



Miles to Go:

The Road to Education Justice

Confronting the Past, Navigating
the Present, and Shaping the
Future of Education



November 4-6, 2025 New Orleans, LA

A stylized, colorful illustration of a city skyline, likely New Orleans, is positioned behind the "2025 Issues Forum" text. The skyline includes various buildings, a bridge, and a river. The colors are muted and the style is graphic.

2025 Issues Forum



Sponsorship Opportunities

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2025 Issues Forum
New Orleans, LA

SEF

SOUTHERN
EDUCATION
FOUNDATION

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November 4 – 6, 2025 | New Orleans Marriott, Warehouse Arts District

This year's SEF Issues Forum takes place in New Orleans—a city known for its cultural legacy, resilience, and role as a catalyst for change. The theme, **Miles to Go: The Road to Education Justice**, invites us to reflect on the past, respond to the present, and work boldly toward a brighter educational future across the South.

From the pioneering courage of a young Ruby Bridges to the enduring pursuit of inclusive, high-quality education for all students, the South's story is one of both challenge and progress. Today, over 70 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*, too many students still face barriers to the educational opportunities they deserve—a reminder that our shared work is far from finished.

New Orleans marks a poignant backdrop for this year's gathering: 2025 is the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, a moment that brought national attention to the deep divides in access and opportunity within our schools.

The SEF Issues Forum is a powerful convening of educators, students, community leaders, researchers, and advocates united by a shared vision: a future where every child in the South has access to strong public schools, early learning opportunities, and the support to reach their full potential in life.

Together, we will chart a path forward—addressing challenges such as under-resourced schools, opportunity gaps, and threats to public education—while uplifting innovative solutions and bold ideas.

We invite you to stand with us in New Orleans as a partner in shaping a better tomorrow. The SEF 2025 Issues Forum is more than a convening—it's a movement to transform education in the South for generations to come.

November 4, 2025

Kickoff Reception:

TEP Center

5909 St Claude Ave,
New Orleans, LA 70117

November 5-6, 2025

Issues Forum:

New Orleans Marriott,
Warehouse Arts District
859 Convention Center Blvd,
New Orleans, LA 70130

2025 Issues Forum
New Orleans, LA

SEF

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About the Southern Education Foundation

SEF is expanding our work to highlight and address critical issues and embrace new opportunities — through policy and advocacy, research and analysis, leadership development, and fostering innovation in education.

Founded in 1867 to build the first schools for Black students in the South, SEF today draws on its history, expertise, and record of service to push for greater opportunities for all students, with an emphasis on students of color and those from low-income families.

In our pursuit of educational justice, SEF is expanding our work to highlight and address critical issues and embrace new opportunities — through policy and advocacy, research and analysis, leadership development, and fostering innovation in education. Our main priorities include:

- **Successful Starts:** Expanding and improving early childhood education from birth to age 5.
- **Advancing Change:** Driving state and federal policies to improve Pre-K-12 and higher education for every student through research and advocacy.
- **Building Leaders:** Fellowships supporting career and workforce development training for education leaders and young professionals focused on equitable opportunities and successful student outcomes.
- **Lifting Students Higher:** Our work to improve post-secondary education includes a focus on HBCUs and other minority-serving institutions, student access, success, and completion in higher education, and addressing teacher shortages through support and a more diverse educator corps.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Title Sponsor - \$50,000

(Only two spaces available)

- Name Recognition as a Title Sponsor of the 2025 SEF Issues Forum
- 60-second promotional video and brief live remarks at a plenary session
- Access to Kick-off Event for up to 14
- Sponsor invitation to exclusive pre-event
- Premium placement of sponsor display banner
- Logo placement with active links on registration page
- Logo placement and/or mention on all event collateral, website, press releases, and other materials
- Full-page color ad in forum program booklet
- VIP Seating at plenaries and full conference registration for up to 14

Presenting Sponsor - \$25,000

(Only three spaces available)

- Name Recognition as a Presenting sponsor of the SEF Issues Forum 60-second promotional video or brief live remarks at a plenary session
- Access to Kick-off Event for up to 10
- Placement of sponsor display banner and branded materials throughout event
- Logo placement with active links on registration page
- Logo placement on all event collateral, website, social media, and other materials
- Full-page color ad in forum program booklet
- VIP Seating at plenaries and full conference registration for up to 10

Partner - \$15,000

(Only four spaces available)

- Name Recognition as a Partner sponsor of the SEF Issues Forum
- 30-second promotional video shown during event
- Access to Kick-off Event for eight
- Placement of branded materials throughout event
- Logo placement with active links on registration page
- Logo placement on all event collateral, website, social media, and other materials
- Full-page color ad in forum program booklet
- VIP Seating at plenaries and full conference registration for eight

Champion - \$10,000

- Name Recognition as a Champion sponsor of the SEF Issues Forum
- Access to Kick-off Event for six
- Logo placement on all event collateral, website, social media, and other materials
- Half-page color ad in forum program booklet
- VIP Seating at plenaries and full conference registration for six

Supporting Sponsor - \$5,000

- Name Recognition as a sponsor of the SEF Issues Forum
- Access to Kick-off Event for four
- Logo placement on all event collateral, website, and other materials
- Quarter-page ad in event program booklet
- VIP Seating at plenaries and full conference registration for four

Ambassador - \$2,500

- Name Recognition as a sponsor of the SEF Issues Forum
- Access to Kick-off Event for two
- Logo placement on all event collateral, website, and other materials
- Quarter-page ad in event program booklet
- VIP Seating at plenaries and full conference registration for two

Friend - \$1,000

- Name Recognition as a Friend of SEF sponsor of the SEF Issues Forum
- Access to Kick-off Event for one
- Full conference registration for one

**Secure Your
Sponsorship Today!**

For additional information, please contact:
SEF Development, lchester@southerneducation.org
Ph. (404) 523-0001



southerneducation.org

EXCLUSIVE SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

\$15,000 | Welcome Reception Sponsor

Sponsor the official welcome mixer for all attendees, offering branding and engagement in a social, high-energy environment.

Benefits: On-site signage, branded cocktail napkins/cups, opportunity to give brief welcome remarks.

\$10,000 | Lunch Plenary Sponsor

Sponsor a set of dynamic plenary sessions over lunch focused on education.

Benefits: Host branding, logo on lunch signage, recognition in agenda, option to distribute materials or gifts.

\$7,500 | Innovation Partner Hub Sponsor

Support a space for grassroots leaders, nonprofits, and advocacy organizations to network, present bold ideas and solutions in education, and share their work.

Benefits: Logo on hub signage, inclusion in printed program as a "Community Builder," exhibit a solution, and opportunity to provide materials.

\$6,000 | Local Artist or Cultural Activation Sponsor

Support a performance or installation by a New Orleans-based artist, aligning with the city's unique culture.

Benefits: Branding in event program and website, stage signage, artist intro opportunity.

\$3,500 | Student Leader Sponsorship (5 Opportunities Available)

Sponsor travel, lodging, and registration for student leaders in education to attend the Forum.

Benefits: Recognition in a student program feature and logo on programming materials

\$2,500 | Sustainability Partner Sponsor

(Sustainable Swag or Eco-Friendly Packaging)

Sponsor reusable water bottles, notebooks, or sustainable event gifts.

Benefits: Logo placement on items and recognition as a "Sustainability Partner"

\$1,800 | Lanyard or Badge Sponsor

Benefit: Placement of logo on every attendee's name badge or lanyard



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PLEDGE COMMITMENT FORM

To submit the form and remit payment virtually, visit southerneducation.org/2025issuesforum/.

☐ **I have enclosed a check, made payable to the Southern Education Foundation for the Sponsorship Level of _____ at \$_____.**

Tax ID Number: 13-5562388

☐ **I am/We are unable to attend but pleased to make a contribution of \$_____.**

☐ **Payment Information**

Please charge my:

_____ American Express _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____ Discover

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____ CCV Code _____

Name (as it appears on the card)

Signature

Contact Information

Name _____ Referred By _____

Company _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address shown above is my billing address.

Please return this form via email to:

Attention: SEF Development Office

Email: lcchester@southerneducation.org

101 Marietta St. NW, 16th Floor (Suite 1650)

Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: (404) 523-0001

southerneducation.org