Conference: Creating our Dream School

Guest Speakers

Rodney Glasgow

Head of Middle School, St. Andrew's Episcopal School, co-chair of the NAIS Student Diversity Leadership Conference

Jarrett Mathis

Founder, Empowering Ourselves, INC

Thursday, February 12, 6:45 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

Friday, February 13, 8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Supported by Education Collaborative of Western New York and hosted at Nichols School

Conference Goals: Articulate a vision about what our individual schools would look like if they were truly inclusive—our “dream schools,” focusing on language, including stereotypes, microaggressions and assumptions.

Participants: Any Education Collaborative of Western New York school student with completed application.

Application Deadline, January 16, 2015: Please return all applications to
Erin Habelt
Nichols School
1250 Amherst St.
Buffalo, NY 14216

Location: All sessions will be held on the campus of Nichols School, 1250 Amherst St., Buffalo, NY, 14216.

Faculty Chaperones: At least one chaperone from each school with a participating student is required. During the group discussions, faculty will have an opportunity to interact with faculty at other schools in both formal and informal conversations about diversity and inclusiveness.

Group Leaders: To have a truly student-centered conference we are asking each school to select two students to participate in training sessions with Dr. Phyllis A. Floro, University at Buffalo Associate Director of Diversity, to prepare for leading a Family or an Affinity Group.

Program Details

Thursday, February 12: Opening Day, 6:45 p.m.-9:30 p.m.

6:45 p.m.-7:15 p.m.: Registration

7:15 p.m.-8:15 p.m.: Opening Ceremonies and Mr. Jarrett Mathis, Speaker

8:15 p.m.-9:00 p.m.: Family Group Session #1

9:00 p.m.-9:30 p.m.: Dessert and Discussion Time

Friday, February 13: Full Day session, 8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

8:15 a.m.-8:30 a.m.: Check-in

8:30 a.m.-9:45 a.m.: Mr. Rodney Glasgow, Keynote Speaker

9:45 a.m.-10:00 a.m.: Snack

10:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.: Affinity Group Session #1

11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.: Alumni Panel Discussion and Q&A

12:30 p.m.-1:15 p.m.: Lunch provided

1:15 p.m.-2:30 p.m.: Affinity Group Session #2

2:30 p.m.-2:45 p.m.: Snack

2:45 p.m.-3:45 p.m.: Family Group Session #2

3:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m.: Closing Ceremonies/Open Mic/Talent Show

Creating our Dream School Conference
Thursday, Feb. 12, 2015 and Friday, Feb. 13, 2015

Application Due Jan. 16, 2015

Please answer the following to facilitate Affinity and Family Groups.

Name: _____ School: _____

Grade: _____ Gender identification: _____ Race identification: _____

Please provide your email address if you consent to publishing it in the conference contacts.

Please compose a question for the alumni panel.

As we will serve food, it is important for you to disclose any food allergies you may have:

- Consent is hereby expressly granted for the collection, retention and use of written, auditory, photographic or other materials of the student for use by Nichols School at any time in the future for marketing and promotional purposes, including, but not limited to brochures, publications, advertising, videos, websites, social media and publicity to support the School and its mission.

Attendee or guardian signature (for attendees under the age of 18)

_____ Date: _____

Please print guardian name: _____

Please return to your school official to mail to:

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