



Racial Equity Leadership Network | Fellowship Overview

Fellowship Design

The ***Racial Equity Leadership Network*** is an 18-Month Fellowship Program for Executive Leaders in districts who are committed to addressing persistent disparities in their systems and ensuring that race and class are no longer the most reliable predictors of student success.

Fellows will attend five (5) two-day network convenings focused on the essential levers for equity leadership and system transformation. In between network convenings, Fellows will have access to a comprehensive menu of services and technical support including on-site coaching and strategic consultation to support implementation of their strategies in their home districts.

Each cohort of the ***Racial Equity Leadership Network*** will be comprised of 12-15 leaders (i.e., Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, Chief Academic Officers, etc.) – who are making an impact on disparities in their district.

SEF seeks to achieve the following programmatic outcomes, and hopes that RELN fellows will do the following by the conclusion of their fellowship:

1. **Deepen** awareness and understanding of the historical and contextual drivers of racial inequity in schools and make connections to present-day education policies and practices that perpetuate racial disparities in student opportunity and outcomes.
2. **Challenge** to examine their own attitude, beliefs, and assumptions about students' ability to learn, regardless of background.
3. **Establish** clear steps for an explicit racial equity vision for their systems and establishing racial equity as a fundamental value that is clearly articulated and championed by all school community members, who work collaboratively to advance sustainable, equitable opportunities and outcomes for students.
4. **Strengthen** ability to diagnose, and ultimately create solutions to address, the inequities that they witness in their system.
5. **Gain** a peer network and professional learning community of equity-oriented district leaders throughout the South.

| Cohort One Fellows | | | |
|---|--------------|-----------------------|---|
| District/Organization | State | RELN Fellow | Fellow's Current Role/Previously Served District |
| Edgecombe County Public Schools | NC | Valerie Bridges | Superintendent |
| N/A | GA | Frances Davis | Retired <i>*Associate Superintendent of Gwinnett County Public Schools</i> |
| Louisiana State University | LA | Kevin George | Director of LSU Laboratory Schools <i>*Superintendent of St. John the Baptist Parish Public Schools</i> |
| Institute for Student Achievement | NY | Ebony Green | Senior Director of Programs for Equity and Access <i>*Chief Executive Officer of Newburg Enlarged School District</i> |
| FourPoint Education Partners | TN | Maritza Gonzalez | Associate <i>*Diversity & Equity Officer of Metro Nashville Public Schools</i> |
| Guilford County Schools | NC | Rebecca Kaye | Chief of Staff <i>*Chief of Information and Accountability</i> |
| Princeton Public Schools | NJ | Carol Kelley | Superintendent |
| Transformational Leadership Agency | PA | Sybil Knight-Burney | Chief Executive Officer <i>*Superintendent of Harrisburg School District</i> |
| Charter Schools USA | FL | Eddie Ruiz | Florida State Director <i>*Assistant Superintendent of Palm Beach County School District</i> |
| Griffin-Spalding County Public Schools | GA | Keith Simmons | Superintendent |
| Digital Promise | TX | D'Andre Weaver | Chief Digital Equity Officer <i>*Superintendent of DeSoto Independent School District</i> |
| Cohort Two Fellows | | | |
| East Jasper School District | MS | Nadene Arrington | Superintendent |
| Hamilton County Department of Education | TN | Marsha Drake | Chief Equity Officer |
| Hazlehurst City School District | MS | Cloyd Garth, Jr. | Superintendent |
| Caddo Parish Public Schools | LA | Lamar Goree | Superintendent |
| City Schools of Decatur | GA | Lillie Huddleston | Associate Superintendent, Equity & Student Services |
| Rowan-Salisbury Schools | NC | April Kuhn | Chief Talent & Equity Officer |
| N/A | PA | Damaris Rau | Retired <i>*Superintendent of School District of Lancaster</i> |
| Orangeburg County School District | SC | Erica Taylor | Assistant Superintendent, Communications, Business & Community Partnerships |
| Connect with Kids Network | DC | Tammie Workman | Educator in Chief <i>*Assistant Superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools</i> |
| Cohort Three Fellows | | | |
| Northampton County Schools | NC | Rosa Atkins | Interim Superintendent <i>*Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer</i> |
| Kids First Education LLC | AL | Christopher Blair | Chief Officer of Equity and Inclusion <i>*Superintendent of Bullock County Schools</i> |
| Kannapolis City Schools | NC | Jessica Grant | Director of Student Services and Secondary Education |
| Clarksdale Municipal School District | MS | Toya Harrell-Matthews | Superintendent |
| Chesterfield County Public Schools | VA | Lisa High | Chief of Schools |
| Cedar Hills Independent School District | TX | Gerald Hudson | Superintendent |
| St. Helena Parish School System | LA | Kelli Joseph | Superintendent |
| North Carolina Department of Public Instruction | NC | Yanisha Mann | Secondary Education Director <i>*Superintendent of Washington County Schools</i> |
| Foothills Education Charter High School | GA | Dawn Meyers | Regional Student Services Specialist <i>*Associate Superintendent at Clarke County School District</i> |
| Jackson Public Schools | MS | William Merritt | Chief of Staff |
| Gainesville Independent School District | TX | DesMontes Stewart | Superintendent |

*Former Role/District at the time of Fellowship