



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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U-46 to Host Equity Matters Symposium

Employees, volunteers invited to participate in first-time virtual event

ELGIN - School District U-46 will host the inaugural U-46 Equity Matters Symposium from June 7-10, featuring national education and equity leaders. U-46 staff members will facilitate breakout sessions during this online symposium on a host of relevant topics aligned to three focus areas: equity pedagogy, relationships, and social justice.

"This symposium is going to take place after one of the most challenging years many of us in public education have ever faced. It is designed to give our teachers, administrators, other employees, and volunteers the space and resources to build their capacity to best support the diverse needs of staff and students," said Dr. Teresa A. Lance, Assistant Superintendent for Equity and Innovation. "We are beyond thrilled to convene so many incredibly knowledgeable and respected speakers in their field to inform and inspire our work moving forward in U-46."

The event will be offered via Zoom to U-46 employees and community volunteers, such as those who serve on the Community Advisory Council, the Alignment Collaborative for Education, the African-American Advisory Council and the Bilingual Parent Advisory Committee. Together, staff and community members will have the opportunity to discuss and learn more about topics including anti-bias education in early childhood, the power of student-teacher relationships, restorative practices, and more.

The keynote speakers include:



- **Dr. Gloria Ladson Billings** is the author of critically acclaimed book "The Dreamkeepers: Successful Teachers of African American Children," and the former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. She has led numerous efforts to reduce the academic achievement gap of minority students.
- **Richard Milner IV** is a researcher, scholar, and leader in the fields of urban education and teacher education. He is currently the Cornelius Vanderbilt Distinguished Professor and Chair of Education and Professor of Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning at Peabody College of Vanderbilt University.
- **Dr. Ghody Muhammad** is an Associate Professor of Language and Literacy at Georgia State University and author of the best-selling book "Cultivating Genius: An Equity Model for Culturally and Historically Responsive Literacy."
- **Dr. Dena Simmons** is founder of LiberatED, an antiracist approach to social and emotional learning and healing. Dr. Simmons is the author of "White Rules for Black People."

In addition to the keynote speakers, about 14 presentations will be led by U-46 staffers, and a panel of U-46 students will discuss their own educational and life experiences.

For more information, visit the [U-46 Equity & Diversity](#) section of the U-46 website.

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School District U-46 serves families in 11 communities: Bartlett, Elgin, Hanover Park, South Elgin, Streamwood and Wayne, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Hoffman Estates, St. Charles, Schaumburg, and West Chicago. In total, the District encompasses 90 square miles within the Fox River Valley, approximately 45 minutes west of downtown Chicago, and



School District U-46

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includes communities within Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. More than 37,000 pre-K through 12th graders attend the 57 District schools and programs. To learn more, visit the U-46 [website](#), or like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).