



A California Plan to Fulfill the Promise of Brown

2024 ROUND-UP



Dr. Adam Clark
CAAASA President

Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond
Board President-CA Dept of Education

Enikia Ford Morthel
Superintendent-Berkeley Unified School District

Chase Moore
White House Special Advisor for the U.S. Dept. of Education

The California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators (CAAASA), in partnership with the National Coalition on Education Equity (NCOEE) and the California Alliance of Black School Educators (CABSE) hosted its Annual Statewide Round-Up in Berkeley, CA on September 7, 2024. It seemed profoundly fitting to host this year's conference in a city with deep roots in the fight for equity across many social intersections as the conference focus was centered on fulfilling the promise of Brown v. Board, the Supreme Court case that made racial segregation in schools unconstitutional.

The conference dais was composed of highly esteemed, nationally renowned speakers including educational researcher and founder of The Learning Policy Institute, Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond, researcher and distinguished professor at the University of Southern California, Dr. Pedro Noguera, President of Sacramento State University, Dr. Luke Wood, and White House Special Advisor for the U.S. Department of Education Initiative on Black Americans, Chase Moore.

California educators, community stakeholders, and leaders in the journey for racial equity from the school to national policy level convened with the solutions based charge of continuing the work of navigating the economic and racial de facto segregation in schools that maneuvered in place of legal segregation, which the Warren Court struck down 70 years ago. A five year plan to strategically set actionable steps that bring this plan to life served as the foundation for each working session.



Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond



Dr. Pedro Noguera



Dr. Luke Wood



Mr. Chase Moore



Where theory & practice create action

California Board of Education President, Dr. Linda Darling-Hammond opened the conference with the powerful reminder that, “We must do what we can do in our schools, what’s needed in the State House, and what’s needed in the district office” if we are to see the changes we wish to see in the outcomes for black children. With a detailed, research based recall of the institutions of poverty and segregation since the Brown ruling, Dr. Darling-Hammond continued by saying, “California is the most segregated state in the country for Latino students and it is the third most segregated state in the country for Black students”. It is this backdrop on which our work as educators in the struggle for equitable resources and practices lives.

Measurable actions shared for a five year plan to address these ongoing disparities along racial and economic lines included extending access to high quality early childhood education-beyond TK, investing in a culturally responsive, diverse teaching workforce, and focusing on community school structures. Dr. Pedro Noguera, Professor at the University of Southern California, emphasized how, “we need to know where change is needed if we are going to produce the results we’re hoping for” and that “identifying what is getting in the way and staying focused on outcomes” is a key starting point. Modeling this call, Dr. Noguera implored us to challenge the biases that allow our schools to create the same results for black children. The promise of Brown was not simply to end segregation in schools, but for equitable schooling for all children which means acknowledging the disparities that exist for black children and other children of color and ensuring the resources, culture, and policies at all levels work to decrease and eliminate these disparities.

White House Special Advisor for the Dept. of Education, Chase Moore, spoke to the interconnectedness of education and economics declaring, “Black students cannot achieve economic opportunity without equity”. The White House Initiative on Black Americans specifically names educational access and equity within the Executive Order, providing policy foundation for CAAASA’s Five Year Plan. As Dr. Luke would effectively stated, “ Access does not always equate to success”, therefore our ultimate charge within our Five Year Plan is to ensure the equity, access, and success of black students TK through Degree through policy and multi-level program implementation across all schools and universities in California.

The CAAASA Round-Up is a space where theory and practice creates action. Breakout sessions discussing impacts of exclusionary policies with Dr. Sean Darling-Hammond (left), college admissions with Greg Walker and Tara Thomas of College Board (center),the power of media in meeting the promise of Brown with Regina Brown Wilson (right), and the imperative role of black educators, are just some of the session topics which led to a longer, five year plan to fulfill the promise of Brown v. Board.



Board Retreat



Annual Board Retreat September 6, 2024.

African American Superintendents both past and present met as CAAASA Board Members to discuss next year's vision and strategize on how equity in education for black children can hold space at the forefront of educational policy.

CAAASA's New President Elect



During the afternoon plenary, Roy A. Combs of F3 Law swore in Dr. Antoine Hawkins, Superintendent of Evergreen School District as the newest President Elect for the California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators. Dr. Hawkins named CAAASA as, "the best educational organization for people of color in this country" and enthusiastically shared his commitment to support CAAASA as we journey forward in our mission to actively address the educational policy issues impacting black children.

RESOURCES

For access to conference resources and session information, please visit:

WWW.CAAASA.ORG

Conference Partners



Our conference partners actively engaged attendees and shared resources to support their pathway in education.



CAAASA's New Leadership Academy



Access to expert educators was a noted next step for the 5 Year Plan to fulfill to Promise of Brown. The **CAAASA Leadership Academy**, taking place virtually, is designed for Aspiring Superintendents and Aspiring Administrators to prepare for their next career step with guidance from renowned, seasoned educators Mr. Michael Watkins, Dr. Patricia Brent-Sanco, Dr. Chris Downing, Dr. Judy White, and Dr. Michele Bowers (all pictured above).

Registration is [open now](#) & the Leadership Academy begins October 12th!

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Round-Up Co-Hosts and Supporters

Our co-hosts and partners are the foundation that made our Round-Up possible and we are forever thankful for their genuine commitment and active support in partnering with us to help make equitable education a lived reality.

CAAASA (California Association of African American Superintendents and Administrators)

CABSE (California Association of Black School Educators)

NCOEE (National Coalition on Education Equity)

ACSA (Association of California School Administrators)

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