

Transforming Place through Neighborhood Leadership

SUMMER INSTITUTE

JULY 9-11, 2025



Primary Event Location: The Charles Hotel - 1 Bennett St, Cambridge, MA

Wednesday, July 9 - Theme: Start with Place

AM Session Locations: The Charles Hotel

PM Session Locations: Harvard Kennedy School

Cocktail Hour: The Charles Hotel

8:00-9:30 AM

Breakfast & Registration Open

The Charles Hotel, 3rd Floor, Top of the Stairs

9:30-9:50 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Brittany Rabb**, Director of K-12 Initiatives, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Denisse Arias**, Director, Cradle-to-Career Leadership & Learning, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

9:50-10:20 AM

Keynote Address: Why do Neighborhoods Matter?

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Rob Watson**, Executive Director, EdRedesign; Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

10:20-11:20 AM

Panel Discussion: Layering Strategies & Aligning Resources to Scale a Cradle-to-Career Pipeline

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Vanessa Ward**, President, Omega Community Development Corporation
- **Sondra Samuels**, Co-Founder, President, & Chief Executive Officer, Northside Achievement Zone; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

- **Moderator: Tauheedah Jackson**, Deputy Director; Director of Institute for Success Planning, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

11:20 AM-12:00 PM

Guided Table Talk

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Wendy Viola**, Managing Director, Field Building & Programs, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone

12:00-1:15 PM

Lunch & Networking

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

1:15-2:30 PM

The Enough Act Journey: Bridging Policy and Practice

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Christian Rhodes**, Deputy Executive Director, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Thalia Theodore Washington**, Maryland Neighborhood Engagement Manager, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Fritz Bondoa**, Director, Public Policy, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Cleo Hirsch**, Chief of Staff, Maryland Governor's Office for Children
- **Jennifer Yunker**, Director, Bester Community of Hope/San Mar Family & Community Services
- **Charmayne D. Turner**, Vice President, Civic Engagement & Strategic Partnerships, The Y in Central Maryland

2:30-3:00 PM

Break & Walk to Harvard Kennedy School

3:00-5:00 PM

Meeting the Moment Breakout Series

Participants will be assigned to one room and engage in both sessions, with speakers rotating between rooms:

Cultivating Financial Resilience: Place-Based Organizations Built to Last

NYE ABC Conference Center, Harvard Kennedy School, Taubman Building 5th Floor, 15 Eliot St., Cambridge, MA

- **Sara Gibson**, Co-Founder & CEO, 20 Degrees
- **Tom Bartlett**, Co-Founder & President, 20 Degrees
- **Derek Nunner**, Director of Social Finance, 20 Degrees

Resilience in Action: Building Community-Driven, Cradle-to-Career Programming

*Starr Auditorium, Belfer Building 2.5 Floor, Harvard Kennedy School,
Entrance at the Intersection of John F. Kennedy Street and Eliot
Street, Cambridge, MA*

- **Erica Terrell**, Managing Director, Practitioners Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Brian McClendon**, Managing Director of K-12 Programs, Harlem Children's Zone

**Public Sector Track: Mayors' Neighborhood Academy
Opening Session***

*Malkin Penthouse, Littauer Building, Harvard Kennedy School,
Entrance through Wexner Building, 19 Eliot Street, Cambridge, MA
Invitation Only

- **Dr. Jorrit de Jong**, Emma Bloomberg Senior Lecturer, Harvard Kennedy School; Director, Bloomberg Center for Cities at Harvard University

Wealth Builds Breakout Session*

*Land Hall (B-400), Belfer Building 4th Floor, Harvard Kennedy
School, Entrance at the Intersection of John F. Kennedy Street and
Eliot Street, Cambridge, MA
Invitation Only

5:15-6:15 PM

Cocktail Hour

The Charles Hotel Pavilion

Thursday, July 10 - Theme: Strengthen Your Practice

AM Session Locations: The Charles Hotel

PM Session Locations: Harvard Graduate School of Education Campus

Dinner Reception and Keynote: The Charles Hotel

8:00-9:00 AM

Breakfast

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

9:00-9:30 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

9:30-10:15 AM

Panel Discussion: Personalization as a Success Strategy: Leveling the Playing Field for Students

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Tauheedah Jackson**, Deputy Director; Director of Institute for Success Planning, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Rey Saldaña**, Chief Executive Officer, Communities in Schools; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Jamie Gracie**, Postdoctoral Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Moderator: Rob Watson**, Executive Director, EdRedesign; Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

10:15-11:00 AM

Plenary: The Power of the Pipeline

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Kwame Owusu-Kesse**, Chief Executive Officer, Harlem Children's Zone; Co-Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone
- **Jazmine Lewis**, Chief Strategy Officer, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Dr. Saskia Brown**, Superintendent of Promise Academy Charter Schools and Early Childhood Programs, Harlem Children's Zone

11:00-11:15 AM

Break

The Charles Hotel Ballroom Foyer

11:15 AM-12:15 PM

Problems of Practice Breakout Sessions

Please choose one of the following workshops:

Engaging Community to Inform a Cradle-to-Career Vision Place: Philadelphia, PA

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Avarisse Crawford**, Chief of Staff, North10

- **David Blount**, Director of Neighborhood Strategy, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone

Building a Foundation for Cradle-to-Career

Place: Dallas, TX

Kennedy Room, The Charles Hotel Pavilion

- **Taylor Toynes**, Chief Executive Officer, For Oak Cliff
- **Olga Martinez Hickman**, Ph.D. Executive Director, Bachman Lake Together; Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leader Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Torian Robinson**, Managing Director, Neighborhood Engagement, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Shayna Terrell**, Engagement Manager, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone

Developing Proximate Leaders to Drive Place-Based Partnerships in Rural Communities

Longfellow Room, The Charles Hotel Pavilion

- **Denisse Arias**, Director, Cradle-to-Career Leadership & Learning, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Eshauna Smith**, Director, Community Impact, Ballmer Group
- **Shanda Crowder**, Vice-President for Capacity & Implementation, Partners for Rural Impact

Public Sector Track: Mayors' Neighborhood Academy Closing Session*

Eliot Lyman Room, 2nd Floor of Longfellow Hall, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

**Invitation Only*

12:15-1:15 PM

Lunch & Networking

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Public Sector Track: Wrap-Up & Next Steps*** (*Eliot Lyman Room in Longfellow, Harvard Graduate School of Education*)
- **Education Leaders Design Fellowship 2024 Cohort Meet-Up*** (*Agassiz Room, Charles Hotel*)
- **Cradle-to-Career Partnership Leaders Fellowship Lunch*** (*Brattle Room, Charles Hotel*)

**Invitation Only*

1:15-1:45 PM

Break & Walk to Harvard Graduate School of Education

1:45-2:45 PM

Measuring Impact Breakout Series

Please choose one of the following workshops:

Beginner: Assessing Community Needs with Cradle-to-Career Asset Mapping

Conference Center 1, 2, and 3, Monroe C. Gutman Library Ground Floor, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

- **David Blount**, Director of Neighborhood Strategy, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Arti Doshi**, Engagement Manager, Strategic Partnerships, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone

Intermediate: Using Data to Tell the Story of Your Work

Askwith Hall, Longfellow Hall 1st Floor, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

- **Patrick Carter**, Vice President, State Practice Lead, Results for America
- **Wendy Viola**, Managing Director, Field Building & Programs, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone

Advanced: Measuring the Impact of a Backbone

Conference Center 4 and 5, Monroe C. Gutman Library Ground Floor, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

- **Ashwina Kirpalani-Vasanjee**, Vice President, Insights & Analytics, StriveTogether
- **Amy Ahrens Terpstra**, Chief Impact Officer, Promise Partnership Utah
- **Lynne Sacks**, Research Director, EdRedesign; Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

2:45-3:15 PM

Break

3:15-4:15 PM

Stakeholder Engagement Breakout Series

Please choose one of the following workshops:

Engaging the Faith Based Community: A Third Way

Askwith Hall, Longfellow Hall 1st Floor, 13 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

- **Russell Booker**, Chief Executive Officer, Spartanburg Academic Movement; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Irvin Scott**, Senior Lecturer on Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education

Strengthening Student & Family Engagement

Conference Center 1, 2, and 3, Monroe C. Gutman Library Ground Floor, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

- **Brittany Rabb**, Director of K-12 Initiatives, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone

- **Aaron Jennings**, Chief of Staff & Wellness, Chelsea Public Schools
- **Jinelle Hooker**, Acting Executive Director of Strategic Partnerships & Fund Development, Hartford Public Schools

Emerging Strategies for Engaging New Audiences

Conference Center 4 and 5, Monroe C. Gutman Library Ground Floor, 6 Appian Way, Cambridge, MA

- **Alan Cohen**, Founder & CEO, Child Poverty Action Lab; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **James Watson**, Producer, The Creator Journalism Project; Co-Founder, Poughkeepsie Children's Cabinet
- **Joe Posner**, Producer, The Creator Journalism Project; Director, Fire-Works Film
- **Julie Allen**, Senior Director of Strategic Communications, Development, and Operations, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

4:15-4:45 PM

Group Photo

Radcliffe Yard behind Longfellow Hall

5:30-8:00 PM

Dinner Reception & Fireside Chat: Leadership, Legacy & Local Change

The Charles Hotel Ballroom and Foyer

- **Geoffrey Canada**, Founder and President, Harlem Children's Zone; Founder, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone
- **Mayor Monroe Nichols**, City of Tulsa, Oklahoma

Friday, July 11 - Theme: Scale the Pipeline

All Session Locations: The Charles Hotel Ballroom and Foyer

8:00-9:00 AM

Breakfast

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

9:00-9:20 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Paul Reville**, Francis Keppel Professor of Practice of Educational Policy and Administration; Founder and Faculty Director, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

9:20-10:00 AM

Panel Discussion: Local Leaders as Drivers of Place-Based Change

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Mayor Cherie Wood**, South Salt Lake City, Utah
- **Bill Crim**, Chief Executive Officer, United Way of Salt Lake
- **Moderator: Libby Schaaf**, 50th Mayor, City of Oakland, CA (2015-2023); By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

10:00-11:00 AM

Plenary: State of the Field

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Christian Rhodes**, Deputy Executive Director, William Julius Wilson Institute, Harlem Children's Zone; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Jennifer Blatz**, President & CEO, StriveTogether
- **Dreama Gentry**, President & CEO, Partners for Rural Impact; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Carol Naughton**, Chief Executive Officer, Purpose Built Communities
- **Moderator: Cecilia Gutierrez**, Managing Director, Portfolio Lead, Blue Meridian Partners

11:00-11:45 AM

Funder Fireside Chat: How to Pay for Cradle-to-Career

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Elson Nash**, Senior Fellow, Blue Meridian Partners; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education
- **Eshauna Smith**, Director, Community Impact, Ballmer Group
- **Moderator: Olivia Allen**, Co-Founder and Vice President of Strategy and Advocacy, Children's Funding Project

11:45 AM-12:30 PM

**Closing & Keynote: From At-Risk to At-Promise:
Reclaiming Potential, Rebuilding Futures**

The Charles Hotel Ballroom

- **Christian Rhodes**, Deputy Executive Director, William Julius Wilson Institute at Harlem Children's Zone; By All Means Senior Fellow, EdRedesign, Harvard Graduate School of Education

12:30-1:00 PM

Lunch

The Charles Hotel Ballroom Foyer